

Green Infrastructure Strategy Statement

This Green Infrastructure Strategy Statement should be read alongside the reports and proposals that have been carried out and submitted as part of the development scheme.

Planning Policy Wales

PPW aims to contribute towards the delivery of sustainable development, embedding the principles of the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015. PPW ingrains Placemaking Wales Charter and how sustainable development can be achieved through implementing placemaking.

Section 6 sets out green infrastructure and how it can be integrated into developments, which should be protected and enhanced due to the multi-functional roles. A proactive approach to green infrastructure and biodiversity should be adopted to help reverse the decline in biodiversity and increase the resilience of ecosystems. Following consultation between 09 March and 31 May 2023, chapter 6 was updated on 11 October in advance of version 12 of PPW being published later in 2023.

The changes to chapter 6 address the need to keep up momentum on fulfilling Wales' our COP15 obligations and the Biodiversity Deep Dive recommendations.

The main changes to chapter 6 of PPW are as follows:

- Green Infrastructure: there is stronger emphasis on a proactive approach to green infrastructure and the submission of proportionate green infrastructure statements with planning applications and signposting Building with Nature standards.
- Net Benefit for Biodiversity and the Step-wise Approach: detail is provided on securing net benefit for biodiversity through the application of the step-wise approach. The use of the green infrastructure statement as a means of demonstrating the stepwise approach is made explicit.
- Protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest: strengthened approach to the protection of SSSIs.
- Trees and Woodlands: there is closer alignment with the stepwise approach and promotion of tree planting as part of development.

Site location

The property is currently subdivided into individual offices. The commercial offices spaces have been vacant for some time. It is situated along the B4237 Chepstow Road. The property is located within 10 mins walk from Newport Town Centre and local facilities such as shops and leisure facilities are surrounding the site. Chepstow Road is a major transport network route and buses services operate along this road.

The Stepwise Approach

In accordance with Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12 (PPW12) this Green Infrastructure Statement has been produced to outline the green infrastructure embedded in the scheme for the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the provision of the net benefit for biodiversity improve of the resilience of ecosystems. Therefore, having regard to the fact that the site is an existing urban brownfield site and has little inherent ecological value in terms of species or habitat. The various possible enhancement measures for bio-diversity suggested that could be secured under condition. Given the currently very limited green infrastructure on the site and limited habitat it provides the

proposal is acceptable in terms of green infrastructure and bio-diversity enhancement. Furthermore, the currently proposed scheme is adequate and complies with Policy GP5vi (Planting) because it makes a suitable contribution to green infrastructure networks, placemaking and potential for bio-diversity enhancement.

Step A: Identify and Assess - Existing Ecology: Habitat creations within the rear garden area of the site, have not been described. However, improved landscaping and ecological management for any proposed habitats include formal and informal inspections of seeding, tree and shrub planting, annual inspections of replacement planting in the rear garden area of the site if necessary.

Step B - Avoid: The walkover identified suitable habitats for potentially nesting birds, Invasives, hedgehogs and commuting reptiles.

Step C - Respond and Design, and Step D - Mitigate: The proposed Green Infrastructure of the adjacent Character Areas include:

- Create and maintain areas of wildflower within planting beds around the rear garden area.
- Create, maintain and enhance the ornamental shrub and ornamental/mixed native hedge planting

The proposed Green Infrastructure within the site, includes proposed tree planting, shrubs, herbaceous plants, grass seeding and ornamental grasses. A combination of native tree planting and ornamental species is provided throughout.

Step E - Compensate: The proposed site, may support habitats for bird nesting and commuting amphibians, but new habitat creation zones will be provided the site, proposed trees, shrubs, and grass seeding will help to compensate for any loss of habitat within the site.

Step F - Enhance: The creation and enhancement of the biodiversity features, and methods for integrating them into the design and management of open and landscaped areas. Enhancement measures within the site, includes new tree planting, mixed shrub and herbaceous species and grass seeding.

Step G - Manage, and Step H - Monitor: The management aims and responsibilities within the site will be a shared responsibility between the assisted living operator and the future residents. A landscape management and maintenance plan would need to be prepared.

There are 6 Core Standards, 2 Wellbeing Standards, 2 Water Standards and 2 Wildlife Standards as below. This GI strategy/Statement signposts the standards:

CORE Standards

Standard 1 - Optimises Multifunctionality and Connectivity

Standard 2 - Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency

Standard 3 - Maximises Environmental Net Gains

Standard 4 - Champions a Context Driven Approach

Standard 5 - Creates Distinctive Places

Standard 6 - Secured Effective Place-keeping

WELLBEING Standards

Standard 7 - Brings Nature Closer to People

Standard 8 - Supports Equitable and Inclusive Places

WATER Standard

Standard 9 - Delivers Climate Resilient Water Management

Standard 10 - Brings Water Closer to People

WILDLIFE Standards

Standard 11 - Delivers Wildlife Enhancement

Standard 12 - Underpins Nature's Recovery

Developments should seek to retain existing habitats within the proposal and avoid the loss of vegetation where possible. If this is not possible, developments should seek to mitigate for the loss of habitats and/or provide enhancement measures to provide net benefits for biodiversity.

The wider development seeks to implement, enhance and manage new habitats within the rear garden area, new planting includes trees, shrubs herbaceous plants, and grass seeding. Bird boxes will also be strategically placed at eaves level to create new habitats.

Ground cover planting within the site, to help provide visual interest, and increase biodiversity. A combination of native plants and ornamental species would be planted an appropriate where space allows. Specimen shrubs for height and interest.