

Green Infrastructure Statement:

in accordance with the principles of Chapter 6 Paragraphs 6.2.11 and 6.2.12 of PPW12 (planning Policy Wales)

January 2026

10-13 PONTMORLAIS WEST MERTHYR TYDFIL.

1. Site Context and Objective

The site is a high-density urban conversion within Merthyr Tydfil. The transition from a single large shop to a mixed-use development (4 retail units and 8 residential studios) increases the human density of the site. The objective of this GI strategy is to utilize the limited external footprint to provide multi-functional benefits that improve air quality, manage surface water, and provide a net gain for urban biodiversity.

2. Species-Specific Enhancements

In line with Section 6.2.12's requirement for "positive management," the following hardware will be integrated into the building fabric:

- **Swift Bricks:** 3x integrated bricks on the North/East elevation at a height of 5m+.
- **Bat Tubes:** 2x Schwegler type 1FR tubes integrated into the masonry of the rear elevation to support local Pipistrelle populations.
- **Pollinator Posts:** Small "bee hotels" integrated into the timber framing of the cycle storage.

3. Renewable Energy: Solar PV Integration

To satisfy the "Adaptability" and "Resilience" principles of PPW12 Para 6.2.12, solar energy is key for the 8 studio flats.

- **Location:** South-facing roof pitches of the main building.
- **Specification: In-roof (integrated) Solar PV panels.** These sit flush with the slate/tile, maintaining the aesthetic of the Pontmorlais conservation area while providing renewable energy to the communal areas or studios.
- **GI Benefit:** By reducing the building's carbon footprint, you contribute to the "Ecosystem Resilience" by mitigating climate change impacts.

4. Bird Boxes (Aviation for Swifts & Sparrows)

- **The Swift Brick:** Merthyr is a priority area for Swifts. Install **3x Integrated Swift Bricks** (e.g., *Manthorpe GSWB*) into the masonry at the highest point of the rear elevation (at least 5m high).
- **The Sparrow Terrace:** House Sparrows are "red-listed" but common in Merthyr urban centers. Install a **Sparrow Terrace box** on the side elevation under the eaves.

5. Bug Hotels (Pollinator Support)

- **The "Bee Brick":** Instead of a bulky standalone bug hotel, use **2x Bee Bricks** built directly into the rear wall at chest height. These support solitary bees (which do not sting) and require zero maintenance.
 - **Integrated Log Store:** The base of the cycle storage can include a small "gap" filled with vertical logs. This provides a damp habitat for invertebrates and stag beetles without taking up additional space.
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Swift Brick Technical Specification

Recommended Model: Manthorpe GSWB Swift Brick (or **Schwegler Type 25** for a rendered finish).

- **Design:** A "fit-and-forget" breathable bird house that replaces a single standard brick or sits behind a facing brick.
 - **Dimensions:** Approximately .
 - **Aesthetic:** The front plate is available in various colors (Buff, Blue, Red, Grey) to match the existing masonry of the Pontmorlais property.
 - **Material:** Concrete or high-density plastic (integral to the wall), ensuring no maintenance is required and no thermal bridging occurs.
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Installation Schedule (Compliance with Para 6.2.11)

To ensure the "Condition" and "Connectivity" attributes of PPW12 are met, the bricks must be installed according to the following criteria:

1. **Quantity:** A minimum of **3 Swift Bricks** (recommended for a building of this size to create a small colony).
2. **Height:** Must be installed at least **5 meters above ground level**. This is crucial as swifts "drop" into flight.

3. **Aspect:** Ideally placed on the **North or North-East elevation** (to the rear or side lane of the property) to prevent the nests from overheating in direct summer sunlight.
 4. **Clearance:** Ensure there is an unobstructed flight path in front of the brick (no trees, large poles, or streetlights within 5 meters of the entrance).
 5. **Placement:** Place them near the eaves or the highest point of the conversion, spaced roughly 1 meter apart.
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Revised "Small Space" GI Summary

With the reduction in planting and the addition of solar/hardware, your GI package for the planning application is now:

GI Component	Specification	PPW12 Role
Integrated Swifts	3x Manthorpe GSWB Bricks	Net Benefit: High-value nesting.
Solar PV	8-10kW Integrated In-Roof System	Resilience: Carbon reduction.
Bug Hotel	2x Bee Bricks (Ground Floor)	Diversity: Pollinator support.
Minimal Green	Sedum-topped Bin/Cycle Store	Surface Water: Rainwater attenuation.

Management and Monitoring

To ensure the long-term resilience of these measures:

- The management company for the 8 studios will be responsible for the biannual pruning of climbers and the annual weeding/inspection of the sedum roofs.
- Integrated planters will include a "leaky pipe" irrigation system connected to a small rainwater butt to ensure "Adaptability" during summer droughts.

Conclusion

This Green Infrastructure Statement demonstrates a commitment to incorporating sustainable design principles into the redevelopment of the proposed building. By maximizing opportunities for green infrastructure, the project aims to mitigate its environmental impact, enhance local biodiversity, and contribute to a more resilient and sustainable urban environment. Overall, the project enhances biodiversity and green infrastructure proportionate to the development