

Biodiversity Statement

Proposed Two-Storey Rear Extension

Address: 12 Castle Street, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 4BN

1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Statement supports the planning application for a two-storey rear extension to a residential property in Pentrebach. It demonstrates how the development aligns with the biodiversity objectives set out in the **Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan**, the **Merthyr Tydfil Nature Recovery Action Plan (MTNRAP)**, and the **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**, which places a duty on developers to maintain and enhance biodiversity.

2. Existing Biodiversity Conditions

- The rear garden is overgrown and unmanaged, and while this may offer some shelter for urban wildlife, there are no notable habitats or protected species identified on site.
- No evidence of bat roosts, nesting birds, or priority species has been observed.
- The garden currently lacks structural diversity, with limited floral resources and no water features or log piles.

3. Potential Impacts of Development

- The extension will be confined to the rear footprint of the property and will not require the removal of any trees or hedgerows.
- Construction works will be temporary and localised, with no significant long-term impact on existing wildlife.
- Lighting will be designed to be low-level and downward facing, minimising light spill that could disrupt nocturnal species such as bats or moths.

4. Biodiversity Enhancements - refer also to GIS

The following measures will be incorporated to provide a net biodiversity gain:

- **Bat Box Provision:** One integrated bat box will be installed on the south-west facing gable end of the existing property.
- **Deadwood Habitat Creation:** A small area of retained logs or woodpile will be established in a shaded corner of the garden to benefit invertebrates and fungi.

- **Compost Bin:** A discreet composting area will be introduced, which contributes to soil health and supports detritivore species.
- **Rainwater Butt:** A water collection feature will be installed to reduce runoff and provide incidental water for birds and insects.
- **Minimal Night Lighting:** All new exterior lighting will use motion sensors and be wildlife-sensitive (under 3000K warm white spectrum).

5. Monitoring and Management

- As the enhancements are designed to be low-intervention, no active monitoring is required beyond occasional visual checks.
- The log habitat and bat box require no maintenance once installed.

6. Conclusion

This proposal demonstrates that the development will not only avoid harm to biodiversity but will also contribute positively to the local ecological network through small-scale, effective enhancements. It is consistent with national and local biodiversity duties and policies and represents an ecological improvement over the current unmanaged state of the site.