



# **Long Term Management Plan for Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Statement**

**Plots 9 & 10,  
Cwm Woods Grove,  
Heolgerrig,  
Merthyr Tydfil,  
CF48 1DP**

**Matthew Jones**

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# Long-Term Biodiversity Management Plan and Green Infrastructure Statement

**For Maxiom Development Limited**  
**Plots 9 & 10**

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# Long-Term Biodiversity Management Plan

## Project Overview

- **Site:** Plots 9 & 10, Cwm Woods Grove, Heolgerrig, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1DP
  - **Planning Application:** P/24/0013
  - **Objective:** To create a long-term (minimum of 25 years) biodiversity management plan that includes measures for avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and enhancement of biodiversity in compliance with Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 12 and the stepwise approach.
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## 1. Baseline Condition and Biodiversity Value (from Preliminary Ecological Appraisal)

The **Preliminary Ecological Appraisal** conducted by Acer Ecology Ltd. (dated 05/07/2024) identified that Plots 9 & 10 are on recontoured colliery spoil land with a seeded reclamation mix. This vegetation mix supports local species such as the narrow-leaved bird's-foot trefoil and includes immature woodland areas. The appraisal highlights indirect risks to nearby sensitive ecological areas, specifically the **Cwm Glo a Glyndyrys SSSI** and **Cwm Glo SINC**, from construction-related disturbances like dust, noise, and hydrological changes. A previous arboriculture report shows that there were five trees on the site see fig 1. The earlier PEA report by R Pryce 08/08/2019 confirms the situation and establishes the Baseline. Mr Pryce States in his introduction "At present, the site is primarily occupied by planted woodland and colonising scrub with adjacent horse-grazed, rather sparse grassland, all established on regraded colliery spoil".

## 2. Objectives and Management Approach

The management plan is designed to:

- **Protect and enhance** the ecological value of the site post-development.
- **Mitigate any impacts** on local biodiversity, with specific focus on sensitive areas.
- **Achieve a net gain for biodiversity** compared to the baseline conditions pre-clearance.
- **Ensure ecosystem resilience** through locally appropriate enhancement measures.

## 3. Stepwise Approach and Key Measures

### a. Avoidance

- Maintain **buffer zones** around retained trees and hedgerows to protect existing habitats from construction impact.
- **Spatial Planning:** Position structures to avoid sensitive ecological areas identified during the surveys, prioritizing undisturbed zones.
- Protect designated SSSI and SINC areas from indirect impacts via specific **construction controls** (dust suppression, noise reduction, and erosion controls) See CEMP-B prepared in connection with this application.

### b. Minimization

- Use **wildlife-friendly lighting** to minimize disturbance to nocturnal species such as bats. Shielded, low-lumen lighting and motion sensors will be used on site.
- Reduce vegetation clearance to the minimum necessary footprint, with strict seasonal timing to avoid disturbing nesting birds and other sensitive species.

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### c. Mitigation and Restoration

- **Woodland and Shrub Planting:** Replacement planting to mitigate removed trees. 5 Trees were identified as part of the baseline previously, these will be replaced with hedgerows as indicated on Fig 2 providing a more appropriate habitat. This will include native species to support local wildlife such as Rowan and Hazel.

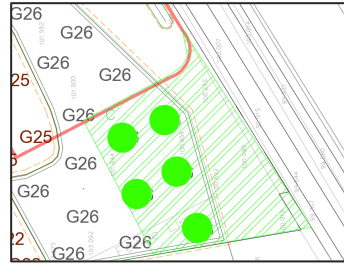


Fig 1



Fig 2

- **Wildflower Meadow Creation:** Establish wildflower areas with a mix of native species, including narrow-leaved bird's-foot trefoil, to support pollinators. The rear garden will be used to accommodate such areas along with recommended rain gardens for SuDS.
- **Hedgerow and Buffer Planting:** New hedgerows and green buffers around the perimeter of plots, planted with native species like rowan and hazel, to strengthen habitat connectivity.

### d. Enhancement

- **Bat and Bird Boxes:** Install a minimum of 5 bat boxes and 5 bird nesting boxes in suitable locations around the site to provide additional roosting and nesting habitats.
- **Amphibian and Reptile Habitats:** Construct log and rock piles to create habitats for amphibians and reptiles, promoting biodiversity resilience.
- **Rain Garden Creation:** Introduce a small rain garden to support local amphibians and insect species, enhancing the site's wetland features and contributing to biodiversity net gain.

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## 4. Monitoring and Reporting

- **Monitoring Frequency:** Conduct annual biodiversity surveys to assess the health and growth of the new plantings, and the presence of wildlife using artificial habitats.
- **Parties Responsible:** Property owners will manage and review the site annually, for routine maintenance.
- **Adaptive Management:** Adjust management practices if monitoring reveals changes in habitat health or species composition to maintain biodiversity net gain.

## 5. Funding Mechanism

The management plan will be funded by the property owners, as part of their commitment for long-term biodiversity measures.

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# Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS)

## Purpose and Scope

The Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) outlines the integration of green infrastructure on Plots 9 & 10, focusing on biodiversity, landscape, and resilience to meet **Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 12**. The GIS follows the **DECCA (Diversity, Extent, Condition, Connectivity, Adaptability)** framework to ensure ecosystem resilience and biodiversity net gain.

## 1. Green Infrastructure Elements

- **Woodland Areas and Hedgerows:** Retained and newly planted native woodland and hedgerows will enhance connectivity, providing a corridor for local wildlife and forming a natural buffer.
- **Wildflower Meadows:** Creation of wildflower areas supports pollinator populations, adding habitat diversity and aesthetic value.
- **Water Features:** The building plots are relatively small and as much as it would be beneficial to include a water feature this would not be practical. From reviewing the baseline, there were no ponds or such features on the site previously. The SuDS plan for the development however requires a rain garden which will provide habitat support and ecosystem diversity and contribute to the net gain.
- **Bat and Bird Boxes:** These artificial roosts create conditions for species not fully supported by on-site vegetation, enhancing habitat adaptability. See the LEMP associated with this application for positioning post development.

## 2. Baseline Data and Surveys

The **Preliminary Ecological Appraisal** (Acer Ecology Ltd., 05/07/2024) and additional historical surveys (e.g., 2019 Pryce Consultant Ecologists report) provided foundational data on local species, habitat types, and indirect risks to adjacent protected areas. These surveys informed the design of the green infrastructure to address habitat value and site limitations pre-clearance.

## 3. Application of the Stepwise Approach and Net Benefit for Biodiversity

The stepwise approach ensures a systematic assessment of impacts and measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, restore, and enhance biodiversity, aligned with **PPW 12 requirements**. Key green infrastructure actions under this approach include:

- **Avoidance:** Retaining existing buffer zones and minimizing construction impacts.
- **Minimization:** Reducing light pollution and carefully timing clearance.
- **Mitigation and Restoration:** Tree replacement, wildflower area establishment, and rain gardens.



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- **Enhancement:** Installation of bird and bat boxes and hedgerow connectivity.

#### 4. DECCA Framework Considerations

- **Diversity:** Incorporation of varied habitats (woodland, wetland, meadow) supports a wide range of species, boosting ecosystem diversity.
- **Extent:** Site area dedicated to green infrastructure has been maximized within the plot limits, with increased vegetation extent through strategic planting in rain gardens, rear lawn and planting areas.
- **Condition:** Ongoing management of habitats ensures high ecological quality and health.
- **Connectivity:** Hedgerows and woodlands enhance connectivity for wildlife across the landscape.
- **Adaptability:** Selection of native, resilient species and habitat diversity ensures the infrastructure can adapt to climate and ecological changes.

#### 5. Sustainable Drainage and Landscape Management

In line with PPW 12, green infrastructure incorporates **sustainable drainage** solutions that enhance local resilience to flooding and manage surface runoff. Vegetative buffers, hedgerows, and meadows will contribute to natural water infiltration, soil stabilization, and long-term site sustainability. The SAB application which addresses SuDS has been approved and complies with PPW 12 see application number SAB/24/0015.

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This management plan and GIS demonstrate a commitment to biodiversity enhancement on Plots 9 & 10 at Cwm Woods Grove, with provisions to monitor, fund, and manage biodiversity gains over a 25-year period. This approach will contribute to a locally responsive net benefit for biodiversity, creating a lasting ecological legacy in Merthyr Tydfil.



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