

Green Infrastructure Statement prepared by Indigo Design

Green Infrastructure for new storage unit at Willow Works Abercanaid, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 1YF.



The proposal

The parcel of land is located in The Willow industrial estate which consists of various industrial units, storage yards and storage containers. The proposal is for a new storage unit on a flat parcel of land that is currently being used to store plant equipment and machinery. There are already a number of storage units already on site.

What green infrastructures have/will have been removed to facilitate the development –

None of the existing green infrastructure elements along the neighbouring area will need to be removed or altered to allow for the development, meaning no loss of existing habitats or foraging features for local wildlife.

How are the retained features being protected during development

Due to the locations of the planned work activities being away from the existing green infrastructure along the neighbouring area, the possibility of damage or disturbance is negligible, however, protective fence lines will be installed against any features at risk of damage or disturbance to create a clear and protected boundary between the work areas and existing features to be retained.

Existing Green Infrastructure assets

Existing Trees

There are no existing trees on site. There is a tree line running along the bank of the River Taf at the rear of the land. This area is not within the ownership of the applicant. This will not be disturbed in any way and is already behind metal fencing on site.

Existing Hedgerows

There are no existing hedgerows on site.

Scrub

There are no existing shrubs on site.

Semi-Improved Grassland

There are no existing self-improved grassland on site.

PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to comply with current planning policies, the refurbishment works will include the installation of bird boxes to the external elevations, namely

New birdbox see drawing no WW-05

A Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace or the following

<https://www.nhbs.com/vivaraprowoodstonehousesparrownestbox?bkfno=210670>. Will be fitted to the Eastern Elevation of the new storage unit.

New bat box see drawing no WW-05

One of the following <https://www.nhbs.com/1wq-schwegler-summerwinter-bat-roostroost> (or equivalent) boxes or similar will be attached to the rear of the property. The bat boxes will be positioned at a height of no less than 3.5m from the ground. No external lighting will be placed on this elevation

Lighting

There will be no external lighting fitted to the storage unit as the area will be covered by CCTV.

SUMMARY

Site GI assets and connectivity are generally limited, as evidenced by the ecological survey.

GI / Habitat losses will be adequately compensated with new bat and bird boxes.

Long Term Maintenance Bat Box

The Schwegler 1WQ Summer & Winter Bat Roost is designed to provide bats with a safe and comfortable environment year-round, accommodating both summer roosting and winter hibernation. Its insulated construction helps maintain optimal temperatures, protecting bats from extreme heat in summer and cold in winter.

Maintenance Guidelines:

- **Cleaning:** Schwegler bat roosts are designed to be maintenance-free. The 1WQ model, in particular, requires no cleaning, providing years of shelter without intervention.
- **Inspection:** While cleaning isn't necessary, it's beneficial to inspect the roost periodically to check for any damage or structural issues. If repairs are needed, ensure the roost is unoccupied before making any modifications.

Additional Tips:

- **Avoid Disturbance:** Refrain from opening the roost during May to July to prevent disturbing nursery roosts. Similarly, avoid inspections from November to April to prevent disrupting hibernating bats
- **Monitoring Occupancy:** To determine if the roost is occupied, observe it at dusk for about 30 minutes after sunset, watching for bats emerging. Presence of guano beneath the roost can also indicate occupancy.

Long Term Maintenance Bird Box

To properly maintain a Vivara Pro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box in the UK, follow these guidelines:

- **Frequency:** Clean the nest box once a year, ideally in autumn (September–October), after the breeding season. This prevents parasite build-up and prepares the box for winter roosting.
- **Avoid disturbing** the box during nesting season (March–August), as house sparrows may reuse the same box multiple times.

Cleaning Steps

Open the access panel:

The WoodStone design typically features a small door or removable panel for easy access

Remove old nesting material:

Wear gloves and use a small stick or brush to gently remove the used nest.

Disinfect the box (if needed):

Use boiling water to kill parasites. Avoid using chemicals or detergents, as they can leave harmful residues.

Dry thoroughly:

Ensure the box is fully dry before reassembling it.

The responsibility for Long term maintenance of the Ecology enhancements will be the responsibility of the Landowner.