

Coleg Gwent Knowledge Quarter, Newport

Green Infrastructure Statement

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1. Introduction and Background

This Green Infrastructure (GI) Statement is prepared by The Urbanists Ltd on behalf of Welsh Education Partnership (WEPCo) in respect of the Coleg Gwent Knowledge Quarter proposal in Newport city centre, henceforth referred to as the 'proposed development'.

Following updates to Chapter 6 (Biodiversity) of Planning Policy Wales in 2024, GI Statements are a requirement for all planning applications in Wales. The purpose of a GI Statement ('the Statement') is to demonstrate how GI (including 'blue' infrastructure if relevant) has been incorporated adequately in a planning proposal. It is expected that this will illustrate that the proposal is compliant with specific processes and outcomes required by Planning Policy Wales Edition 12. In doing so it will be supportive of other legislation and national policy.

This Statement supports the reserved matters submission for the new college campus which already benefits from outline consent for *'circa 54,000 square metres of flexible floorspace for educational use, or any other use within use classes A1 (shops), A2 (Financial and Professional Services), A3 (Food and Drink), B1 (Business), C1 (Hotels), D1 (Non-residential Institutions) and D2 (Assembly and Leisure)'*. While reserved matters applications are not strictly planning applications, pre-application engagement has indicated a local requirement for a GI Statement to support the submission. This Statement is considered to be proportionate to the type of application and extent of the proposed development.

The Statement is informed by other reports, statements, and plans which accompany this planning application including:

- Ecological Enhancement Scheme
- Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
- Design and Access Statement
- Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Proposed Landscape Plans
- Drainage Strategy

The Statement should therefore be read in conjunction with these documents.

2. Policy and Legislative Context

This section sets out the key legislative, planning policy and other guidance which inform the requirements and the approach to Green Infrastructure Statements.

2.1. Legislation

2.1.1. Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The act introduced an enhanced duty for public authorities in the exercise of their functions - the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (referred to as the section 6 duty). Section 6 sets out the biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty of all public authorities in Wales, to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in their functions, and so promote resilience of ecosystems. Section 7 (Part 1) species and habitats of 'principal importance' for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, and which Welsh Ministers must encourage others to do.

2.2. National and Local Policy

2.2.1. Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is the principal planning policy document of the Welsh Government and informs all planning decisions. The current version (PPW 12) explains that a proportionate GI Statement should be submitted with all planning applications and explains the general standards that any statement should seek to meet.

PPW explains that GI comprises the:

“network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places...”

“...At the landscape scale green infrastructure can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways, peatlands and mountain ranges or be connected networks of mosaic habitats, including grasslands. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, ponds, natural green spaces, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens or may be designed or managed features such as sustainable drainage systems. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to green infrastructure networks” (par.6.2.1).

It further advises that:

“proposals should be informed by the priorities identified in green infrastructure assessments and locally based planning guidance” (par.6.2.5).

The specific PPW requirements are aimed at ensuring applicants provide adequate information in their planning proposals. They are part of a larger movement in valuing the environment, and help ensure that Local Planning Authorities can comply with their Legislative duties surrounding the environment and sustainable development. The PPW requirements are that the Statement must:

- Identify landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, historic and cultural features in which green infrastructure plays a part and are already being safeguarded (**The Baseline**);
- Demonstrate that the proposal produces a **Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB)**;
- Demonstrate production of an Ecosystem Resilience (ER) enhancement, as part of this NBB;
- Illustrate how the **‘Step-wise approach’** has been applied, to demonstrate the achievement of the previous NBB and ER;

This Step-wise approach sets out the procedure of:

- 1) Initially following the ‘Mitigation hierarchy’ stages during the design process, to sequentially: **avoid, minimise, mitigate/restore** impact to habitats and/or species, **compensate on-site** for their loss, and as a last resort **compensate off-site** for their loss;
- 2) At each of these stages, a proportional habitat and/or species (as relevant) enhancement must be proposed that adequately demonstrates that enhancement by its DECCA attributes; and
- 3) A long-term management strategy is additionally required, that would ensure those measures proposed are deliverable (how?), and how they aim to result in the level of Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) and ER attributes that are described (what?), as well as any resultant ES benefits gained.



Figure 1: Step-wise Approach (PPW)

As per Point 2 above, the DECCA framework must be used. The 'DECCA' framework (see Figure 2 below) sets out 5 key considerations of habitats and species which lead to Ecosystem Resilience (ER). The first four are the attributes of 'Diversity', 'Extent', 'Condition' and 'Connectivity' of species (genetics and populations) and/or habitats. There is also the fifth combined aspect of 'Adaptability, recovery and resistance', which is an emergent aspect from the other four attributes combined, and which together (D.E.C.C. & A.) help us to understand the level ER provided.

Finally, PPW12 states that **Building with Nature Standards** represent good practice and are an effective prompt for developers to improve the quality of schemes and demonstrate sustainable management of nature resources. It advises using the standards in a way which is proportionate for the scale and nature of the proposed development, with accreditation encouraged but not mandatory.

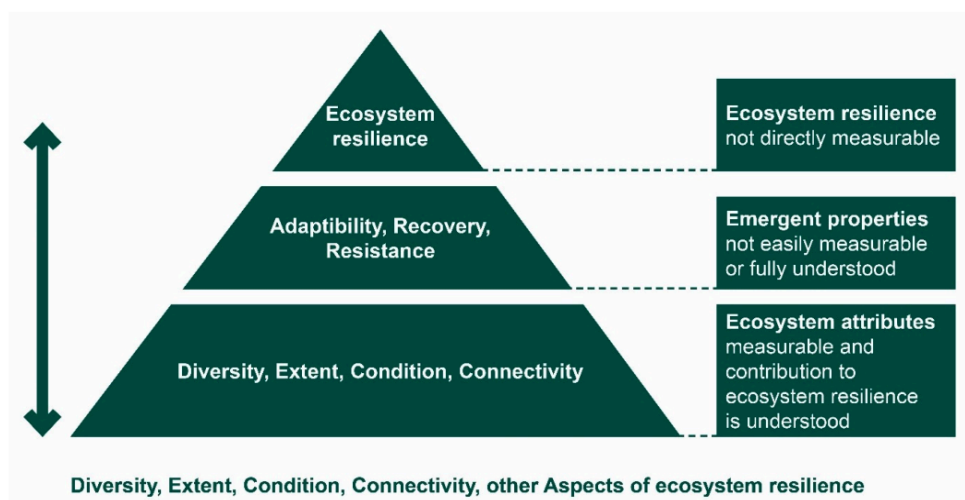


Figure 2: Ecosystem Resilience and the DECCA Framework (Natural Resources Wales)

2.2.2. Technical Advice Note 5 - Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)

PPW is supported by a number of Technical Advice Notes. TAN5 provides national guidance on how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation. The guidance indicates that biodiversity conservation and enhancement is an integral part of planning for sustainable development. The guidance advocates a collaborative approach where LPAs, developers and key stakeholders in conservation should work together to deliver sustainable development.

2.2.3. Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 was adopted in February 2021 as the national development framework (NDF) setting the direction of development in Wales to 2040. The NDF provides a strategy to address key national priorities through the planning system, including developing a vibrant economy, developing strong ecosystems, achieving decarbonisation and climate resilience and improving the health and wellbeing of communities; it forms part of the Development Plan.

Policy 9 of FW focuses on 'Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure' and sets out that planning authorities should identify areas of importance and opportunities for Green Infrastructure, for safeguarding and enhancement.

Of particular relevant to GI Statement's, it also sets out that:

“In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity (to provide a net benefit), the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment.”

2.3. Local Policy

2.3.1. Local Development Plan

The statutory Development Plan for the site comprises the Newport Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2026 which was adopted in January 2015. The Revised Local Development Deposit Plan is being prepared but is yet to be published. Until the Replacement Development Plan is adopted, the adopted Local Development Plan will remain in place for all planning decisions and retains very significant decision making weight.

The local policies considered to be relevant to green and blue infrastructure are listed below and summarised in Appendix 1:

- Policy SP1: Sustainability
- Policy SP4: Water Resources
- Policy SP8: Special Landscape Areas
- Policy SP9: Conservation of the Natural, Historic and Built Environment
- Policy GP1: Climate Change
- Policy GP5: Natural Environment

2.3.2. Supplementary Planning Guidance

The statutory Development Plan is supported by a number of supplementary planning guidance documents (SPGs). Those relevant to green and blue infrastructure are also summarised in Appendix 1 and listed here:

- Trees, Woodland, Hedgerows and Development Sites SPG (2017)
- Wildlife and Development (2025)

3. Site Baselines

This section sets out a summary of the existing conditions of the development site and wider relevant context, based on survey efforts and desk study. This regards habitats and species, ecological and GI features, and their varying values. It also considers other information available and summarises their influence on the design.

3.1. Site Context

The proposed development site is located on the edge of Friars Walk in a well-frequented area in Newport City Centre. It is accessible from all angles with key frontages along Usk Way and Kingsway. The site is roughly rectangular in shape and measures approximately 0.89 ha in size. The previous Newport Leisure Centre has been demolished, and the site is enclosed by appropriate hoarding.

The River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located approximately 60m east of the site. The Severn Estuary is also classified as a SAC, as well as a Special Protection Area and Ramsar Site. It is located approximately 3.6km from the application site.

This context has informed the proposal, which has been highly considered and proposal coordinated with the local authority and consultant ecologists. The relevant reporting has been submitted with the application, which includes a shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment.



Figure 3: Aerial Photograph of Site - Approximately defined by the Red Circle, with the former Leisure Centre now demolished still shown.

3.2. Landscape GI Baseline Summary

The landscape value of the site is limited to its largely urban surroundings, being directly adjacent to Friars Walk shopping centre and the 8 storey Kingsway Multi-Storey Car Park. Other landmark buildings are in the vicinity of the site including the Newport City Footbridge to the north-east and SW Newport Campus building. In summary, the landscape of the immediate area is characterised by the large, singular buildings along the riverfront.



Figure 4: The Usk Built Corridor Landscape Area (Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment, ASL)

Beyond the riverfront area, the wider site context is influenced by the Newport East Visual sensory Area which centres on Rodney Parade stadium, whereas the south and west of the site are characterised by the retail core of Newport.

A Townscape and Visual Impact Appraisal has been prepared to support the application which identifies where the building might be seen, although it concludes that the proposal has potential to make a positive impact on the townscape and landscape subject to positive design and landscaping.

3.3. Ecological and Arboricultural GI Baseline Summary

As above, the design of the scheme has been informed by previous ecological reporting and the statutory ecological designations. This reserved matters submission is supported by a shadow

Habitats Regulation Assessment, Ecological Enhancement Scheme and Landscape and Environmental Management Plan.

In terms of the specific ecological baselines of the site, the previous leisure centre has been demolished in accordance with the planning permission and therefore, the site is a largely brownfield, low-value site. Ecological value is limited to some relatively small areas of modified grassland, scattered trees and ruderal / ephemeral vegetation. Ecological reporting has found that, while species may occasionally traverse the site, it would be on an extremely irregular basis due to the lack of overall vegetated habitat.

Initial proposals sought to retain existing trees towards the edges of the site, however, they were categorised as Category C at the time of the outline planning permission meaning they are of low quality. Pre-application discussions with the LPA have indicated that, whilst they could be retained, there may be scope to improve the arboricultural and ecological value of the site by replacing them with more mature and/or better quality specimens.

Overall, the ecological and arboricultural value of the existing site is limited, and there are significant opportunities to improve the biodiversity of the site and wider proximity. This is further visualised in the habitat mapping shown in Figure 5, below.

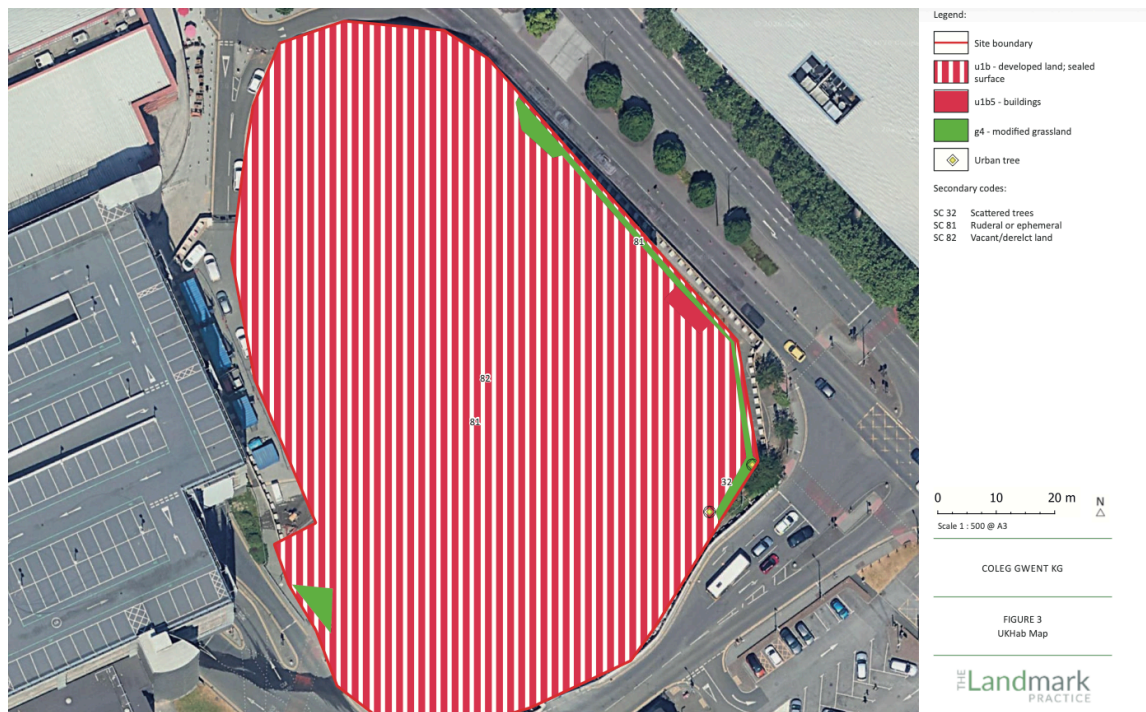


Figure 5: Habitat Mapping (PEA, Landmark Practice)

3.4. SuDS GI Baseline Summary

While the site is previously developed, this was prior to statutory Sustainable Drainage Systems Approval Body (SAB) consent and therefore there are no existing sustainable drainage facilities, with drainage being handled by ground drains. There are existing surface and foul water sewers on and around the site but these are not contributing to the area in terms of green/blue infrastructure. As above, the site is largely brownfield in nature with little, if any, combined sustainable drainage and there is therefore significant potential for enhancement.

4. Green Infrastructure Compliance Assessment

This section will demonstrate how the proposed development has followed the step-wise approach and provides a net gain in biodiversity. It will use the DECCA Framework as well as demonstrate compliance with Building With Nature Standards.

4.1. Step-Wise Approach summary

The following is a summary of how the step-wise approach has been carried out as part of the proposed development scheme's design, including its implementation.

Table 1: Step-wise Approach

Step	Development Measures
Avoidance	The design approach has sought to avoid and minimise habitat loss as far as possible. However, given that the site has a very low ecological baseline and the existing building has been removed, there is very little habitat on the site. While species may occasionally traverse the site, ecological reporting has indicated that this would be extremely rare. However, in order to avoid impacts on species that may still use the site very occasionally, such as commuting bats, badgers, invertebrates and hedgehogs, precautionary working methods will be followed. Where they are not impacted by the proposals, existing habitat such as modified grassland and low-quality trees can be retained. Initially, the design sought to retain the majority of existing trees; however, pre-application discussions with the LPA have indicated that there is significant opportunity to replace and improve on existing habitat, as the existing trees are of a relatively low value - this is confirmed by the arboricultural survey which categorised them as low quality (Category C). This advice has been followed for this reserved matters submission.
Minimisation	As above, the design team has sought to minimise habitat loss as a matter of principle, and this formed part of the design brief. However, given the very low baseline of the site, in practice this is largely limited to precautionary working methods. The submitted Landscape and Environmental Management Plan sets out how impacts upon species that may occasionally traverse the site can be minimised. This includes: timing of works, experience and qualification of operatives

Step	Development Measures
	and using the correct equipment for specific tasks.
Mitigation / Replacement	Planning Policy Wales requires that any trees removed as a result of development are replaced at a minimum of a 3:1 ratio. Whilst some low specimen trees are proposed for removal, some new 15 trees are proposed which does not include further multi-stem specimens. As such, the PPW requirement is comfortably met. Further, it is proposed to plant species that are better-suited to the site, more mature and in better condition compared to the existing. As such, there will be significant ecological enhancements compared with the baseline through this approach. The new planting will be undertaken in accordance with planting practices set out in the accompanying Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, this includes the use of appropriate soil and stakes to encourage healthy growth. Additionally, bat and bird boxes are proposed on the building itself, the location of which has been agreed with the consultant ecologist. This mitigates the loss of the leisure centre building that has already been demolished in accordance with the planning permission in any event. Further, an insect hotel is proposed towards the western extent of the site to mitigate/enhance any impacts on relevant species. The location and type of insect hotel has also been agreed by the consultant ecologist. In terms of statutory sites, the shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment has found that there is potential to impact the River Usk and Severn Estuary designated sites. However, this can be effectively mitigated through standard control measures for dust control and water pollution measures, which can be secured through planning conditions.
Compensation on / off site	Given the extensive nature of on-site enhancements compared with the site baseline, it is not considered that any further compensation is required either on or off site.

Net Benefit of Biodiversity

Using the DECCA framework, measures that have been proposed to ensure a net benefit in biodiversity are outlined in the below table. It is considered that the net benefits set out here also demonstrate ecosystem resilience.

Table 2: DECCA Framework

DECCA	Assessment
Diversity	The proposed landscape proposals include a diverse mix of ecological enhancements including bat and bird boxes, an insect hotel, tree planting in planters and at ground level, ornamental planting, rainwater planting and green roofs. Specific species have been chosen for climate change resilience, season interest, visual amenity and the majority of species provide flowers and berries for pollinators. Overall, the differing nature of the proposals will encourage a more diverse mix of species to the site, particularly compared to the low baseline.
Extent	Given the wide variety of enhancements proposed and in comparison to the limited site baseline, it is expected that the extent of habitat on site will be greatly increased. While some trees are removed, these are replaced by at least the 3:1 ratio required by PPW and improved specimens will be provided. This is also considered to improve the extent of habitat on-site.
Condition	The existing site is a brownfield site which is largely derelict and was subject to a recent demolition. While some species, such as insects, may use the site on adhoc basis, the formalised landscaping proposed will greatly improve the condition of habitat on site. Additionally, habitat will be managed through conditions and the planning process, giving more control over the condition of the enhancements.
Connectivity	As above, there are a variety of habitats proposed as part of the development. This will allow increased connectivity for various species, as opposed to just those that might use the site at present. The building is proposed in the centre of the site with the majority of ecological enhancements to the site edges, further improving connectivity beyond the site.
Adaptability	Overall, the extent and diversity of habitat proposed will result in a net benefit to biodiversity and therefore improve the ecosystem and climate change resilience of the site. The condition and connectivity of habitat will also be improved through the proposals and therefore make the site more adaptable and resilient overall, particularly when compared with the low, brownfield baseline.

Long-term Management Summary

The long-term management of the enhancements discussed above is set out in Table 3. This should be read in conjunction with the submitted Landscape and Environmental Management Plan and, together, are considered to further demonstrate ecosystem resilience.

Table 3: Long-term Management

Feature	Management
Green Roof	Plant wildflowers and seed mixes in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Removal of dead vegetation as necessary, as well as selective re-planting.
Proposed Tree Planting	The care and pruning of trees as required, with the replacement of specimens that fail to become established, or which already exist and are prominent or important to ecology in the site and die. To ensure no disturbance or harm to nesting birds - all works are to take place outside the bird nesting season, or under suitable ecological supervision and where it is established that no active nests are present. To ensure no disturbance or harm to bats, works will take place only on limbs or trees without suitable features for roosting bats. Where these are present or potentially present, suitable ecological advice should be sought before any works. In the early stages following planting, trees to be supported with pointed stakes and planted in appropriate soil to encourage positive and healthy growth.
Ornamental Planting	Annual removal of dead vegetation as necessary, and selective removal or other management (e.g. aggressive pruning, selective use of systemic herbicide) of any species which become overdominant or spreading. Any planters to be promoted to grow in a healthy and natural shape.
Bat and Bird Boxes	Boxes will need to be monitored and maintained, then ultimately replaced with similar and suitable replacements as soon as necessary.

Insect Hotel	The insect hotel will also need to be monitored and maintained, then ultimately replaced with similar and suitable replacements as soon as necessary.
SuDS and Rainwater Garden	There will be a need to check and maintain any pipework, paving, cellular storage, rain gardens and filter drains at regular intervals to ensure the SuDS remains fully operational for its lifetime. The specific details of the drainage scheme are to be submitted with the relevant discharge of planning condition application. The rainwater garden should be annually trimmed and litter removed as necessary.

4.2. Building with Nature Standards

The table below sets out how the proposed development will comply with Building with Nature Standards.

Table 4: Building with Nature Standards

Standard	Assessment	Outcome
Core Standards		
Standard 1 Optimises Multifunctionality and Connectivity	Multifunctionality has been considered in detail in this scheme given the varying mix of courses and public-facing elements proposed. In terms of landscape, this has included an integration of naturalistic and human elements where possible, with the landscaping proposals responding to the needs of students and the passing public. The benefits to site and local area connectivity for nature are significant, while the connectivity benefits for people have also been enhanced through the provision of shared amenity spaces and integrated biodiversity habitats such as the SuDS feature and	A well-connected landscape for people and protected species through the provision of a mix of landscaping solutions such as planters with seating and a roof terrace. Compared with the existing empty, brownfield site, the proposed landscaping creates a better connected and multifunctional site.

Standard	Assessment	Outcome
	significant levels of planting, which incorporate seating.	
Standard 2 Positively Responds to the Climate Emergency	The proposed GI enhances the baseline condition through new and wider habitat creation. This includes the planting of trees for carbon capture and the introduction of new habitat through the rain garden and roof terracing, for example. The proposed mix of species is also considered to benefit connectivity as referenced above.	A more diverse and varied landscape compared with existing, which has aspirations for longevity and ecosystem resilience. The proposed scheme incorporates SuDS to assist with water runoff capture and pollution prevention where there are currently limited formal drainage arrangements on the site.
Standard 3 Maximises Environmental Net Gains	The diverse and varied landscape proposals seek to maximise environmental benefits through improving on the low-quality habitat presently on site.	New planting and mitigation measures are expected to offset any habitat removal necessitated by the development, as well as any other potential adverse impacts. Other improvements as a result of the development include the introduction of new habitat through solutions such as the rain garden and roof terracing.
Standard 4 Champions a Context Driven Approach	The proposed GI approach has been influenced by the existing context from the outset, adding to the public realm in a well-frequented part of the city. This includes the creation of mixed planter and seated areas, with trees proposed for shade and to add to the riverside character.	The proposed development has sensitively responded to the constraints and opportunities. Where in-ground planting has not been possible due to utility easements, planters have been used, which are also beneficial for the public

Standard	Assessment	Outcome
		realm as they can be combined with seating.
Standard 5 Creates Distinctive Places	The consideration of green infrastructure enhancement has been central to the design process. The overall approach of hard and soft landscape, combined with materials and boundary treatment, contributes to creating a contemporary yet functional place. Key features include planters with seating and roof terracing, which add to the contemporary and distinctive feel of the development.	The proposal increases and enhances landscape connectivity in the locality, bringing a sense of place to an otherwise unoccupied site.
Standard 6 Secures Effective Place-keeping	The landscape features have been chosen partly in order to minimise interventions needed for long-term management. For example, planters are relatively low maintenance, as is the insect hotel and bat/bird boxes.	The public realm and landscape improvements require limited management intervention, thus allowing habitat to flourish on the site. A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan has also been submitted to better detail the longer-term management of species.
Wellbeing Standards		
Standard 7 Brings Nature Closer to People	The proposed landscape design enriches the site by using integrated planting throughout, with larger areas of public realm including a mix of tree planting, planters and ornamental planting. Drainage is integrated within the scheme, and the roof terrace is also a feature allowing people to be closer to nature.	The proposed development is integrated with green infrastructure in addition to broader habitat creation, particularly the more public areas closer to the boundaries. Overall, it is considered that users of the site will be brought closer to nature.

Standard	Assessment	Outcome
Standard 8 Supports Equitable and Inclusive Places	Currently, the site is fenced off following demolition works. A principal aim of the proposed design is to improve the public realm in an important city centre location. The surfacing and mix of seating proposed is considered to be inclusive, plus users of the building will have access to roof terracing.	Both regular users of the proposed building and passers-by will benefit from integrated green infrastructure and accessible public realm. Accessibility measures within the building itself will at least meet national building control standards to ensure inclusivity.
Water Standards		
Standard 9 Delivers Climate Resilient Water Management	The proposed development will improve the management of surface water given that SuDS are proposed where presently formal management of water is more limited.	SuDS includes the creation and inclusion of rain gardens to allow for improved water quality management and ecological resilience.
Standard 10 Brings Water Closer to People	The SuDS planting will be viewable at areas within the site, comprising part of the overall green infrastructure. The public realm has been designed to respond positively to the riverside location of the site.	The creation and inclusion of integrated SuDS allows for the new incorporation of visibly enhanced landscape features into the site.
Wildlife Standards		
Standard 11 Delivers Wildlife Enhancement	The scheme has followed the mitigation hierarchy approach to habitat and species protection and creation. Protected species will be protected during the works through precautionary working methods, and where impacts are unavoidable, both mitigation and enhancement measures in line with legislative and policy requirements will be delivered. The extensive habitat enhancements and planting are considered to improve the extent,	Many habitat and species-based enhancements have been included within the proposals such as bat boxes, bird boxes and an insect hotel. All habitats and mitigation measures will be maintained; this can be secured through the submitted Landscape and Environmental

Standard	Assessment	Outcome
	connectivity and diversity of habitat on the site, particularly compared to the low ecological baseline.	Management Plan and/or planning conditions where necessary.
Standard 12 Underpins Nature's Recovery	Diverse ecological enhancements are proposed throughout the scheme to further contribute to nature recovery.	New planting across the site will enhance the connectivity between on-site habitats, as well as enhance the resilience of existing off-site habitats. This will contribute to meeting wider nature recovery goals.

4.3. Compliance with Policy

Given the findings set out in the above tables, it has been demonstrated that national planning policy requiring adherence to the step-wise approach, DECCA framework and demonstrating net gain in biodiversity has been complied with.

In doing so, it is also considered that the proposed scheme complies with Policies SP1, SP4, SP8, SP9, GP1 and GP5 of the Newport Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2026, as well as guidance contained within the Trees, Woodland, Hedgerows and Development Sites (2017) and Wildlife and Development (2025) SPGs.

5. Conclusion

This GI Statement is considered to be proportionate to the scale and type of development proposed. It has outlined the green infrastructure baselines for the site and followed the Step-wise Approach and DECCA Framework, in order to ultimately demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. It has also demonstrated compliance with Building with Nature Standards. In doing so, compliance with the relevant policies in the Newport Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2026 has also been demonstrated.

Ecological enhancement measures for the proposed development include: tree planting, bat and bird boxes, green roof, ornamental planting and rainwater planting. Overall, the development is considered to be appropriate in GI terms and complies with both PPW and local policies.

Appendix 1: Relevant Local Planning Policy

Table 5: Local Planning Policy Summary

Newport Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2026	
Policy SP1: Sustainability	This policy requires proposals to make a positive contribution to sustainable development by concentrating development in sustainable locations on brownfield land within the settlement boundary. Developments will be assessed on their ability to efficiently use land and resources, provide integrated transport systems to reduce car usage, minimise waste and energy consumption, manage flood risks, and protect both the built and natural environments.
Policy SP4: Water Resources	This policy focuses on the sustainable management of water resources by requiring developments to minimise water consumption and protect water quality during and after construction. Proposals must ensure there is no net increase in surface water run-off, primarily through the use of sustainable drainage systems, and must be appropriately located so that existing water supply and sewerage infrastructure can safely accommodate the proposed capacity.
Policy SP8: Special Landscape Areas	This policy designates specific Special Landscape Areas across Newport where priority is given to landscape conservation and enhancement. Within these zones, developments are permitted provided they contribute positively to the area through high-quality design, appropriate materials, and management schemes that demonstrate a clear appreciation for the valued characteristics and features of the landscape.
Policy SP9: Conservation of the Natural, Historic and Built Environment	This policy seeks to ensure the conservation, enhancement, and proper management of recognized sites across the natural, historic, and built environments in all development proposals. It protects internationally, nationally, and locally important habitats and species from inappropriate development, while also safeguarding the city's rich heritage assets by requiring new developments to be of the highest design quality.
Policy GP1: Climate Change	This policy ensures that development proposals are designed to adapt to climate change by managing flood risks and avoiding non-permeable hard surfaces. It also mandates that new developments minimize energy requirements, incorporate renewable or low-carbon energy sources, reuse construction materials, and meet relevant BREEAM or Code for Sustainable Homes levels
Policy GP5: Natural Environment	This policy aims to protect and enhance the natural environment by requiring developments to incorporate features that encourage biodiversity and ecological connectivity. Proposals must demonstrate

	how they avoid or mitigate negative impacts on protected habitats, species, water quality, and high-quality agricultural land, while also providing appropriate landscaping schemes and retaining valuable trees and hedgerows.
Supplementary Planning Guidance Documents	
Trees, Woodland, Hedgerows and Development Sites SPG (2017)	This guidance focuses on the management, planting, and protection of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows within development sites to create high-quality, sustainable environments. It outlines the necessity for developers to submit detailed arboricultural surveys and integrates design principles that prioritize the retention of existing trees, mitigate potential conflicts, and compensate for any necessary losses through replacement planting.
Wildlife and Development (2025)	This document provides direction on conserving and enhancing biodiversity throughout the development control process. It guides developers on legal protections for habitats and species, details exactly when ecological surveys are required, and outlines a step-wise approach to avoid, mitigate, compensate, and enhance wildlife features within new developments.