

Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

Eveswell Community Centre

Newport, NP19 8EP

Prepared by Siemens Architecture for

ToCH

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BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT SCHEME STATEMENT

As part of the Eveswell Community Centre regeneration project in Newport, South Wales, we propose the installation of a Bauder extensive green roof covering 76.56 square metres. 60 sqm will be installed on the east facing elevation of the existing roof and 16.56 sqm will be installed on a new entry canopy.

This initiative aligns with the Section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.

The green roof will incorporate a diverse mix of low-maintenance, drought-resistant plants, including native and pollinator-friendly species, to provide habitat for local wildlife such as bees, butterflies, and birds. This will support species of principal importance under Section 7 of the Act and enhance urban ecological networks. The roof will also improve ecosystem services, including stormwater management and urban heat island mitigation, contributing to the resilience of local ecosystems.

By integrating green infrastructure into the community centre, this scheme demonstrates a commitment to embedding biodiversity considerations into urban planning, in line with Newport City Council's biodiversity objectives and the Wales Biodiversity Partnership's call for local-scale actions. The Bauder system's design ensures long-term sustainability and minimal maintenance, maximising biodiversity benefits within the project's scope.



Figure 1: Aerial 3D of sedum roofs

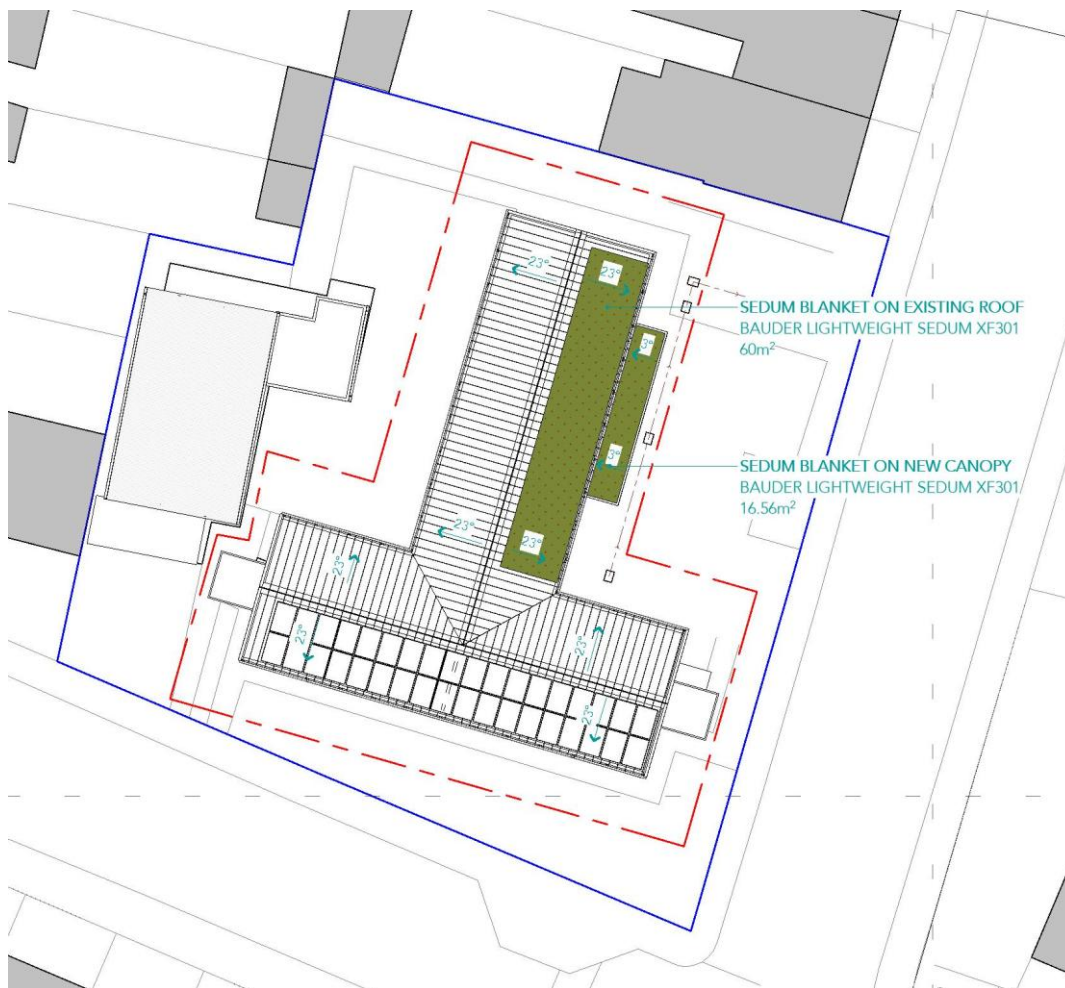


Figure 2: Proposed roof plan showing sedum roofs.

APPENDIX A - CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity Enhancement Measures are designed to fulfill the Section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which mandates public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. The scheme integrates biodiversity considerations into planning, development, and community initiatives, ensuring measurable improvements in Newport's natural environment. It aligns with the Newport Local Nature Partnership's goals to protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, support locally important species, and engage communities in conservation efforts.

OBJECTIVES

- Protect and enhance existing semi-natural habitats across Newport.
- Create new habitats where suitable to increase biodiversity value.
- Identify and protect locally important species through targeted actions.
- Ensure developments achieve a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), where applicable, using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric or equivalent tools.
- Promote community involvement in biodiversity projects to enhance education and access to nature.
- Support ecological connectivity through nature networks, linking habitats within and beyond Newport.

SCOPE

This scheme applies to

- All planning applications (pre, outline, and full) for residential, commercial, and infrastructure developments.
- Council-managed land, including parks, schools, and nature reserves (e.g., Allt-yr-yn and St Julian's Local Nature Reserves).
- Community-led initiatives, such as community orchards and school biodiversity programs.
- Partnerships with developers, schools, and local organizations to deliver biodiversity enhancements.

KEY BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

The following measures are proportionate to the scale, location, and nature of developments or initiatives. Developers and council projects must incorporate as many measures as viable, supported by ecological surveys and reports.

A. Habitat Creation and Enhancement

- On-Site Habitat Creation: Prioritize on-site enhancements, such as:
 - Planting native wildflower meadows, hedgerows, or woodland areas to support pollinators and wildlife.
 - Creating wetlands, ponds, or sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to enhance aquatic biodiversity.
 - Incorporating green roofs or walls on buildings to provide habitats for birds, insects, and plants.
- Off-Site Compensation: Where on-site measures are insufficient, developers must secure off-site biodiversity units through habitat banks or council-approved sites, ensuring a minimum 10% BNG for major developments (mandatory from February 2024) and small sites (from April 2024).
- Ecological Connectivity: Design developments to maintain or create wildlife corridors, linking to existing sites like Allt-yr-yn Nature Reserve or St Julian's Park, to strengthen Newport's nature network.

B. Species-Specific Enhancements

- Bird Nesting Features: Install integrated swift bricks, bat boxes, or bird boxes (e.g., for house sparrows or kingfishers) on new buildings, with specifications detailed in architectural drawings. An average of one nesting feature per dwelling is recommended for major developments.
- Bat Roosts: Incorporate bat bricks or roost spaces in new builds, guided by Bat Conservation Trust recommendations, especially near known bat habitats like Allt-yr-yn ponds.
- Pollinator Support: Use nectar-rich and larval food plants in landscaping to support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, avoiding invasive non-native species (see NatureScot Annex B).
- Hedgehog Highways: Include 13cm x 13cm gaps in fences to allow hedgehog movement, mandatory for all developments.

C. Community and Educational Initiatives

- School Biodiversity Programs: Expand the Schools Biodiversity Service Level Agreement (SLA) to support habitat creation (e.g., ponds, meadows) on school grounds and provide free environmental education sessions at Allt-yr-yn and St Julian's reserves.
- Community Orchards: Continue developing community orchards as natural spaces for biodiversity and public engagement, funded by Welsh Government grants. Promote public consultation to identify suitable sites.

- Citizen Science and Volunteering: Encourage community involvement in monitoring and managing biodiversity projects, such as through the Newport Local Nature Partnership or partnerships with groups like Gwent Wildlife Trust.
- D. Green Infrastructure
 - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Integrate SuDS with biodiversity benefits, such as rain gardens or vegetated swales, to manage water and support wetland species.
 - Urban Tree Planting: Plant native trees (e.g., ash, oak) to enhance canopy cover and support species like birds and bats, ensuring soil health to sustain planting.
 - Public Greenspaces: Enhance existing parks and open spaces (e.g., St Julian's Park) with biodiverse planting and features like log piles or insect hotels.

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Planning Applications: Developers must submit:
 - Ecological surveys identifying baseline biodiversity and potential impacts.
 - Architectural drawings showing the location and specification of enhancement measures (e.g., swift bricks on building elevations).
 - A Biodiversity Gain Plan for major developments, demonstrating a 10% BNG using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric, including pre- and post-development habitat plans.
- Management and Monitoring:
 - Habitats created or enhanced must be maintained for a minimum of 30 years, secured through legal agreements (e.g., Section 106 or conservation covenants).
 - Submit monitoring reports every 5 years to Newport City Council to assess the success of enhancements, with a feedback mechanism to adjust management if needed.
- Council-Led Projects: The council will lead by example, implementing enhancements on its land (e.g., schools, reserves) and integrating biodiversity into asset management plans.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Biodiversity Duty Reporting: Newport City Council will report on biodiversity actions every three years, as per the 2023-2025 Biodiversity Duty Report, detailing progress on habitat creation, species protection, and community engagement.
- Planning Conditions: Non-compliance with BNG requirements or enhancement measures will result in refusal of planning permission, in line with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate, enhance).
- Ecological Expertise: Employ a full-time ecologist or partner with organizations like Gwent Wildlife Trust to assess proposals and monitor outcomes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

- Public Awareness: Increase awareness of local wildlife through events, signage, and digital campaigns, highlighting sites like Allt-yr-yn and Fourteen Locks.
- School Programs: Expand free environmental education sessions and support schools in achieving Eco-Schools status.
- Volunteer Networks: Establish or support "Friends of" groups for reserves and greenspaces to involve residents in habitat management.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Use the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric or a Welsh equivalent to measure biodiversity value before and after interventions.
- Conduct annual reviews of council-led projects (e.g., orchards, school grounds) to assess biodiversity uplift and community benefits.
- Publish progress in the Biodiversity Duty Report, ensuring transparency and accountability.

ALIGNMENT WITH POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS

- National Policy: Comply with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and emerging Welsh biodiversity metrics, ensuring enhancements align with national priorities.
- Local Nature Recovery Action Plan: Integrate the scheme with the Newport Local Nature Partnership's plan to prioritize habitats and species of local importance.
- Partnerships: Collaborate with Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, and community groups to share knowledge and maximize biodiversity outcomes.