

Ecology Compliance Summary

Revision A

Plot 4
Cwm Woods Grove
Heolgerrig
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1DP

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ECOLOGY COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

Planning Ref: P/24/0115 – Plot 4, Cwm Woods Grove

Overview

This document summarises how the proposed development complies with ecological requirements and delivers biodiversity enhancement in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (PPW12), the submitted Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS), Landscape Plan Rev B, Detailed Planting Plan, and Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

Step-wise Approach (PPW12)

The scheme follows the step-wise approach to green infrastructure:

- **Avoidance:** Retention of dark corridors to protect bat foraging routes and minimise disturbance
- **Mitigation:** Sensitive lighting design (2700K, PIR-controlled, low lux levels) to reduce ecological impact
- **Enhancement:** Replacement of artificial grass with ecologically functional planting and introduction of habitat features

Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

The development delivers measurable biodiversity gain through:

- Native woodland edge planting, hedgerows, and species-rich garden planting (Areas A, B, and C)
- Flower-rich lawn areas to support pollinators
- Integrated bat boxes and bird boxes (woodcrete/woodstone construction)
- Hedgehog access points (130mm x 130mm) at regular intervals
- Habitat features including log piles and hibernacula

Ecological Connectivity

Connectivity is enhanced through:

- Continuous native hedgerow corridors
- Hedgehog access throughout boundary treatments
- Integration of garden planting into the wider landscape structure
- Retention of unlit dark corridors across the site

These measures ensure movement of species through and beyond the site.

Green Infrastructure (DECCA Framework)

The scheme accords with the DECCA framework:

- **Diversity:** Multiple habitat types supporting a range of species
- **Extent:** Increased green infrastructure through removal of artificial surfaces
- **Condition:** Managed under a 25-year LEMP to ensure long-term quality
- **Connectivity:** Functional wildlife corridors and access routes
- **Adaptability:** Use of resilient, native planting suited to changing conditions

Implementation and Management

All ecological features will be implemented as part of the construction phase in accordance with the approved drawings and secured through the LEMP.

The LEMP provides:

- A 25-year management plan
- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance
- Adaptive management to ensure habitats establish successfully

Compliance Statement

The development:

- Complies with Planning Policy Wales (PPW12)
- Aligns with the submitted GIS and LEMP
- Delivers a coherent and functional green infrastructure network
- Provides a clear and measurable net biodiversity benefit

Conclusion

The scheme represents a policy-compliant and ecologically robust development that enhances biodiversity, supports habitat connectivity, and delivers long-term environmental value.