

Report section 7.2.3 In accordance with the provision of Chapter 6 of 'Planning Policy Wales' (Distinctive and Natural Places) and 'Local Planning Policy', biodiversity enhancement measures should be incorporated into the landscaping scheme of any proposed works to maximise the ecological value of the site.

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework, the development should aim to enhance the Site for bats. Two Beaurains Bat boxes⁴, or similar artificial roost(s) should be installed on the southern elevation, near the south-eastern corner of the building, providing access to the adjacent woodland. This to be provided within the curtilage of the owners' property, with the purpose of providing roosting habitat for species such as pipistrelle. In general, bats seek warm places, and for this reason boxes should be located where they will receive full/partial sun, although installing features in a variety of orientations will provide a range of climatic conditions. Position boxes at least 3m (ideally 6m) above ground to prevent disturbance from people and/or predators. The most suitable location is at the southern elevation, directly below the eaves.

This area is to be enhanced to provide additional opportunities for breeding birds. One 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace5 (or similar) and one swift nest box6 (or similar) be attached to the northern gable of the building, as high as possible, facing north or northeast. The nesting boxes must be of a woodcrete construction to ensure longevity.

- This area is to be enhanced to provide additional opportunities for hedgehogs. One hedgehog hole7 (or similar) be attached to the base of any new garden fence.

Enhancement for the local bird and invertebrate populations to be provided in the form of tree planting and seed mixes for green areas (see below).

- To support invertebrates locally; the planting of native trees and shrubs including x1 hazel, x1 mountain ash, and x1 downy birch, and the inclusion of a species rich lawn mix over the lawn and under canopy seed-mix under a new hedge.
- These flowering lawn mixtures contain slow growing grasses with a selection of wildflowers that respond well to regular short mowing. The establishment, and ongoing maintenance of broadleaves trees is provided by The Woodland Trust.
- The planting of a native hedge is recommended along a proportion of the eastern boundary the boundary of the site.

The exact location of this to be determined on completion of the plans. For hedges, double rows are better for wildlife than single rows, as they are wider and provide more shelter and habitat. The wider the hedgerow the better.

Rows to be planted at least 40cm apart with 4-6 plants per metre.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan identifies 130 priority BAP species including 104 in Wales (following the 2007 revised list) known to be significantly associated with hedgerows, including their trees, banks, basal flora and immediate margins. While few of these species are dependent on hedge rows alone, the loss of hedgerows, or a decline in their quality, would be likely to have an adverse effect on their populations. Hedgerows are of particular importance to the conservation of threatened lichens (10 species), invertebrates (72), reptiles and amphibians (5), birds (20) and mammals (11).

- The planting of species which attract night flying insects is encouraged as this will be of value to foraging bats, for example: evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*), goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*).
- Invasive plant species: Vigilance should be used throughout the course of the works to ensure that the works are not causing invasive plant species to spread in the wild.
- The proposed native trees/hedging will maintain connectivity across the site and increase biodiversity at this species poor location.
- The proposed native trees/hedging will mitigate the loss of scrub at the site and provide additional nesting opportunities, increase local invertebrate diversity and therefore foraging opportunities, post development.

