



Green Infrastructure Statement

Wentworth Hills,

Stelvio Park Drive,

Newport,

NP20 3EL

Proposed garage conversion

Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement supports the householder planning application for a garage conversion to a residential property. It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and local policy, which seek to ensure that all development proposals contribute positively to the natural environment.

Although the scale of the development is small, every application is expected to demonstrate how biodiversity and green infrastructure have been considered and enhanced as part of the design. This statement explains how the scheme has followed the “stepwise approach” to deliver a measurable net gain for ecology and green infrastructure on site.

Understanding the Site and Its Context

The site is an existing residential property set within a typical suburban plot, with a hardstanding parking area to the front, a private garden to the rear, and no known ecological constraints.

The proposed works are within the existing building and therefore no trees, habitats, or other landscape features are affected. The proposals represent an intensification of the residential use in built form only, without encroaching on existing green spaces.

The rear garden of the property is already landscaped with grass, and there is a large Cherry Laurel hedge running along the length of the boundary to the North, however as part of this application more measures will be taken to improve the ecological habitat on site.

Stepwise Approach

Avoidance

The scheme avoids any direct impact on green infrastructure or biodiversity features. The proposed work is within the existing building and does not require removal of any soft landscaping or habitats.

Minimisation

No trees or landscape features are affected, and there will be no excavation into green areas.

Mitigation

Although no habitats are directly affected, the proposals incorporate biodiversity enhancement as mitigation for any potential indirect disturbance and to ensure a net gain.

Compensation and Enhancement

To enhance site biodiversity and meet the requirements of local and national planning policy, the following green infrastructure enhancements are proposed:

- **Surface mounted Bird Box:** A bird nesting box will be installed on the existing brickwork of the house. A 'NK MU 09 House sparrow facade nest box' or equivalent will be used, Fixed to the gable above the first floor window level to support local bird species and comply with recommendations from the RSPB and local planning authorities.
- **Raised Wildflower Planter:** A narrow, raised wildflower planter will be created in front of the former garage, replacing a small section of hardstanding. This feature will support pollinators such as bees and butterflies and improve the site's overall visual and ecological value. The planter will be seeded with a native wildflower mix suitable for low-maintenance domestic gardens, providing nectar throughout the season.

These simple but effective measures ensure that the development delivers an ecological enhancement appropriate to the scale and setting of the project.

Management and Maintenance

The bird box will be maintenance-free once installed. The raised planter will be maintained by the homeowner, with reseeding as required to sustain a healthy wildflower display.

Summary

The development has followed the stepwise approach by avoiding harm to existing green infrastructure and incorporating meaningful enhancements in the form of a new bird box and a new pollinator-friendly planter. These measures ensure the development complies with national and local policy requirements for biodiversity net gain.