



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

Project Proposed Forest classroom (Stand alone Timber Structure)

Address: Little Rascals Pre-School
Cwm Golau Integrated Children's Centre, Dyffryn Rd, Pentrebach, CF48 4BJ.

Date: 24th June 2024 (***Revised 16th November 2024***)

General Introduction:

In accordance with Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, this Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared to support a Planning Application made to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council for the construction of a detached, standalone forest classroom within the grounds of Cwm Golau Integrated Children's Centre, Dyffryn Rd, Pentrebach.

It will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal and will be an effective way of demonstrating the impact of the development and how it is mitigated against using the step-wise approach contained in the supplementary planning guidance.



Aerial view of application site and surrounding area

Site Description:

The application site is located in a well built-up suburban area with a mix of residential properties, educational establishments and industrial units all within a 1 mile radius.

The proposed location is set within the grounds of Cwm Golau Integrated Children's Centre in a small area of well-established woodland, with mature trees and scrub grassland.

The site is fairly level throughout and accessed directly of a large car park associated with the children's centre. *(Refer to CPD 001 and 'Google earth' view opposite).*

Existing Green Infrastructure:

The application site is set within a well-established area of woodland, well connected within the local landscape with numerous established trees, hedgerows and areas of grassland. There are numerous areas mature scrub woodland with the River Taff flowing North to South to the South East of the site.



Enlarged Aerial view of application site and position of proposed building

Development Impacts / The Proposal:

It is proposed to construct a detached standalone timber structure to provide a 'forest classroom'. The structure will be built on timber sleepers so no major excavation is required. The new forest classroom will be clad in timber ship lap cladding with a pent roof of corrugated metal sheeting.

(Refer to CPD-002– Proposed elevations for details).

The building will be positioned in a small clearing within the area of woodland and would require the removal of a small apple tree and a thorned bush. Replacement planting of native species shrubs would be introduced to compensate for the minor loss of existing ecological features. (see below)

Existing lighting is present to the car park adjacent to the application site. No additional high level lighting is proposed however some small battery operated lights may be installed internally.

Proposed Green Infrastructure Measures and Bio-diversity enhancement:

To further enhance the local connectivity and green infrastructure, it is proposed to supplement the removal of the apple tree and bush with the planting of 3 more (3:1) and also introduce 3 x native species shrubs. These will be planted within the grounds for the classroom and would include wildlife friendly species, to encourage insects and pollinators, creating additional small habitats and further improving localised connectivity.

Planting species will include:

Apple trees (**Malus Dometicus**)

Honeysuckle (**Lonicera periclymenum**)

The planting scheme will be implemented with 1 month of beneficial completion. Regular maintenance will be carried out to ensure the planting scheme remains effective.

The honey suckle will need to be Pruned annually to keep them healthy and under control
With the introduction of Mulch in spring to help reduce water stress and risk of powdery mildew.

The Planting scheme will be reviewed annually to monitor the effectiveness of each species to ensure the enhancement remains effective. Should plants die or become too overgrown they will be pruned or replaced.

It is also proposed to install a bat box ('Harlech Woodstone or similar) on one of the well-established trees within the vicinity of the main building. This should be positioned on a southeast elevation which should provide shelter from prevailing wind and rain.

(Refer to CPD 001 for details)

Conclusion:

The local area has sufficient connectivity and green infrastructure. The provision of the supplementary planting would aim to minimize any adverse environmental effects and given the extent of work proposed it is considered the introduction of various shrubs and plants and the planting of additional apple trees and honeysuckle would be **proportionate to the scale of the development** and **enhance** the ecological features, creating additional nesting habitats and increase the connectivity in the local surroundings.