

Green Infrastructure Statement

Key GI assets

The following assets provide a multi-functional resource, including diversity of habitat and wildlife, with existing and potential links to adjacent habitats and pedestrian permeability.

- 1. Trees and scrub along the south east to western boundaries which provides a habitat corridor linking to adjacent wooded areas;
- 2. Grassland providing habitat for various species including, potentially, reptiles.
- 3. the site is located on a Buglife B-line.

GI opportunities

- 1. Completing a contiguous green infrastructure around the site, to encourage wildlife around the site and into new planting and SUDS areas;
- 2. New tree planting to ensure resilience of the GI network, its features and habitats, with sufficient space for new planting to grow, including appropriate tree rooting volume;
- 3. Proposed planting to support travel, foraging, nesting and roosting opportunities for wildlife;
- 4. Habitat creation including native hedges and trees and biodiverse shrub planting, bird boxes, hedgehog access and habitat piles for reptiles and small mammals;
- 5. Ensuring visual appeal and attractive setting of the proposed development.

GI proposals

- 1. Improve biodiversity across the site, for both flora and fauna;
- 2. Provide multifunctional SUDS proposals which enhance biodiversity and amenity and provide seasonal amphibian habitat;
- 3. Create opportunity for wildlife travel in and around site by provision of new hedges;
- 5. Design planting and wildflower grassland to encourage pollinating insects, which supports the buglife provision;
- 6. Ensure any lighting scheme is designed to avoid light spill on dark corridors;
- 7. Supply habitat for threatened or displaced species (e.g. swift and bat boxes, hibernacula);
- 8. Provide scented species for amenity value.
- 9. Re-use of existing soils to provide a grassland seedbank.

Summary of net biodiversity gains

- In accordance with recently updated Welsh Planning Policy, the site will promote the principles of a Green Infrastructure, enhancing biodiversity and local distinctiveness;
- Biodiversity will be improved, with a focus on pollinators. Existing semi-improved grassland will be re-established following topsoil strip. Proposed planting includes native hedgerows, provision of rain gardens, and trees. Winter and early-flowering species provide pollen and nectar at times when little else is available for early pollinators;
- The landscape proposals will provide an attractive setting when viewed from the adjacent roads and houses, providing biodiversity benefit and integrating it into the wider landscape.
- Native planting will wrap around the site, infilling any gaps in the boundary vegetation and providing corridors for wildlife connectivity, linking in with adjacent gardens and bringing wildlife into new gardens.
- Surface water and roof water will be captured and drained into the rain gardens. Soils will be specified to ensure that plants grow in a moist but well drained rootzone, with water temporarily stored and then draining into pipes to be transported further down the drainage chain. These rain gardens further enhance biodiversity, and planting here is specified to tolerate the aspect (sun/shade) and the drainage (wet/dry/mesic).
- Additional wildlife habitat includes bird and bat boxes, reptile refugia and hedgehog access points;
- Stones and logs will be used to form on-site habitat piles in advance of site clearance;
- Management of existing and proposed vegetation will be sympathetic to wildlife, both in terms of methods and timing of maintenance operations.

Baseline studies which have informed GI proposals

Tree Survey & Constraints Plan; ArbTS
Phase 1 Habitat Survey Alder Ecology UK Ltd

Stepwise Approach

Avoid

Minimise

Mitigate/restore

Compensate on site

Compensate off site

Assessing impacts on habitats and species

- existing semi-improved grassland to be lost, but existing seedbank encouraged in new grassland areas;
- existing trees and vegetation to be felled but new native trees and hedge to be planted

DECCA:

- **Diversity** – a variety of native and introduced shrub planting will be incorporated within proposals and boxes will be installed to provide habitat for a variety of species, brash piles and hibernacula all acting to support biodiversity within the site locality; water from SUDS features will provide additional habitat; encourage local grassland seed bank;
- **Extent** – new native tree and shrub including SUDS planting, will be maintained within the site;
- **Condition** – the condition of created habitats will be established and maintained through long-term management;
- **Connectivity** – connectivity through the site will be maintained with new hedge
- **Adaptation** – encourage a local seedbank reaction to provide strong local resilience and site adaptation
Provision of bat and bird boxes will allow bat and bird species to adapt roosting and nesting locations in all seasons and weathers

legend

- mulched planting beds
- SUDS rain garden/pond (indicative locations)
- existing trees with RPA
- existing relocated topsoils allowed to recolonise from existing seedbank
- proposed tree
- existing trees and scrub removed
- proposed species-rich turf
- proposed native hedge

Locations for additional biodiversity provision

- proposed hibernacula provides reptile habitat
- proposed bee brick and insect hotel
- proposed hedgehog house
- proposed bat box
- proposed bird box



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catherine etchell associates
landscape architecture · recreation planning

t: 01874 636903 • e: landscape@etchell.info
Parc Beddow • Libanus • Brecon • LD3 8NN

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Social Club**
client
Davies Homes

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