

Green Infrastructure Statement

Revision 2 | 03.03.2025

fenton+reece

Site Address: Fourteen Locks, Cwm Ln, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9GN
Proposal: New Visitor Building to Fourteen Locks Canal Centre
Description of Works: De molition of existing visitor centre, alterations to car park to facilitate construction of new visitor centre.

1.1 fenton+reece ltd has been asked to prepare a Green Infrastructure Statement for the planning application at Fourteen Locks Canal Centre, Cwm Lane, Rogerstone.

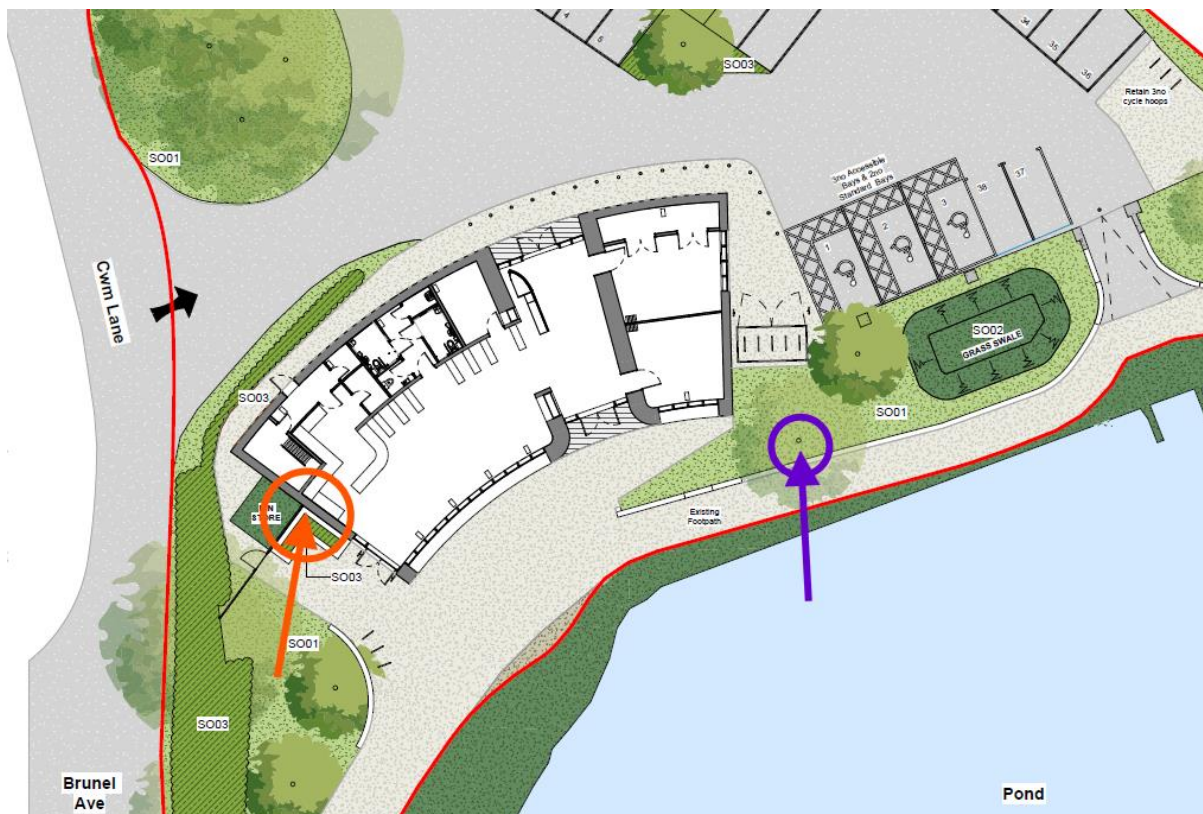
1.2 Following recent updates to Planning Policy Wales 12 there is now a requirement for all planning applications in Wales to be supported by a Green Infrastructure Statement. Section 6.2.5 has been updated to include the following statement:

“A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the step-wise approach (Paragraph 6.4.21) has been applied.”

1.4 The table below has been drawn up using the Annex Document to the Updated National Planning Policy for Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales. A summary of the existing Green Infrastructure has been identified as the baseline condition and assessed against The DECCA Framework to establish any impact on the sites Green Infrastructure.

Landscape + Ecological Designations: <i>(this statement does not replace an LVIA or Ecology Survey)</i>			
Designations: <i>either covering or within effective distance of the site</i>	Location	Proximity to Site	Impact
Ancient Woodland: Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	East of site North of site	75m 200m	No impact to GI due to scale and nature of development
Ancient Woodland: Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	West of site	75m	No impact to GI due to scale and nature of development
Existing Green Infrastructure Baseline + Condition: The Fourteen Locks Visitor Centre is situated within a semi-rural setting, forming part of the historic Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal network. The canal runs to the south of the site and connects ancient woodland territories to the east and west of the site. The site consists of the visitor centre building, associated car parking facilities, and a canal basin. The canal network connects to the west and east through a series of locks that navigate the area's topography, serving as a key element of the green and blue infrastructure in the region. Surrounding the site are mature trees and hedgerows, which form well-connected green corridors extending into the broader landscape. A strip of off-site broadleaved woodland borders the site to the east, along a section of public footpath bordering the site to the east and northeast, providing recreational access and further integrating the site into the local green infrastructure network. Existing ecological features include two bird boxes installed on-site and one additional bird box located nearby, supporting local avian populations. Ecological surveys report no evidence of bat roosting within the site but confirm the presence of nesting birds, with one species observed utilizing the available habitat during past seasons. Arboriculturally reports indicate 10no. category B trees, and three lengths of category B hedgerow, with 11 species of woody vegetation recorded including ecologically valuable species; Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) and Willow (<i>Salix alba</i>). 4no. trees are categorised as category C, with 20-40+ years of remaining contribution, and one tree (T2 - Goat willow) category U forming a small group of trees on the entrance. The site has been identified as good potential foraging grounds for bat species, and the building identified as having potential for roosting bats Proposed GI Mitigation: T2 - Goat willow (Cat. U) is to be coppiced to 30cm above ground with a 20degree clean cut stem. This tree currently has negligible remaining ecological contribution, and 1no proposed tree is to be planted to the altered car park. The proposed site development consists of alterations to hardstanding areas and architectural construction. As such, this will have minimal impact on the existing GI as no alterations to the established or border vegetation will be incurred. It is recommended to improve the condition of vegetation, considering the 4no. cat. C trees and hedgerows (T1, T4, T10, H2b) following arboriculturists recommendations. Minor alterations to soft landscaped areas between the building and will be mitigated by new planting to the area and to the car park including 5no. proposed trees. Proposed GI Enhancements: To comply with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and ensure no net loss of biodiversity, mitigation measures will include the installation of two bat boxes on suitable structures near the visitor centre. providing roosting opportunities for bats while ensuring connectivity to surrounding habitats and access to solar gain. A grass swale and ornamental shrub mix is proposed to the northern boundary of the site offering wildlife habitat under established trees. 5no. trees are proposed to be planted on site with recommendations to include Holly, Rowan and Cherry.			

The DECCA Framework	Step-Wise Approach			
	Avoid	Minimize	Mitigate	Compensate
Diversity: Individual development proposals should avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, by considering how biodiversity assets, can be maintained and enhanced.	Minimal adverse impact to GI diversity due to the nature of proposed works			
Extent: Individual development proposals must avoid loss in the extent of biodiversity and incorporate measures to appropriately maintain and enlarge existing habitats, especially where extent is small or declining, through habitat restoration and creation with adjoining and nearby areas, green infrastructure features and networks	No impact due to the nature of proposed works			
Condition: Individual development proposals must not compromise the condition of ecosystems. consideration to both direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and benefits. securing the long-term management of retained habitats is key to maintaining condition	No adverse effects to GI condition			
Connectivity: Individual development proposals should identify and incorporate measures which enable appropriate links to be made between the site and its surroundings so as to improve connectivity	Connectivity and adaptation improved slightly by the introduction of new habitat boxes			
Adaptation: Individual development proposals should identify impacts to the ecosystem resilience attributes of biodiversity				
Summary: Any adverse effects on the existing Green Infrastructure (GI) will be avoided due to the limited scale of proposed works as trees and habitat boxes will be retained. Minimal disturbance to existing habitats will be mitigated by the following measures: • 2no. habitat boxes to be installed on site 1no. Bat Block to be installed on south western face of building to enhance habitat provision [Bat Block by Green&Blue into architectural detailing] 1no. Bat Box to be installed on existing tree between building and pond (T10 – Common Alder, 10m) [Beaumaris wood crete bat box] See plan overleaf for locations of suggested habitat boxes • Demolition works to be conducted between September – February (outside of bird nesting season). • If any bird nests are found, a suitable minimum 5m buffer should be marked by the site ecologists until chicks have fledged the nest • Two further emergence surveys of the building required (Bat Conservation Trust Service Guidelines). • Adjacent pond and tree line to Cwm Lane to remain as dark corridor and not illuminated by artificial lighting • Avoid pollution or debris entering the large pond. • No netting, pipes or similar to be left on site to avoid animals becoming trapped. Excavations to have one sloped side with a gradient to allow suitable animal escape. • Tree species recommended: Cherry, Rowan and Holly to provide habitat and foraging. • A suitable landscape management plan should be implemented to ensure planted tree health. • Management of tree species following arboricultural report recommendations.				



Orange – Bat Block to South West façade of building. **Purple** – Bat Box to existing tree T10 Common Alder

Appendix

The following designations have been reviewed against the development; the mapping datasets were accessed using DataMapWales. If there is a designation present, either within the site boundaries or within effective distance of the development, these will be noted in the statement above.

	Within Site?	Within 500m?
Ancient Woodland (<i>Ancient Semi Natural Woodland</i>)	No	Yes
Ancient Woodland (<i>Restored Ancient Woodland</i>)	No	Yes
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	No	No
Historic Landscape Areas (HLA)	No	No
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	No	No
Marine Conservation Zones	No	No
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	No	No
National Parks	No	No
Orchards (Historic & Traditional)	No	No
Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS)	No	No
Registered Historic Parks & Gardens (RHPG)	No	No
Registered Landscapes of Outstanding & Special Interest	No	No
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	No	No
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	No	No
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	No	No
Special Landscape Area	No	No



Above: Existing vegetation to entrance of site

Below: Public footpath south of site with view of pond and visitor centre





Above: Drainage channel to east of site as overflow to pond

Below: Lock and connectivity to ancient woodland to west of site





Above: Bird box on site to trees by entrance

Below: Bird box off site to western edge and border of ancient woodland

