

Green Infrastructure Statement

Reference 460

Proposed new lean-to barn within Cefn Mably Farm Park, Cefn Mably, Began Road. Cardiff. CF3 6LP.

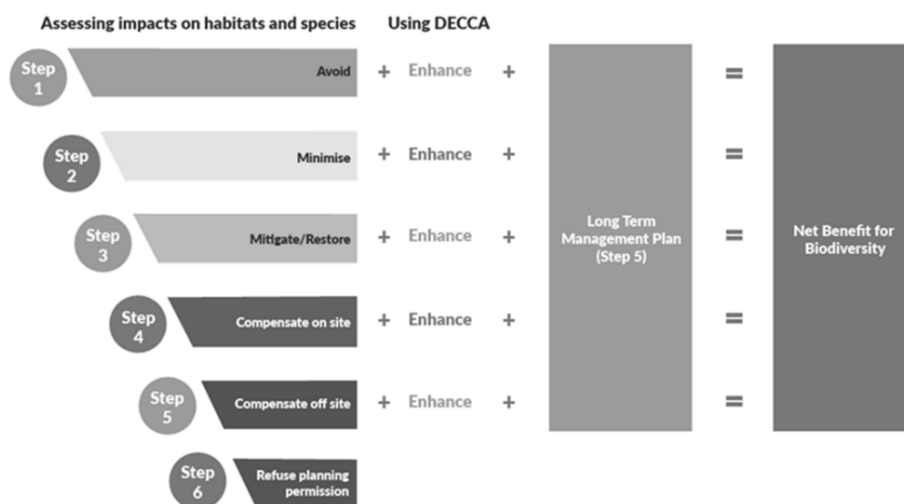
1.0 Introduction

The design was informed by the latest version of Planning Policy Wales, edition 12. Section 6 of PPW includes commentary relating to green infrastructure and how it can be integrated into developments, which should be protected and enhanced. A proactive approach to green infrastructure and biodiversity should be adopted to help reverse the decline in biodiversity and increase the resilience of ecosystems.

Paragraph 6.21 of Planning Policy Wales defines green infrastructure as “the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales and some components, such as trees and woodland, are often universally present and function at all levels. 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.”

The development follows the Stepwise Approach set out in paragraph 6.4.21:

2.0 The wider site



Cefn Mably Farm Park is a children’s farm attraction located within the rural landscape of Cefn Mably, north-east of Cardiff. The farm park is located adjacent to the River Rhymney, which forms an important ecological feature within the surrounding landscape. The site combines a countryside setting with family recreation, animal experiences, outdoor play areas and educational activities. Its green spaces provide opportunities for children and families to engage with nature, experience farming practices and benefit from outdoor recreation. The farm park contributes to the wider green infrastructure network by maintaining a connection between people, landscape and the natural environment. The site’s green infrastructure consists of areas of grassland, trees, hedgerows, ponds and rural habitats, which provide ecological value, support local wildlife and contribute to habitat connectivity within the wider landscape.

3.0 Stepwise approach

The proposed site layout was developed to avoid any existing green infrastructure assets and is located on existing hard standing/overflow parking area.

The table below sets out the stepwise approach in assessing impacts of a development on biodiversity.

	Steps	Assessment	Enhancement	Long Term Management Plan	Net Benefit for Biodiversity
1.	Avoid	The proposed lean-to barn is located on existing hard standing therefore does not impact on existing green infrastructure.	House Sparrow Nest Box	Cleaning and repairing.	YES
2.	Minimise	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.	Mitigate/ Restore	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4.	Compensate on wider site	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5.	Compensate off site	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

4.0 Proposed Enhancements

Given the scale of the proposal, it is considered that the provision of 2 no. house sparrow nest box provide adequate ecological enhancements.

Enhancement	Description	Example
2 no. House Sparrow Nest Box	Provides three separate nest boxes in one timber terrace, each with its own 32mm entrance hole. The boxes will be located either above the lean-to roof on the existing larger barn or below the eaves of the existing barn to ensure they are at least 3m from the ground, facing north east to avoid it getting too hot or wet. After the end of each breeding season, all nestboxes should be taken down, old nesting materials removed, and the box should be scalded with boiling water to kill any parasites. Annual cleaning should only be carried out at the end of the breeding season, from late September to February.	 RSPB Sparrow terrace nest box. https://shopping.rspb.org.uk/bird-feeders-boxes-tables/bird-houses-nest-boxes Under the terms of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, if unhatched eggs are found in the box, they can only legally be removed from October to January inclusive, and they must be destroyed – it is illegal to keep them. www.wildlifetrusts.org

Photographs of the bird boxes in place can be issued to the Local Planning Authority for confirmation of installation post-development.

The proposed new lean-to barn within Cefn Mably Park, accords with the stepwise approach set out in the published advice. The proposal provides an ecological enhancement proportionate to the scale of the development. The proposed enhancement is a net benefit to biodiversity as a result of the development.