

Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Proposed Training Centre, Parkway, Blackwood

Prepared By



On Behalf of

Construction Hub Training Academy

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INTRODUCTION

The design for the proposed training centre, Parkway, Blackwood 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 by C2J Architects in consultation with Tree Check Arboriculture Ltd, Ark Ecology Ltd, 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 provide additional space along the site's peripheries for new green corridors and biodiversity enhancements.

While the majority of remaining existing trees and scrub are to be retained and protected, due to the proposed access from Parkway, it will not be possible to **mitigate** damage to the existing scrub in the north east corner, as it will be removed to accommodate the proposals.

A number of existing trees have been removed from the centre of the site. To **compensate** for this loss, and the loss of scrub to form the access, detailed soft landscape proposals have been produced for the site. (refer to page 4 for details).

PREVIOUS STUDIES

Arboricultural survey produced by Tree Check in December 2025

Preliminary Ecological Survey produced by Ark Ecology in December 2025

THE SITE

The development site comprises an area of cleared ground and hardstanding between two industrial sites on the western side of Parkway. Existing Linear groups of trees and scrub form green corridors along Parkway to the east and Manmoel Road to the west.



Image 1 – View looking north west towards the site from Parkway

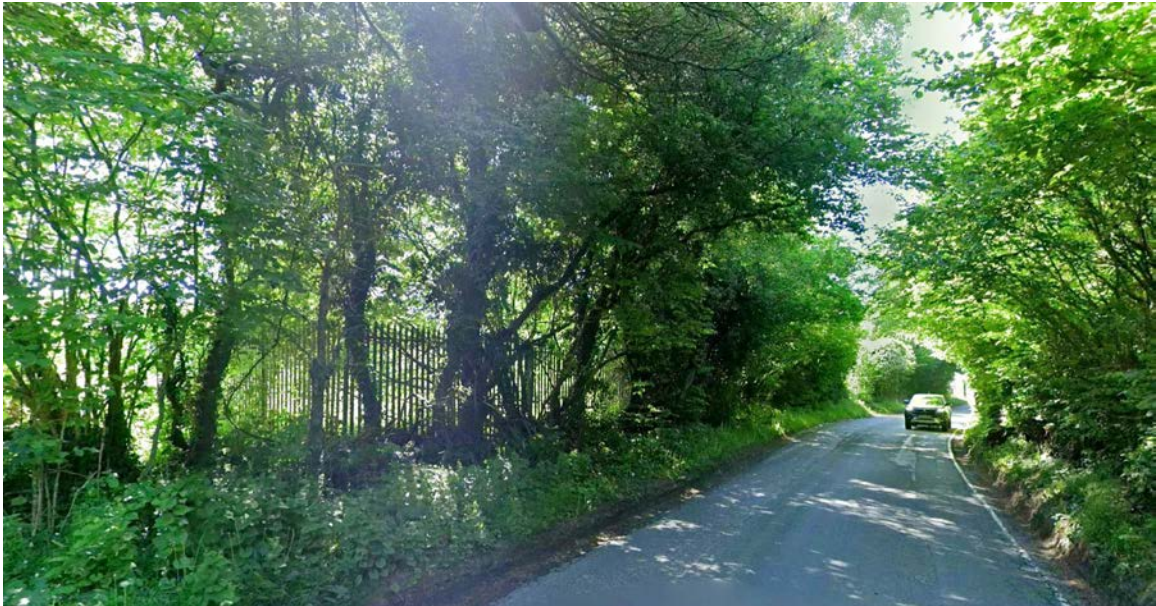
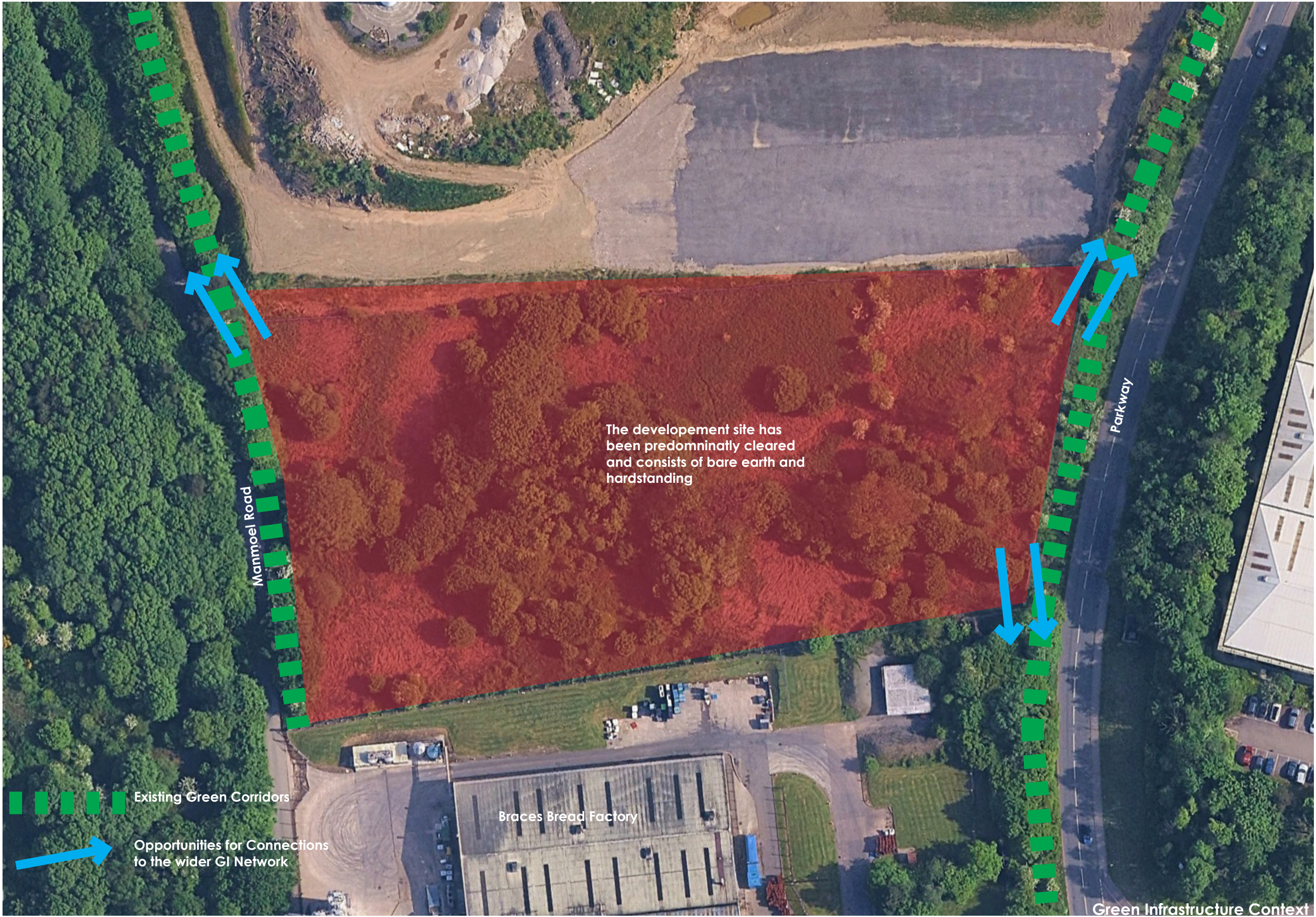


Image 2 – View looking south west towards the site from Manmoel Road



The development site has been predominatly cleared and consists of bare earth and hardstanding

Manmoel Road

Parkway

Braces Bread Factory

Existing Green Corridors

Opportunities for Connections to the wider GI Network

EXISTING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

Existing Trees

There are no existing trees within the site boundary.

There are 5 no. Category B trees located beyond the western boundary (T11-T15).

There are 10 no. individual trees located beyond the eastern boundary. 3 no. are category B (T1, T6 & T10), 5 no. are category C (T2, T3, T7, T8 & T9) and 2 no. are Category U (T4 & T5).

There are 5 no. tree groups beyond the eastern boundary. 1 no. is category B (G3), the remaining 4 no. are category C (G1, G2, G4 & G5).

Existing Hedgerows

There are no existing hedgerows on the site. 2 no. category B hedgerows (H1 & H2) are located beyond the western boundary. Species include Hazel, Holly, Willow and Hawthorn

Green Corridors

The trees and hedgerows beyond the western boundary form a green corridor along Manmoel Road. The trees and scrub beyond the eastern boundary form a green corridor along Parkway.

Soils

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

None present

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE LOSSES

Prior to clearance, the site contained 15 no. trees (refer to Tree Check survey document for details). These trees have been removed.

A small section of scrub on the eastern boundary will require removal to accommodate the proposed site access.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Proposed Trees – 12 no. new standard trees are proposed on the eastern boundary adjacent to Parkway. A further 84 no. standard trees are proposed as part of the native buffer plantation along the southern and western boundaries. The buffer plantation will also contain 84 no. feathered trees.

Proposed native understorey – The 7 metre and 3 metre wide native buffer plantation along the entirety of the western and southern and northern boundary will include native understorey planting below the proposed standard and feathered trees. Species will include Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Holly and Hornbeam.

Proposed Wildflower – species rich native wildflower is proposed predominantly along the eastern and northern boundaries.

SUMMARY

The primary GI loss is the 15 no. trees that have been removed from within the site.

This loss has been compensated with 96 proposed new trees.

The loss of scrub in the north east corner has been compensated with a 7 metre wide understorey plantation that runs the length of the southern and western boundaries and a 3 metre wide buffer that runs the length of the northern boundary.

Existing green corridors along the eastern and western boundary will be retained and enhanced with new native trees and wildflower habitat.

These green corridors will be linked by the native understorey plantation along the southern boundary and the native hedgerow along the northern boundary.