

Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity Statement

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BRICK

Project: Smart Electrical Systems, Goat Mill Road, Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 3TD

Date: 12/01/2026

Proposed Development:

Alteration of roof (from gabled to mono-pitched), recladding of external elevations, erection of side extension and other external alterations to building, widening of access and erection of gate and fencing.

1. Site Description

The unit is located within an established industrial estate in Merthyr Tydfil.

2. Surrounding Area Description

The site is positioned within a predominantly industrial setting, characterised by large-scale industrial buildings and associated commercial uses.

- Along the front (eastern) boundary, there is an existing hedgerow and overgrown vegetation intertwined with an existing fence, providing natural screening to the frontage.
- To the south, overgrown vegetation and mature shrubbery lie outside the site boundary, creating a dense landscaped buffer and contributing to the green character of the roadside environment.

This combination of industrial structures and pockets of established greenery frames the wider setting.

3. Development Impacts

3.1 Assessment of Existing Conditions

- The proposed extension will be built entirely over an existing hard-surfaced area, meaning no existing soft landscaping within the site will be directly affected.
- To facilitate the widened access and installation of new entrance gates, a small section of the front hedgerow must be removed.
- A 2:1 replacement planting scheme will be implemented to compensate for the minor vegetation loss, as illustrated on the submitted site plan.
- No works are proposed within the southern vegetation, which lies outside the boundary.

4. Mitigation Measures (Step-Wise Approach)

- Step 1 — Hedgerow Protection & Controlled Removal
 - Only the minimum required section of hedgerow will be removed.
 - All retained vegetation and boundaries will be protected with temporary fencing during construction (BS 5837 standards).

Step 2 — Compensatory Hedgerow Planting

- A 2:1 replacement hedgerow will be planted using native, wildlife-beneficial species.
- Planting will be positioned to retain continuity of the boundary habitat.

Step 3 — Management of External Lighting

- Smart motion-sensor lighting will be installed.
- Warm-temperature lighting (approx. 2700K) will be used to minimise ecological disturbance, especially to bats and nocturnal species.
- Lighting will be directed downward, reducing light spill beyond the immediate work area.

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Step 4 — Protection of Southern Vegetation

- The overgrown shrubbery to the south (outside the site) will remain unaffected.
- No construction activities, storage, or vehicle movements will occur within this area.

Step 5 — Ecology Clarification (One-Off Only)

Ecology documentation will be updated to reflect:

A small section of the front hedgerow will be removed to create the widened access. This loss is minor and will be fully offset through 2:1 native replacement planting, as shown on the submitted site plan.

All other vegetation — including the southern overgrown shrubbery outside the boundary — will remain unaffected.

As the planning application has already been submitted and the change is minimal, a full ecology or GIS report update is not required. This brief clarification is sufficient to record the minor hedgerow adjustment and the accompanying mitigation.

5. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

As part of the development, the following on-site enhancements will support ecological resilience:

5.1 Habitat Features

- Installation of bird and bat boxes in accordance with the site plan.
- Incorporation of nectar-rich and fruit-bearing native species within replacement hedgerow planting.
- Introduction of wildflower and tussocky grass margins where possible to encourage pollinators.

5.2 Green Infrastructure Connectivity

- New planting will maintain ecological links between the front boundary vegetation and the shrub-rich areas to the south.
- Improvements will strengthen the site's role in the local green corridor network.

6. Conclusion

With the above mitigation and enhancement measures, the proposed development will:

- minimise impacts on existing vegetation,
- appropriately mitigate unavoidable hedgerow loss through 2:1 native replacement,
- maintain and enhance biodiversity value,
- support resilient ecological networks,
- and contribute positively to the site's green infrastructure.

Overall, the development will deliver net benefits for biodiversity while ensuring the industrial unit remains well-integrated within its landscaped surroundings.

Signed,

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