

Local Places for Nature and Flood Risk Management Wetland at The Incline, Twynyrodyn

In support of planning application

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

1. Site description

- 1.1 The Incline is an area of public open space that lies immediately to the southeast of Merthyr Tydfil town centre and covers approximately 4.2ha
- 1.2 The Incline extends from Tramroad Side South to Gilfach-Cynon however this application will only concern the section that lies between Tramroad Side South and Primrose Hill. The site is formed of reclaimed former colliery tips.
- 1.3 Until a recent scheme completed in 2024, the open space consisted entirely of informal areas. Formal packed gravel paths, sculptures and play features have been added within the site.
- 1.4 There are four points of access to the site. Decorative double gates and a pedestrian gate form the access from Primrose Hill to the north, large double gates and a pedestrian gate provide access from Highland View to the west, a pedestrian gate provides access to the southern portion of the site from Glasier Road to the west, and a footpath into the site can be accessed from Tramroad Side South. Vehicular access to the site is not permitted except for maintenance.
- 1.5 Most of the site is managed as occasionally mown neutral grassland. The lower portion of the site to the southwest much steeper in gradient and consists of denser woodland and scrub. There is a dense hedge on southern portion of the eastern boundary of the site where it borders Glasier Road. There is a recently planted orchard in the central northwest section of the site and many of the path a lined with recently planted trees.

2. **Proposal:** Construction of new wetland, rerouting of culvert into the wetland and implementation of additional landscape planting.

- 2.1 The proposal is to reduce peak loading on an existing culvert whilst delivering an area of enhanced biodiversity and public amenity. The site had limited high quality biodiversity areas and flooding issues are common immediately downstream of the site where manholes on the culvert line surcharge during heavy rainfall.
- 2.2 Two wetland basins are proposed either side of an existing right of way. Exceedance flows from the existing culvert will be routed through the two basins and back into the culvert further downstream. The basins will provide attenuation above the permanent water level which will then be released back to the culvert at a controlled rate.
- 2.3 The arrangement of the basins, proposed culvert rerouting and overflow arrangements area shown in the drawings. The position of the wetland was chosen based on areas that have minimal existing biodiversity, have modest gradients, are located proximal to the culvert and are accessible from the existing path network to bring people closer to nature. The detail of the culvert take off, outlet arrangement and attenuation depths have been determined using drainage modelling.
- 2.4 The forming of the wetland will be completed with extensive marginal and aquatic planting and complimentary planting in the areas around the wetland including a new

hedgerow. This planting will provide extensive biodiversity benefits and increase water losses through evapotranspiration.

Highway and access considerations

- 2.5 The proposed scheme will not affect any public highways or any of the paths or roads within the site. A culvert will be required under the existing right of way in order to link the two basins. The right of way will be reinstated as existing.

Services including street lighting

- 2.6 None of the existing services (other than the site drainage) will be affected.

Ecological considerations

- 2.7 The parts of the site in which the works are proposed are of very limited ecological value.
- 2.8 The proposed scheme will increase biodiversity through the creation of the wetland, which will by definition, provide damp or wet ground habitats and which will therefore increase biodiversity, when compared with the baseline. These areas will be managed appropriately *i.e.* summer 'cut and collect' and this will serve to increase biodiversity further as these areas develop.
- 2.9 A green infrastructure statement and preliminary ecological appraisal accompany this application and provide further detail on ecological considerations.

3 Documents

- 3.1 The following drawings and documents are provided to support the application

P5001036-MTD-DR-001	Red line boundary plan
P5001036-MTD-DR-002	Topographical Survey
P5001036-MTD-DR-003	General arrangement and drainage features
P5001036-MTD-DR-004	Basin sections
P5001036-MTD-DR-005	Basin schematic section
P5001036-MTD-DR-006	Details
792.01	Landscape proposals
MTD5001036_GIS	Green Infrastructure Statement
24-211-CA Merthyr Incline	Ground Investigation
1268 Glasier Road PEA v1	Preliminary Ecological Assessment