

Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Proposed Residential Development, Hirwaun Road

Prepared By



On Behalf of

Newydd Housing Association

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INTRODUCTION

The design for the Hirwaun Road 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, avoiding root protection areas and prioritising space for green corridors.
- 3) **Mitigate** – Potential damage to on-site GI assets was mitigated with the development of ecological survey documents to catalogue and evaluate existing GI assets.
- 4) **Compensate** – New native trees, hedgerows and wild flower meadow habitat were specified to compensate any loss of existing habitat. (refer to page 5 for details).

EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

There are no existing trees on site

Existing Hedgerows

There are no existing hedgerows on site

Ephemeral Short Perennial Grassland

Areas of bare ground in the centre and south west of the site grade into perennial grassland patches. Species include Ribwort plantain, Creeping cinquefoil, Knapweed, Common Mouse ear, bird's foot trefoil, Clover sp., Common chickweed, Yarrow, Square stalked willow herb, Broadleaved dock, Purple dead nettle, Common dandelion and Spear thistle.

Semi Improved Grassland

Semi-improved grassland fills the eastern side of the site. Species include Bramble, Ribwort plantain, Creeping cinquefoil, Knapweed, Crested dog's tail, Common Mouse ear, Yorkshire fog, bird's foot trefoil, Clover sp., Greater plantain, Common chickweed, Ragwort, Ground ivy, Herb Robert, Sorrel, Cock's foot, Fescue sp., Lesser celandine, Lesser stitchwort, Yarrow, Perforate St John's wort, Brassica, Square stalked willow herb, rosebay willow herb, Soft rush, Pendulous sedge, Glaucous sedge, Hogweed sp., Broadleaved dock, Colt's foot, Purple dead nettle, Common dandelion and Spear thistle.

Existing Scrub

Areas of gorse and bramble scrub are located to the site's peripheries. Species include Hawthorn, Goat willow, Willow sp., Ivy, Bramble, Rose sp., Hazel, Dog rose, Butterfly bush and Rosebay willow herb

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

The majority of existing grassland and scrub areas will be removed to accommodate the proposed residential buildings and associated hard standing.

An area of existing scrubby grassland on the southern boundary will be retained as existing.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

New street tree planting – new on-plot trees give the landscape scheme structure and provide a strong arboricultural character.

New Native tree Planting – new native trees to site’s peripheries strengthen existing green corridors and improve biodiversity.

New Native Hedgerow Planting – New native hedgerow planting to the site boundaries creates new green corridors and habitat for nesting birds.

New Wildflower Meadow Habitat – Wetland wildflower and meadow habitat will be created and maintained across the site, improving biodiversity and providing valuable habitat for pollinators.

SUMMARY

The majority of scrub and semi-improved grassland will be removed to accommodate the proposed development.

These losses are compensated with new trees, species hedgerows and diverse wildflower habitat.