

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT



Proposed New Access To Serve Existing Farmyard & Agricultural Buildings

at Pen Y Groes, Penylan Rd, Bassaleg, Newport, NP10 8RW

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1. **Project Description**

The development proposes to provide a new agricultural access from Penylan Road into the existing farm yard, mobile home and agricultural land. Pen Y Groes, forms part of a nucleated mix of residential and farm buildings set to the north of Penylan Road.

In accordance with updated guidance in Chapter 6 Planning Policy Wales (2021) as set out in the Annex to Heads of Planning Letter Dated 11 October 2023: Addressing the Nature Emergency through the Planning System: Updated National Planning Policy for Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, a green infrastructure statement has been prepared showing how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal.

To maintain and enhance Green Infrastructure Assets within Newport City Council and in accordance with LDP policies, Policies SP5 Countryside and SP9 Conservation of the Natural, Historic and Built Environment and the reference in policy SP1 Sustainability (ix) form strategic policies of the adopted Local Development Plan and seek to maintain, enhance and improve the biodiversity of Newport and its surrounds, including improved ecological resilience, diversity, connectivity and adaptability, whilst ensuring net benefits are facilitated from development.

Policy SP9: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Development will protect and enhance Newport's green infrastructure and biodiversity assets to ensure the integrity and connectivity of this multi-functional resource is maintained and strengthened and positively managed.



Figure 1: Proposed Access from Penylan Road

2. Existing On Site Green Infrastructure Assets

The access track would connect Penylard Road and the mobile home and agricultural land and would bypass the adjacent woodland block. The existing site boundary along Penylard Road is a timber post and rail fence with ivy clinging to the wire mesh covering.

The existing trees that would be located either side of the proposed access track would be retained and maintained as part of the future land management.

The remainder of the site and adjacent land consists of residential and farm buildings located on both sides of Penylan Road and agricultural fields and woodlands.

3. Local Green Infrastructure Assets

Directly adjacent to the development site there are residential and agricultural premises with the majority of the local landscape being open agricultural land and a block of woodland to the north-west which surround two small ponds/lakes.

The local agricultural fields are surrounded by mature hedgerows with numerous tall hedgerow trees, although, there are some signs that boundary hedgerows have become diminished and replaced with post and wire in more recent years.



Figure 2: Local Green Infrastructure

GI assets include the natural elements which provide social, environmental or economic benefit. They can be specific sites or broader environmental features within and between rural and urban areas. A useful approach to outlining the different types of GI asset is to classify them according to the spatial scale at which each would typically be found.

Connectivity between different GI assets will help maximise the benefits that they generate. This connectivity can be visual or notional; however physical connections make the most impact. This connectivity can enhance public engagement with the natural environment, improve opportunities for biodiversity migration and assist in encouraging sustainable forms of travel.

GI functions are the roles that assets can play if planned, designed and managed in a way that is sensitive to, and includes provision for, natural features and systems. Each asset can perform different functions, a concept known as multifunctionality. Multifunctionality Understanding multifunctionality is central to the GI approach to land use planning. Where land performs a range of functions it affords a far greater range of social, environmental and economic benefits than might otherwise be delivered.

Underpinning the multiple functions that GI assets perform is the concept of ecosystem services. Health and wellbeing depends on the range of services provided by ecosystems and their constituent parts: water, soils, nutrients and organisms. These services include: support: necessary for all other ecosystem services, e.g. soil formation and photosynthesis; — provision: food, fibre, fuel; regulation: air quality, climate control, erosion control; and culture: non-material benefits for people, including aesthetic qualities and recreational experiences.

This GI Statement has been prepared to consider the effect of menage development within a study area which is agricultural in character but already containing many man-made structures, agricultural barns and residential areas along Penylan Road.

The majority of the local area is made up of agricultural fields mainly used for sheep grazing. Field boundaries of native species tree and hedge are found throughout the area and are either managed to a good order to ensure stock proofing with other boundaries found to be degraded and fragmented with the field secured with post and wire fencing. The onsite field boundaries do not at present connect to any woodland or more diverse habitats.

This Green Infrastructure Statement will show how the existing green infrastructure and biodiversity will be protected and enhanced by the following steps.

Step 1: Avoidance – The proposed permeable track would retain, protect and maintain the vast majority of on-site trees and provided needed access to the mobile home and the agricultural fields.

Step 2: Minimise – The construction of the track would have a low impact on the adjacent trees.

Step 3: Mitigation measures – There would be a mixed native species hedgerow planted either side of the track which would enhance the local habitat areas.

Step 4: Compensation on Site/ off Site – There is no loss to local trees by the construction of the proposed track.

Opportunities for Enhancement of Green Infrastructure

As shown in the SLD Landscape Plan 213 200, the development site would retain, protect and maintain the existing adjacent trees and a new native hedgerow is proposed on both sides of the access track.

The proposed hedgerow would be planted with native species plants and would be approx. 40 -90cms tall, planted in three parallel rows 50 cms apart with 7 plants per 1 linear metre of hedgerow.

Each plant would be protected with a biodegradable spiral guard and support with a bamboo cane.

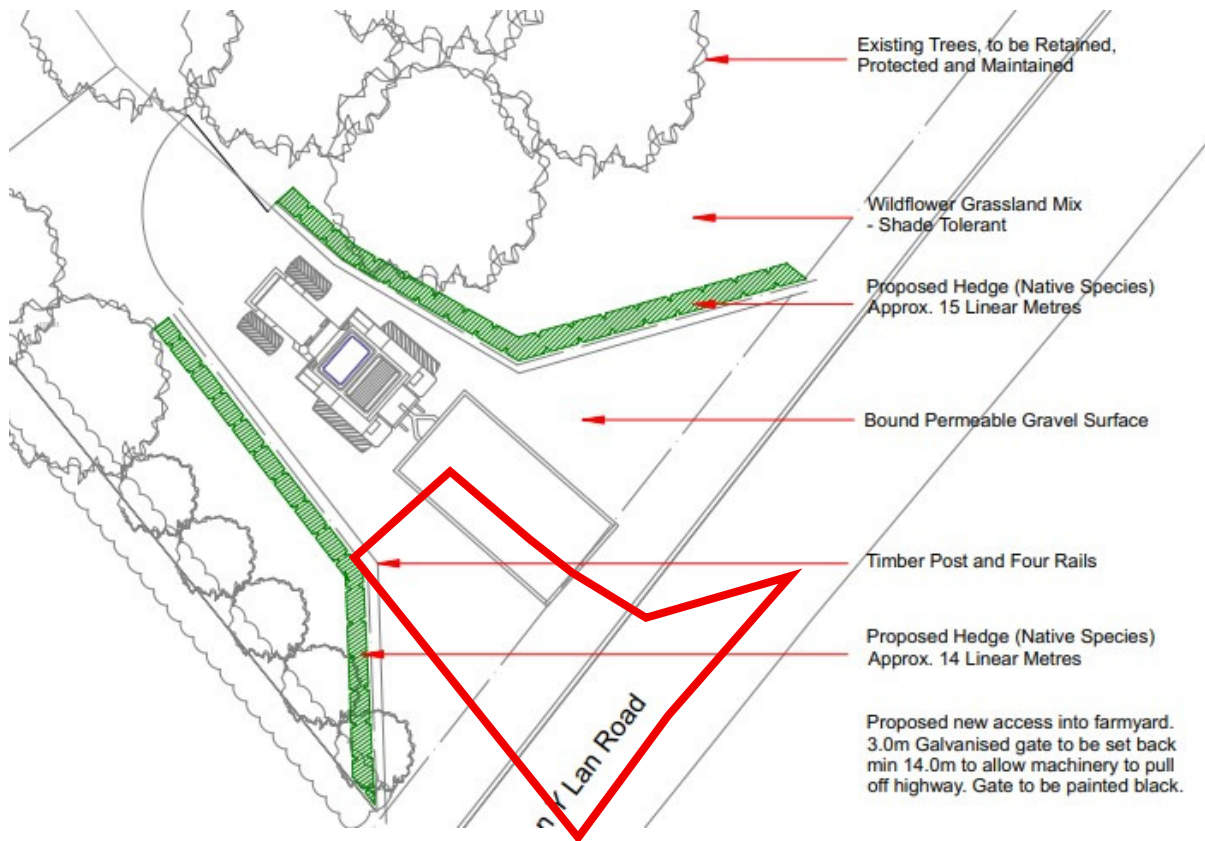


Figure 3: SLD Landscape Plan 213 200

4. Green Infrastructure Management

The management of the proposed GI enhancements would entail the maintenance of the proposed hedgerow as well the adjacent trees within the application boundary. The maintenance of the hedgerows and trees would be the responsibility of the landowner.

Newly Planted Hedgerow: A bark mulch layer to be maintained at a 50mm and should be used to retain moisture and reduce weed growth thickness. Any weeds growing on, or within, the mulch to be removed by hand weeding and taken off site.

5. Green Infrastructure Trends and Constraints

The management of the Green Infrastructure Assets should be carried out on a yearly bases with regular yearly inspection of the existing hedgerow and trees, or after a storm event etc. with any remedial works to be carried out after the bird nesting season.

Every 10 years, the management duties should be re-assessed in order to identify significant changes that would affect the operations of the development site, in that, field boundaries and green spaces should continue to function as a local Green Infrastructure Asset. Any identified changes should be implemented in the following appropriate season.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the GI management tasks would be carried out by the client or landscape contractors working on their behalf.

With these additional GI additions and GI management in place, the green spaces within the development site would contribute to and be part of the local green connectivity and function as part of the valued GI resource in the local countryside.

REPORT END