

Green Infrastructure Statement

The site consists of 2no sparsely vegetated parcels located adjacent to the high quality Redrow and Llanmoor Mon Bank developments.

The site is accessed across the railway, which is located directly adjacent to the site to the north. There is a hedge to the main frontage and small areas of self-sown scrub within the site.

The River Usk is located 1.3k to the east.

Key GI assets

- 1. A significant tree and vegetation corridor along the railway to the northern boundary. This provides a diversity of habitat and potential wildlife resource to encourage wildlife into new gardens.
- 2. Pedestrian permeability and connection to surrounding environment is provided by an existing cycleway

GI opportunities

- 1. Steep banks around the site provide unuseable space ideally suited for green infrastructure to wrap around the site;
- 2. Existing hard standing of little value in a suburban setting is replaced with a landscape which improves biodiversity;
- 3. Planting will ensure resilience of the GI network, its features and habitats, including sufficient space for new planting to grow (including appropriate tree rooting volume), and preservation of existing soil structure and macronutrients;
- 4. Improvement of adequate travel, foraging, nesting and roosting opportunities for wildlife, linking to the railway corridor;
- 6. Ensuring visual appeal and attractive setting of the development with screening and softening and planting to enhance Abberley Road

GI proposals

- 1. Improve biodiversity across the site, for both flora and fauna; allow for incoming species;
- 2. Provide multifunctional SUDS proposals which enhance biodiversity and amenity and provide seasonal amphibian habitat;
- 3. Retain existing trees by respecting the Root Protection Areas, avoiding changes in levels and fencing off the trees prior to construction
- 4. Allow wildlife travel around site which will allow some species to connect with the railway corridor;
- 6 Design planting to encourage pollinating insects;
- 7. Ensure any lighting scheme is designed to avoid light spill on dark corridors
- 8. Supply habitat for threatened species (e.g. swift boxes, hedgehog houses)
- 9. Incorporate recommendations from future detailed ecology surveys

Baseline studies which have informed GI proposals

For Preliminary Ecology Assessment refer to report by Ecology Services Ltd

For SUDS details, refer to phg Engineering & Drainage Strategy

For Tree Survey, refer to Treescene Arboricultural Survey & Tree Constraints Plan

Summary of net biodiversity gains

- In accordance with Welsh Planning Policy, the development will represent a net gain in biodiversity;
- The strategy provides biodiversity enhancements through species-rich, native tree and shrub and grassland planting, provision of seasonal wetland and associated flowering species;
- Landscape proposals will provide an attractive setting which integrates the site into the existing high quality residential area;
- Surface water and roof water will be captured and drained into rain gardens and attenuation pond. 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. Grassland is specified to tolerate the aspect (sun/shade) and the drainage (wet/dry/mesic);
- A proposed tree and shrub corridor will wrap around the site to provide connectivity for many species including bats, and will bring wildlife into back gardens;
- Bird and bat boxes erected to provide additional nesting and roosting opportunity;
- Provision for hibernacula, brash piles and compost heaps on-site to provide habitat for a variety of reptile and other species and reduce need to dispose of green material off-site;
- Management of existing and proposed vegetation will be sympathetic to wildlife, both in terms of methods and timing of maintenance operations.

legend

- proposed shrub beds
- proposed rain gardens
- proposed native wildflower grassland established on site-won topsoils
- native shrub planting
- bat box
- bird box

The following bird and bat boxes to be supplied from <https://www.nhbs.com/equipment>
Refer to Ecological Services for additional information



Existing railway corridor embankment and vegetation to be retained

Pond provides habitat and water for a wide variety of wildlife

Bank planted with native species to provide continuation to railway corridor with tree avenue to provide green frontage

Species-rich grassland managed with differential mowing to provide habitat for a variety of species including birds and pollinators

Existing hedgerow retained; slopes to be planted with mixed species to support biodiversity

Trees provide spring flowers and autumn colour without undue shading to POS

Tree avenue provides welcoming entrance to site and softens streetscene

Reprofiled slopes with naturalistic S-shaped profile

New planting on slopes to be planted onto small berms to prevent excessive run-off or soil erosion

Shrubs and trees along northern fenced boundary softens views of development from the cycle track and provides connectivity and habitat for wildlife which links to railway corridor

Attenuation provided by underground crates with wildflowers over

Walls and closeboard fences to be provided with regular gaps to allow 'Hedgehog Highways' linking garden habitat

Green frontage with hedges provides continuity to streetscene

Rain gardens improve wildlife connectivity throughout the site with biodiverse and wildlife-friendly, mesic species

Planting with mix of deciduous and evergreen species and specimen shrubs; design of which to reflect a continuation of adjacent Redrow planting

Existing ornamental hedge retained

Revision A October 2024: Amended to accord with Planting Plan, layout and SUDS revised; bird and bat box locations added



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