



Green Infrastructure Statement and Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

Land at 21 Winchfawr Park

Heolgerrig

Merthyr Tydfil

CF48 1TL

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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 **up to two new residential dwellings and associated access and infrastructure at land at 21 Winchfawr Park, Heolgerrig, Merthyr**. This report will document all relevant and required information and recommendations necessary to support Outline 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 new construction; 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

1 INTRODUCTION

.1 What is the proposal?

A development of up to two dwellings on the land within the curtilage of 21 Winchfawr Park, Heolgerrig, Merthyr

.2 Where is the development?

Land at 21 Winchfawr Park, Heolgerrig, Merthyr

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

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. Vegetation removal/translocation will be outside bird breeding season (March to August inclusive) or supervised by an ecologist.		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.	
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)					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)	✓	1	✓		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:

All retained trees and hedgerows will have RPZ in place during construction.

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):

- Landscaping should incorporate native plant species attractive to pollinators.
- Sowing of low growing flower species such as clovers and trefoils into amenity grassland will attract bees and butterflies.
- All nesting birds are protected under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981. Therefore, all vegetation clearance should be planned outside the nesting bird season.
- The houses should incorporate roosting bat provision, and nesting bird provision

Vegetation will be cleared in accordance with standard guidance to avoid damaging wildlife: see table below

Action	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hedgerow/scrub management (avoiding birds/dormice)												
Habitat manipulation (reptiles)												
Grassland clearance (reptiles, Dormice)												
Translocation of trees												
Planting of new hedgerow shrubs and trees												
Erection of bat and bird boxes, creation of reptile and hedgehog refugia												
New wildflower seeding/planting												

3 SURROUNDING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1 Describe what is around the site:

The site lies within a residential area and consists mainly of amenity grassland, bounded by brick walls to north east and south east, and to the remaining boundaries are shrubs and a hedgerow. There are numerous mature and extensive gardens with trees in the vicinity. There are areas of grassland, woodland and scrub, within 500m.

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 bird and/or bat box (integrated into construction) <i>Likely to be externally mounted, depending on building design</i>	✓
Built-in bee brick (integrated into construction)	✓
Other (please specify): Hedgehog shelter	✓

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

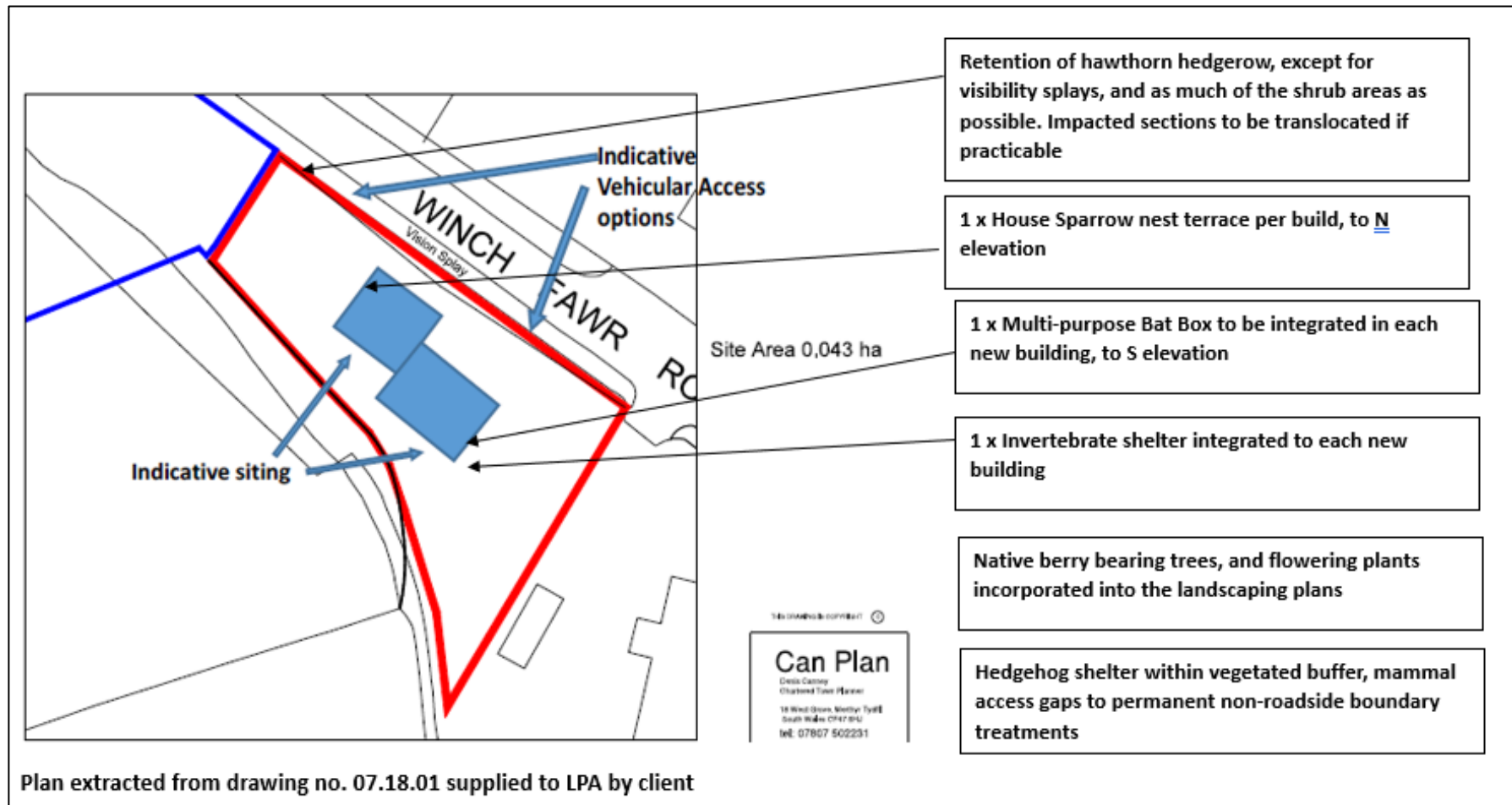
• Bat Enhancement: 1 x Multi-purpose Bat Box to be integrated in each new building, or if building design unsuitable - externally mounted on the new buildings, ideally sited on a Southerly or Westerly elevation. Boxes suitable for crevice dwelling species. Boxes must be sited with dark corridors to feeding habitats. • Bird Enhancement: 1 x House Sparrow nest box to each new building, on the north elevation, at least 3m from ground, not above windows/doors/vents. • Invertebrate Shelter – A woodcrete (or similar) insect hotel to be integrated, or permanently sited on a warm but sheltered wall of new dwellings or on a post/fence in each garden • Access Gaps – any permanent boundary features must have an access gap to allow the safe passage of small mammals. Hedgehogs will require the gap to be 13cm x 13cm, with no sharp protrusions (maintained in perpetuity)
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- **Hedgehog shelter to be sited in an undisturbed vegetated area.**
- **Native berry bearing trees within appropriate landscaping areas (if any trees are removed during development, they must be replaced at a ratio of 1:3). Soft landscaping to include low growing perennials for nectar.**
- **Retention of Shrubs, Trees and Hedgerow boundary (save for the section removed for access/visibility splay, and if there is opportunity to translocate this within site, or land ownership, appropriate translocation methodology should be followed)**

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) **Positioning and quantities are indicative only, final product choice and siting will depend on outcomes of any further surveys and subsequent changes of design/layout.**



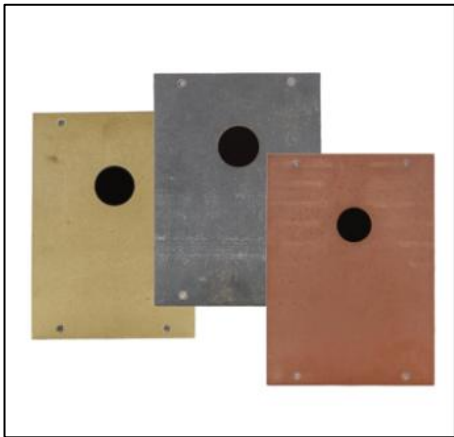
6. SITE PHOTOS (Images representing the features detailed above, if available)

None available

7 BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS- RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS & INFORMATION

7.1 BIRDS

Below Left: Integrated House sparrow terrace Right: Externally mounted terrace made from ecostyrocement or similar long-lasting materials



Both examples from [Wildcare](#)

Further siting advice can be found at [Where To Put A Bird Box | Nestboxes - The RSPB](#) ; <https://www.swift-conservation.org/> or [BTO.org](#).

7.2 BATS

See [Putting up your box - Bat Boxes - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](http://bats.org.uk)

Integrated Bat Box – this example is a Verona build-in woodstone box from Wildcare



Externally Mounted Bat Boxes

Below left: Example of a multi-chamber bat box, from Wildcare



7.3 Invertebrates - Artificial shelters



[Schwegler Insect Nesting Aid](#) – can be affixed to established tree/ post/wall.



[Green & Blue Bee Brick](#) – can be built into wall or free standing

For further information about invertebrates and how you can help them, see <https://www.buglife.org.uk/>

7.4 PLANTING – Soft Landscaping and SUDS.

Initial plans indicate the potential loss native hedgerow and shrubs, and so these will be replaced within the available landscaping areas.

Recommended species to include: Rowan, Crab Apple and Elder

Plans indicate that the boundary hedgerow will be retained (apart from the sections needed for access/splays) however, should any approved landscape plan include hedgerow planting or gapping up, or new hedging:

Select native species for hedgerow gapping up, to include fruiting/nut producing varieties, such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Hazel. Understory planting to include native honeysuckle, Field or Dog Rose

Ensure plants for both hedging and soft landscaping are from a reputable source (preferably local), and not grown in peat.

Native Trees and Shrubs

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/types/trees/native-tree-shrubs>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/>

Plans indicate the loss of grassland and shrubs – this should be compensated for within the soft landscaping areas, by planting nectar rich perennials, evergreen ground cover and grasses.

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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