

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT.

Site Location: 13, The Ferns, Quakers Yard, Treharris, CF46 5LQ
Proposal: Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension.

Background

On 11th October 2023, the Welsh Government issued updated National Planning Policy for chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales.

The updated policy guidance recognises the value of green infrastructure within the built environment. In order to facilitate a quality-built environment enhanced by integrated green infrastructure all planning applications must now include a green infrastructure statement.

6.2.6 – “A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the stepwise approach has been applied.”

Fig 1 - below sets out the summary of the stepwise approach as set out in the Annexe 2 of the published advice.



For a householder development, a short confirmation of a net gain of green infrastructure within the curtilage of the property is likely to be considered proportionate.

Proposed Enhancement Features

The proposal will involve the construction of a small flat roof single storey extension to the rear of the existing property. The biodiversity enhancement features proposed will ensure the impact of the proposed development would be acceptable.

Therefore, the impact of the development from an ecology perspective subject to the ecological enhancement features being incorporated into the scheme the impact on ecology will be positive.

The following mitigation will be incorporated into the proposal.

Fig 2 - Bird nest box provided within 1 month of beneficial occupation.

Provision of a nesting box – Vivara Pro Seville WoodStone Nest Box to be provided within 1 month of beneficial occupation.

These attractive nestboxes are manufactured from WoodStone which is a mix of concrete and FSC certified wood fibres. Unlike a traditional wooden nest box, these boxes will not rot away or deteriorate and are guaranteed for 10 years.

This robust material safeguards against attacks from predators such as woodpeckers, cats, and squirrels, whilst also providing a well-insulated interior with a more consistent internal temperature than an ordinary wooden box. This is especially important during the breeding season and ensures that young birds have a greater chance of survival. Nesting sites have become rare for cavity nesting birds due to changes in woodland management practices, so you can provide much-needed space for rearing chicks and birds that are roosting overwinter with these durable, long-lasting nest boxes.



These 32mm hole nest boxes are suitable for blue tits, tree sparrows, house sparrows, great tits, crested tits, nuthatches, coal tits and pied flycatchers. The best height for your nest box is between 1.5m and 3m high and should be sited higher if your area has a particularly high cat population.

Specification

- Dimensions: 31cm x 20cm x 20cm (H x W x L)
- Entrance hole diameter: 32mm
- Weight: 6.9kg

GIA Assessment

Table 1 below sets out the stepwise approach in assessing impacts of a development on habitats and species.

	Steps	Assessment	Enhancement	Long Term Maintenance	Net Benefits
1	Avoid	The development will avoid any site of ecological value	1No Bird box to be provided	Limited maintenance proposed	Yes, net benefits proposed
2	Minimise	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Mitigate/restore	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	Compensate on site	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5	Compensate off site	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Conclusion

The proposals at 13 The Ferns, Quakers Yard, Treharris, accords with the stepwise approach set out in the published advice.

The development avoids any significant damage to biodiversity.

The proposal provides an ecological enhancement proportionate to the scale of the development.

The proposed ecological enhancement will be low maintenance.

The proposed enhancement is a net benefit to biodiversity as a result of the development.