

Landscape Specification & Management Plan

Green Infrastructure Statement

For

Planning Application for
Proposed single storey rear extension
at 16 Harlech Drive
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 1JX

Prepared By
Brennan Architectural Design

March 2026

1. Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement accompanies a planning application for the proposed single storey rear extension and associated external works at 16 Harlech Drive, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1JX.

The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate that the proposal has considered Green Infrastructure (GI) principles in accordance with national and local planning policy. Given the small-scale, householder nature of the development, the statement outlines proportionate measures to ensure that existing green infrastructure is preserved and, where feasible, enhanced.

2. Policy Context

The proposal has been assessed against relevant national and local planning policy, including:

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)

Planning Policy Wales emphasises the importance of green infrastructure as a multi-functional network that supports biodiversity, climate resilience, health, and well-being. It requires development to maintain and enhance green infrastructure assets where proportionate to the scale and nature of development.

Future Wales 2040

Future Wales promotes sustainable placemaking and supports development that contributes positively to environmental resilience and local distinctiveness.

Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan (2006–2021)

Relevant policies include:

- BW5 – Natural Heritage
- BW6 – Green Infrastructure
- BW7 – Sustainable Design and Place Making

The proposal has been designed to comply with the above policies, ensuring no adverse impact on existing green infrastructure and providing opportunities for proportionate enhancement.

3. Existing Site Conditions

The application site comprises an established residential bungalow with a private front and rear garden.

The proposed works involve a single storey rear extension projecting into the existing rear garden area. There are:

- A limited increase in building footprint within the rear garden area
- No encroachment beyond the established residential curtilage
- No removal of trees, hedgerows, or significant landscaped features required to facilitate the development
- No works affecting ecological corridors or designated sites

The property does not lie within the application boundary of any designated ecological site, and there are no known priority habitats within the site itself.

Existing garden areas provide the primary green infrastructure value of the site, contributing to urban greening, surface water absorption, and local biodiversity within the residential setting.

4. Green Infrastructure Strategy

Given the minor scale of the development, the Green Infrastructure approach focuses on:

- Retention of the majority of existing garden and landscaped areas
- Avoidance of ecological harm
- Opportunities for small-scale biodiversity enhancement

4.1 Retention of Existing Green Infrastructure

- The majority of private garden space will be retained.
- The development is confined to a modest rear extension to the existing dwelling.
- No substantial additional built form is proposed beyond the rear projection.
- There will be no loss of trees, hedgerows, or significant boundary planting as part of the proposed development.

The proposal therefore maintains the site's overall green infrastructure contribution, with only a minor reduction in garden area.

4.2 Proportionate Enhancement Measures

Although the development is limited in scale, there are opportunities to incorporate modest biodiversity enhancements, such as:

- Installation of integrated bird nesting features within the new extension where feasible
- Inclusion of bat roosting features where appropriate and practicable
- Retention of permeable garden areas and use of permeable materials for any associated external works where possible

These measures would align with the objectives of Planning Policy Wales and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 by supporting biodiversity enhancement **within an urban residential context.**

5. Biodiversity and Ecology

The proposal does not result in:

- Loss of significant habitat
- Removal of trees or important vegetation
- Impact on designated ecological sites
- Fragmentation of green corridors

As works are confined to a small-scale rear extension within an established residential curtilage, ecological impacts are considered negligible.

Any biodiversity features incorporated into the design would provide a modest enhancement over the existing situation, contributing positively to local urban biodiversity.

6. Long-Term Management

All remaining garden areas will continue to be maintained by the property owners.

Any biodiversity enhancements installed as part of the development, such as bird or bat boxes, will remain in place for the lifetime of the development and will require minimal maintenance.

Given the domestic scale of the proposal, no formal management plan is required.

7. Conclusion

This Green Infrastructure Statement demonstrates that the proposed single storey rear extension and associated external works at 16 Harlech Drive, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1JX:

- Retains the majority of existing garden and landscaped areas
- Results in no loss of significant green infrastructure assets
- Avoids ecological harm
- Provides opportunities for proportionate biodiversity enhancement
- Complies with national and local planning policy

Given the small-scale and householder nature of the proposal, the development maintains the site's overall green infrastructure value while allowing for minor built form expansion, and offers potential for ecological improvements, ensuring compliance with relevant planning requirements.