

Green Infrastructure Statement

Site: 11 Westbourne Place, Mumbles, Swansea, SA3 4DB

Proposal: Single storey rear extension.

As per Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024 a Green Infrastructure Statement is required to demonstrate how a step-wise approach has been considered in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity for the proposals. The assessment should be used to develop a robust approach to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, increasing ecosystem resilience and the multiple benefits obtained from nature, and should identify key strategic opportunities where the protection, retention, restoration, creation and connection of green features and functions would deliver the most significant benefits. Outputs from the green infrastructure assessment must address:

- The identifying of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, and historic and cultural features in which green infrastructure plays a part, which are already being safeguarded as part of multi-functioning urban and rural landscapes;
- The nature emergency identifying and demonstrating how a net benefit for biodiversity will be secured and the attributes of ecosystem resilience enhanced, making the links to other land management activity, such as local nature recovery plans, and identifying land which may be required for the protection, retention and restoration and recovery of nature (and in providing a net benefit for biodiversity). This includes recognising the value of designated sites, and natural resources such as peatlands, as part of resilient ecological networks. In urban areas, the protection and provision of green infrastructure should be considered alongside the needs of wider maintenance regimes and any role development may have in making an effective contribution. The assessments may assist in identifying how the impact of INNS and the risk of introducing or spreading INNS will be managed;
- The reduction of pollution, as far as possible, by identifying green infrastructure/nature based solutions which form part of, or complement, wider activity at a catchment scale to address pollution and improve the restoration of riverine and other habitats;

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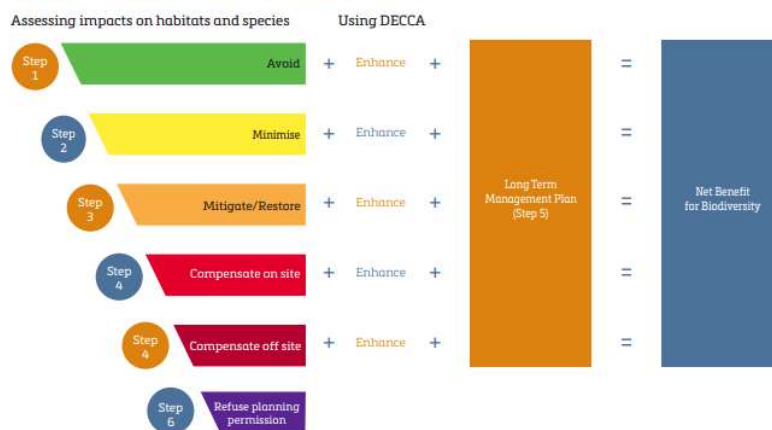
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- The climate emergency by ensuring the multi-functional benefits provided by trees and woodlands are identified; for example, by increasing tree canopy cover in urban areas to ensure shading against increased temperatures, and by requiring effective natural flood management and sustainable drainage schemes. Such measures may also help maintain good air quality and appropriate soundscapes;
- The health and well-being of communities by ensuring they have accessible natural green spaces of various sizes and scales within reasonable walking and cycling distances.
- How the planning system should secure the implementation and management of green infrastructure, recognising its dynamic nature, over the long term.

Figure 1 below sets out the summary of the stepwise approach as set out in the Annex 2 to the published advice:

Figure 12: Summary of the Step-Wise Approach



Avoid: The application site is not within a “Special Protection Area, Site of Specific Scientific Interest, or a natural Nature Reserve” or similar designated sites, and as such, the Step- Wise approach has been used. Given the nature of the proposed works, the proposals avoid damage to the local biodiversity.

Minimise: The works proposed will not result in any loss of trees / vegetation / hedgerow / habitat.

Mitigation: The development will not impact on any trees, shrubs or habitat on the site area, and care will be taken not to store materials or plant under any trees or shrubs on site.

Compensation on site: There will be no loss of grassed area on site however to offer a net benefit for biodiversity, it is proposed to erect a Woodstone Swift nest box on the North facing elevation of the application property, details of which have been provided.

Proposed enhancements: It is accepted that Future Wales now requires ecological enhancement however, it is submitted that any ecological enhancement must be proportional to the development proposed.

A Woodstone Swift nestbox is to be installed within 1 month of completion of the proposed works and maintained thereafter, as detailed below.

The proposals will not have an adverse affect on drainage or biodiversity. The proposals therefore provide a net-benefit.

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Woodstone Swift Nest Box

The WoodStone® range of nest boxes have been designed and developed as part of our professional Vivara Pro range. Unlike a traditional wooden nest box, this box will not rot away or deteriorate. Every WoodStone® nest box from CJ Wildlife is guaranteed for 10 years.

Constructed from a mix of concrete and wood fibres, WoodStone® nest boxes safeguard against attacks from predators including woodpeckers, cats and squirrels.

Swift numbers are declining severely, in part because of the loss of nest sites. By putting up nest boxes you can make a long term contribution to the species' conservation. Once established they are very site faithful and make delightful but unobtrusive summer guests.

There is an opening at the back of the box for easy cleaning or inspection.

Swifts use the eaves of our homes as a replacement for the rock faces and cliffs in which they would naturally nest. Nest boxes should be placed near the eaves at least 5 metres high in a spot that is sheltered from direct sunlight and has a clear flightpath.

Specification:

External dimensions:

- * Height: 25cm
- * Width: 38cm
- * Length: 27cm
- * Weight: 6kg



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