Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Proposed Residential Development, Carmarthen West (Pigeon Land) South

Prepared By

TDA
Environment | Landscape | Design

On Behalf of

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INTRODUCTION

The design for the Carmarthen West (Pigeon Land) South development has used a holistic approach, incorporating biodiversity enhancements and retaining existing GI wherever possible. 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 as follows:

Avoid - avoid damage to biodiversity in its widest sense (i.e. the variety of species and habitats and their abundance) and ecosystem functioning.

Minimise - applicants, in discussion with planning authorities, must seek to minimise the initial impact on biodiversity and ecosystems by:

ensuring that retained habitats continue to be well connected to adjacent habitats to provide connectivity for key species and ensuring that the favourable conservation status of local species populations is maintained

retaining existing features, develop a management plan for their future care

using proven innovative/creative solutions (where required) to minimise damage and maintain existing biodiversity features and ecosystems in tandem with robust monitoring and rectification strategies.

Mitigate - Where, after measures to minimise impact, biodiversity and ecosystems could still be damaged, or lost through residual impacts, the proposed development should mitigate that damage. Mitigation measures must be put in place to limit the negative effects of a development.

Compensate - where like for like mitigation measures are not possible, particularly in respect of restoration measures, it may be necessary to consider on site compensation measures.

The layout of the site has been carefully developed in consultation with Treescene Arboricultural Consultants, Hawkeswood Ecology, EDP and Tirlun Design Associates to **avoid** damage to biodiversity wherever possible. (refer to page 3 for details).

Following production of arboricultural and ecological surveys, the site layout was then developed and refined further, to **minimise** habitat loss and retain additional existing trees and boundary vegetation.

While existing trees and hedgerows are to be retained and protected, due to the nature and extent of the development, it will not be possible to **mitigate** damage to the existing grassland, as it will be removed to accommodate the proposals.

To **compensate** for this loss, detailed soft landscape proposals have been produced for the site. (refer to page 4 for details).

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Arboricultural survey produced by Treescene in 2023
Various Ecological Surveys produced by EDP 2013-2015
Ecological Appraisal produced by Hawkeswood Ecology in 2024

THE SITE

The development site comprises two land parcels. The larger eastern parcel comprises agricultural fields, defined by field boundary hedgerows. The smaller western parcel has been cleared and is predominantly bare earth.

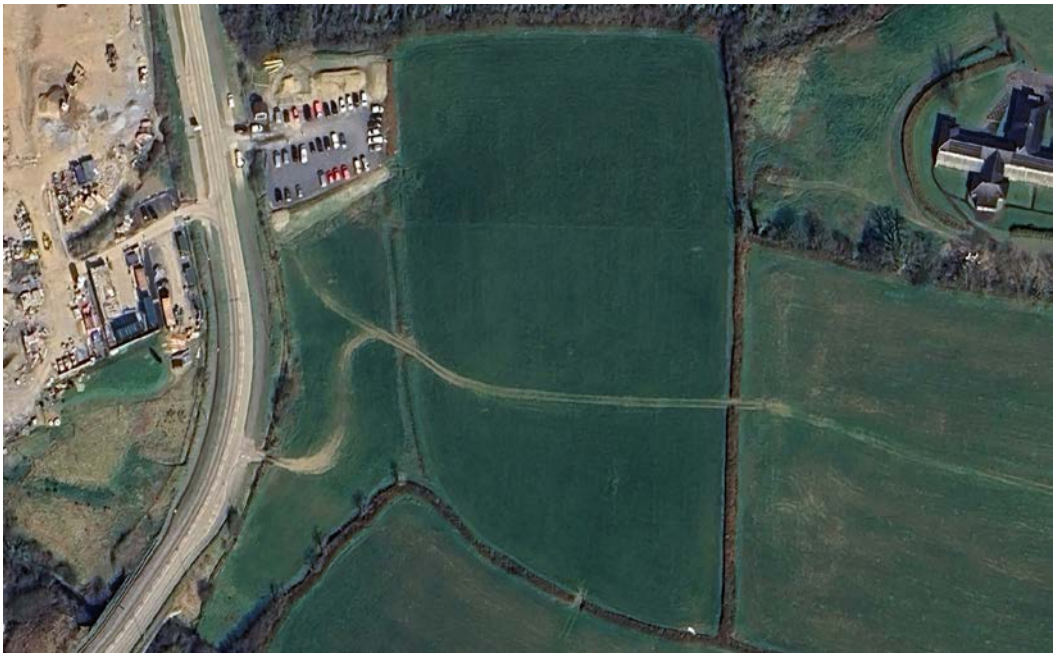


Image 1 – The Site

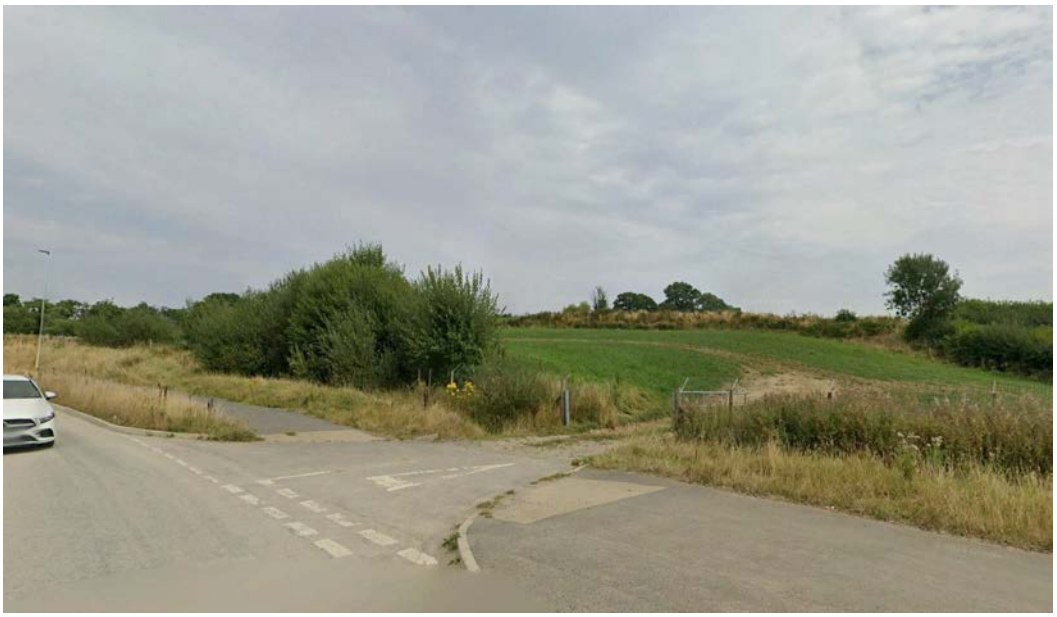
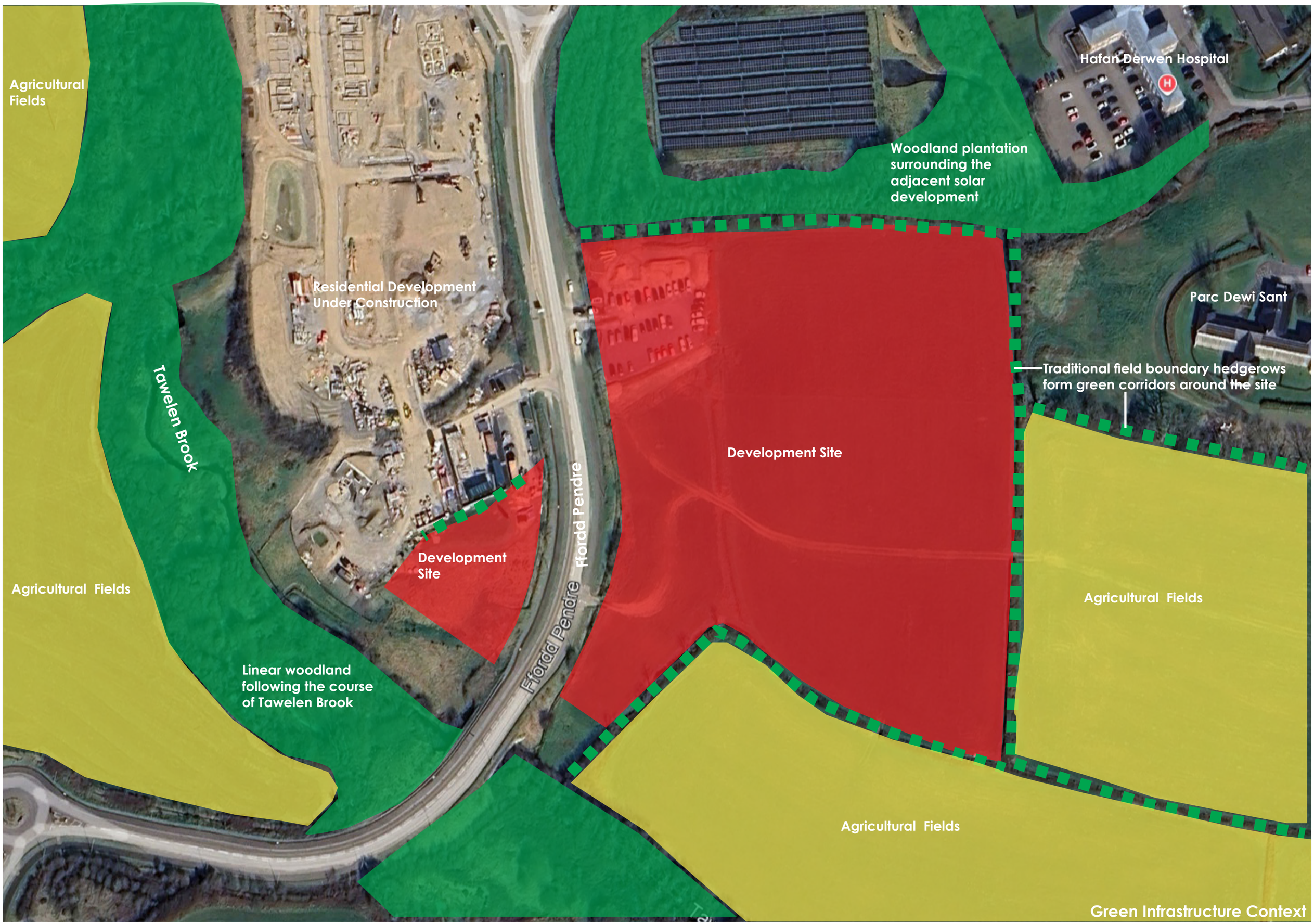


Image 2 – View looking North East towards the eastern parcel from Ffordd Pendre



Green Infrastructure Context

EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

3 no. existing trees. T25 and T26 were categorised as B (Moderate Quality & Value) and T28 was categorised as A (High Quality & Value).

Existing Hedgerows

Field boundary hedgerows define the north east and western boundaries of the eastern land parcel. There is a shorth section of field boundary hedgerow on the western boundary of the western land parcel. All hedgerows are categorised as C – Low Quality & Value.

Green Corridors

The field boundary hedgerows form green corridors around the edges of the site. These corridors link to the wider GI network.

Soils

The site comprises significant areas of open green space, currently occupied by grassland. Pending soil testing, it is likely that there are sufficient soil resources within the site for future landscape purposes.

Public Open Space

None present

Grassland

Almost all of the eastern parcel comprises improved grassland. Species include compact rush, fleabane, Timothy grass, meadow buttercup, purple loosestrife, bird's-foot trefoil, a species of mint, hard rush, pendulous sedge, creeping buttercup, common knapweed, a species of vetch, smooth tare, fox sedge, cock's-foot and common bent.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

The improved grassland will be removed to accommodate the development

All existing trees and hedgerows will be retained

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposed Native Trees – 23 no. new native trees are proposed on the western edge of the development.

Proposed Street Trees – 44 new trees within the development including avenue street trees and larger landmark specimens.

Proposed Wildflower Habitat – 4000 square metres of hedgerow, wetland and meadow wildflower areas across the development. Species include Agrimonia eupatoria, Alliaria petiolate, Anthriscus sylvestris, Arctium minus, Centaurea nigra, Chaerophyllum temulum, Cruciata laevipes, Daucus carota, Dipsacus fullonum, Filipendula ulmaria, Galium album, Geum urbanum, Geranium pratense, Lathyrus sylvestris, Leucanthemum vulgare, Malva moschata, Origanum vulgare, Plantago lanceolata, Primula veris Rumex acetosa, Silene dioica, Silene vulgaris, Vicia cracca, Agrostis capillaris, Anthoxanthum odoratum, Brachypodium sylvaticum, Cynosurus cristatus, Deschampsia cespitosa, Festuca rubra, Poa nemoralis, Galium verum, Poterium sanguisorba ssp sanguisorba, Prunella vulgaris, Ranunculus acris, Festuca rubra, Phleum bertolonii, Poa pratensis, Silene dioica, Anthyllis vulneraria, Betonica officinalis, Lotus corniculatus, Medicago lupulina, Plantago lanceolata, Taraxacum officinale, Trifolium repens, Agrostis capillaris, Cynosurus cristatus, Festuca rubra

Proposed On-plot planting and SUDs features – A diverse mix of 30 species of shrubs, grasses and perennials spread across the development.

SUMMARY

The primary GI loss, is the existing improved grassland within the eastern land parcel. This loss is compensated with the new wildflower habitat, native hedgerows and tree planting.

Existing connectivity to the wider GI network is achieved through the field boundary hedgerows.

These existing green corridors will be retained and enhanced with new tree, hedge and wildflower planting.