



Cefn Isaf, Cefn Coed y Cymmer, Merthyr Tydfil

Green Infrastructure Statement

Prepared for Merthyr Valleys Homes

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INTRODUCTION

The design for the Cefn Isaf development has used a holistic approach, incorporating ecological enhancements and multifunctional green space. The design was informed by the updated National Planning Policy for Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales.

Specifically, the development proposals and landscape philosophy follow the Stepwise Approach set out in paragraph 6.4.21:

- 1) **Avoid** – The initial layout of the site was designed to avoid damage to existing GI assets wherever possible (refer to page 3 for details).
- 2) **Minimise** – The site layout was then developed and refined further, to minimise habitat loss and prioritise space for green corridors.
- 3) **Mitigate** – Potential damage to on-site GI assets was mitigated with the production an ecological survey to ensure site GI was identified and protected if required.
- 4) **Compensate** – New native trees, scrub and wild flower meadow were specified to compensate any loss of existing habitat. (refer to page 4 for details).

EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

There are no existing trees on site.

Existing Hedgerows

There are no existing hedgerows on site.

Scrub

There are three small pockets of dense scrub on site. While these areas offer habitat opportunities for reptiles and amphibians, none were recorded during the ecological survey.

Semi-Improved Grassland

There are seven small pockets of semi-improved grassland on site. While these areas offer habitat opportunities for reptiles and amphibians, none were recorded during the ecological survey.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

All areas of semi-improved grassland will be removed as a consequence of development.

The majority of scrub on site will be removed as a consequence of development. It may be possible to retain the pocket of scrub in the north eastern corner of the site.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

New street tree planting – Several new small and medium sized trees across the site will add landscape structure and provide a strong arboricultural character.

New Native tree Planting – New native broadleaf trees will improve biodiversity and arboricultural character.

New scrub planting – Scrub planting to the site's peripheries will compensate proposed losses and provide valuable habitat for reptiles and amphibians. Proposed scrub will link with the existing retained scrub in the north eastern corner where possible.

New wildflower habitat – Wildflower meadow will be created in several locations across the site, improving biodiversity and providing valuable habitat for pollinators.

New Green Roofs – New sedum roofs with areas of spoil and some bare ground at the edges will provide valuable habitat for basking invertebrates.

SUMMARY

Site GI assets and connectivity are generally limited, as evidenced by the ecological survey.

GI / Habitat losses will be adequately compensated with new tree, scrub and wildflower habitat.

The landscape proposals will result in a bio-diversity net gain across the site.