



Green Infrastructure Statements and Biodiversity Enhancements
1 Morlais Buildings, High Street,
Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UL

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1. Summary

I & G Ecological Consulting Ltd were commissioned to produce a Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) and Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme (BES) in support of a planning application for internal and external refurbishment of a 3-storey historic building. This report will document all relevant and required information and recommendations necessary to support Planning Requirements at this stage.

Green Infrastructure (GI) Statements

A GI Statement is required on all developments as detailed in *Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12* (PPW12 section 6.2.12). A GIS describes how the green infrastructure of a site (trees, hedges, grassland, ponds and SuDs) has been incorporated into the development proposal. A key part of the statement is describing how the 'step-wise approach' is being followed. The GIS is to be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development.

Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

The BES is to include key impacts and mitigation measures to comply with the general principals set out in *Policy 9 of Future Wales (2040)*. Additionally, The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires all development to show a net benefit to biodiversity and this can be achieved by including biodiversity enhancement measures in your development and could include bird boxes, insect boxes, bee and invertebrate mounds, and the planting of native shrubs or flowers suitable for bees and other pollinations in the garden. A net benefit can only be achieved after avoiding damage, minimizing (mitigation) impacts and replacement (compensation). The enhancements do not need to be directly attached to the proposed development; they can be attached to the host dwelling or placed within the garden, but they should be on land within the red line boundary.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT & BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is the proposal?

Internal and external refurbishment of a 3-storey historic building

1.2 Where is the development?

1 Morlais Buildings, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 8UL

2 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FEATURES AND THE STEPWISE APPROACH

2.1 Please record any surveys that have been undertaken at the site (note: record date of actual survey not date of report):

Survey number	Survey title	Author	Date(s) of survey
1	Bat survey	I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd	24/02/2025

2.2 The table below lists most features of ecological/landscape interest that might be found in a single plot/garden.

1. Tick (✓) which features are on site or at the boundary of the site in the '*Present on site or at boundary*' column. If any other features are present add them at the end of the table.
2. If the feature has been surveyed write the relevant survey number from section 2.1 in the '*Survey number*' column.
3. Work out which features will be impacted by development (try and minimise the quantity and extent of features impacted) and tick the relevant '*Will the feature be avoided by the development?*' box (no ticks are required if the feature is not on site).
4. If features are avoided/retained by the development they must still be protected, please tick the '*Recommended protective measures to be undertaken*' or write an alternative protection method in section 2.3.
5. If features will be impacted by the development a mixture of protection (for any parts of the feature retained), minimisation/mitigation (to minimise harm and keep protected species safe) and compensation will be required. Tick what you will do from the '*Stepwise approach*' columns or write an alternative method in section 2.3.

	Feature	Present on site or at boundary (tick)	Survey number	Will the feature be avoided by the development?		Stepwise approach (tick the recommendations that will be followed)				
				Avoided (tick)	Unavoidable impact(s) (tick)	Recommended protective measures to be undertaken		Recommended Minimisation/mitigation		Recommended compensation
1	Hedge (mixed native species)					Retained hedge and a 2m buffer zone will be protected by temporary fencing during construction		The impacted length of hedge will be translocated (with hedge bank if present). Note: If hedge is translocated compensation is not required.		A new native species hedge (with hedge bank if present) will be replanted by the end of the first planting season after development. It will comprise of at least 5 native species and be at least twice the length of the removed hedge.
								Vegetation removal/translocation will be outside bird breeding season (March to August inclusive) or supervised by an ecologist.		
2	Hedge (amenity/ non-native/ single native species)					Retained hedge and a 2m buffer zone will be protected by temporary fencing during construction		Vegetation removal will be outside bird breeding season (March to August inclusive) or supervised by an ecologist.		A new native species hedge will be replanted by the end of the first planting season after development. It will comprise of at least 5 native species and be at least the length of the removed hedge.
3	Piles of stone or stone wall (open structure with potential habitat niches; could include gabion wall)					Retained wall/stone pile protected by temporary fencing during construction		Wall/stone pile removal will follow a reptile and amphibian method statement.		New open stone walls or stone reptile hibernacula will be created within the site boundary.
4	Pond or ditch (static water, permanent or seasonal)					Retained ditch and a 1m buffer zone will be protected by temporary fencing during construction		Method statement for pond translocation to newly created pond will be followed.		New wildlife friendly pond to be created on site. This may be integrated with SuDS. New pond must be created before old ditch is removed.
5	Watercourse (flowing water, permanent or seasonal)					Retained watercourse and a 7m buffer zone will be protected by temporary fencing during construction (note: this buffer is LDP policy)		NetRegs Pollution prevention measures described in: 'GPP 5: Works and maintenance in or near water' will be followed		

6	Meadow (grassland/ flowers more than 100mm height for most of the year) Marshy Grassland					Protected by temporary fencing during construction.		Vegetation removal will follow a reptile and amphibian method statement.		Diverse wildlife friendly planting (this does not need to be all native species) of at least the area lost	
7	Native species shrub/scrub areas					Retained scrub and a 2m buffer zone will be protected by temporary fencing during construction.		Vegetation removal will be outside bird breeding season (March to August inclusive) or supervised by an ecologist.		New native species trees will be replanted by the end of the first planting season after development. They will comprise of at least 5 native species and cover an area at least twice the length of the removed scrub.	
8	Woodland (on site or at boundary)					Root protection area of trees at boundary of woodland will be protected by temporary fencing during construction.		Method statement in the arboricultural survey will be followed.			
9	Individual trees (including on site or boundary trees)					Root protection area of trees will be protected by temporary fencing during construction.		Method statement in the arboricultural survey will be followed.			
10	Bat roost (in trees or built structure)					Follow recommendations in bat report/bat licence		Follow recommendations in bat report/bat licence		Follow recommendations in bat report/bat licence	
11	Other protected species or habitats identified in surveys					Follow recommendations in ecological report		Follow recommendations in ecological report		Follow recommendations in ecological report	

2.3 If not using the recommendations, please describe how the step-wise approach will be followed for the features on site:

Due to the lack of any green infrastructure on site the provision of boxes and planters will provide a benefit to wildlife.

2.4 Please give any additional details of any protection/mitigation/compensation, e.g. number, species, size (or ensure details are shown on site plans):

1 x Beaumaris Woodstone bat box (or similar) to be affixed to the south-west elevation of the property
1 x Sparrow terrace or Swift nest cups to be affixed to the south-east elevation of the property.
1 x planter with seeded with wildflower mix located against the south west facing wall of the rear yard.
1 x woodcreeper / woodstone insect block located against the south west facing wall of the rear yard above the wildflower planter.

3 SURROUNDING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1 Describe what is around the site:

The site is located in the middle of Merthyr town centre. There is no green infrastructure on site as the building is surrounded by other buildings, a road to the front, has a rear yard with block walls and a wooden fence. Beyond the rear of the property is a small access lane. Running along the side of the access lane there is a large retaining wall. Behind the retaining wall is a large open space with small woodland blocks scattered trees and open grassland. The site is part of the larger parkland of Thomastown Park Recreation Ground.

4 NET BENEFIT FOR BIODIVERSITY

4.1 What extra features (beyond compensation) will you add to enhance biodiversity (try and relate this to what is on and around the site)? Please tick (✓) what you will do.

Enhancement	Tick
New bat loft or enhancements to existing bat loft (e.g. bigger, adding entrances, adding roost perches)	
Planting suitable plants and permanently protecting 7m watercourse buffer	
Wildlife pond creation	
Bog garden creation	
Native hedge planting	
New wildlife friendly tree planting (e.g. native or fruit trees)	
Remove area of hardstanding/paving and replace with enhancements from this list	
Green roof	
Green wall	
Diverse wildlife friendly planting (this does not need to be all native species)	✓
Reptile refugia (stones, logs and turf)	
Built-in or attached bird and/or bat box (integrated into construction)	✓
Built-in bee brick (integrated into construction)	
Other (please specify):	✓

4.2 Please give more details of enhancements e. number, species, size (and/or ensure details are shown on site plans):

The wildflower planter should be planted and managed as below.

Emorsgate EM1 Basic General Purpose Meadow Mixture (or equivalent) https://wildseed.co.uk/product/mixtures/complete-mixtures/general-purpose-meadow-mixtures/basic-general-purpose-meadow-mixture/	Sow in Spring or Autumn and firm seeds in. Cut in August following flowering and setting of seed. Dig out any residual perennial weeds, e.g., docks.
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1 x Beaumaris Woodstone bat box (or similar) to be affixed to the south-west elevation of the property

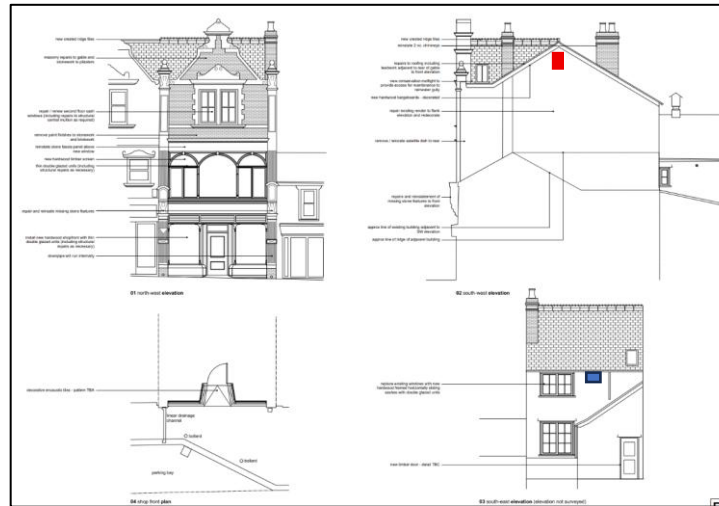
1 x Sparrow terrace or Swift nest cups to be affixed to the south-east elevation of the property.

1 x woodcreeper / woodstone insect block located against the south west facing wall of the rear yard above the wildflower planter.

Please ensure all surveys mentioned in section 2.1 are submitted with the application.

Site plans must show all features (retained and proposed) described in section 2 and 4.

5 **SKETCH PLAN** (showing the approximate plan of the features of the development site)



- = Approx. position of wildflower planter.
- = woodcrete / woodstone insect block.
- = Bat box
- = Sparrow terrace or Swift nest cups

6 **SITE PHOTOS** (Images representing the features detailed above, if available)

7 BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS- RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS & INFORMATION – all enhancements will be maintained by the property owner.

7.1 BIRDS



Example of swift / swallow cup.



Example of Sparrow Terrace

Further siting advice can be found at [Where To Put A Bird Box | Nestboxes - The RSPB](#) or [BTO.org](#).

7.2 BATS



Beaumaris Woodstone bat box

7.3 Insects



Woodcrete Insect Block

7.4 PLANTING – HEDGEROWS, BORDERS, SUDS ETC.

Recommended supplier:

Celtic Wildflowers of Gorseinon, Swansea <https://celticwildflowers.co.uk>.

Penlan Perennials <https://www.penlanperennials.co.uk/>

Farmyard Nurseries <https://www.farmyardnurseries.co.uk/>

Further Information: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardening>

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We confirm that in preparing this Report we have exercised reasonable skill and care, taking into account the project objectives, the agreed scope of the work and prevailing site conditions.

Advice in this report is based on the judgment of I&G Ecological Consulting and the interpretation of data gathered during the course of their survey on the property named in this document.

The findings and advice given during the course of this survey is provided by employees of I&G Ecological Consulting acting only on behalf of I&G Ecological Consulting.

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