



Green Infrastructure Statement

**46, Caerau Road,
Newport
NP20 4HH**

House holder Landscaping

May 2025

1. Policy Background

1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) supports a planning application for Landscaping in retrospect at 46, Caerau Road, Newport NP20 4HH

1.2 This GIS aims to respond to the requirements of Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, 2024). This states:

“C.2.11 The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate site selection and use of creative design. With careful planning and design, informed by an appropriate level of assessment, green infrastructure can embed the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services into new development and places, help to overcome the potential for conflicting objectives, and contribute to health and well-being outcomes.

C.2.12 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 C.4.15) has been applied.

C.2.13 There are multiple ways of incorporating green infrastructure, depending on the needs and opportunities a site presents, and the green infrastructure assessment should be referred to, as appropriate, in order to ascertain local priorities. Landscaping, green roofs, grass verges, sustainable drainage and gardens are examples of individual design measures that can have wider cumulative benefits, particularly in relation to biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems as well as in securing the other desired environmental qualities of places. Wider landscape measures, such as the creation of species rich meadows, woodlands and the improvement of linkages between areas of biodiversity value should be considered for larger scale development. In most cases the green infrastructure statement should highlight any baseline data considered, and surveys and assessments undertaken, including but not limited to, habitats and species surveys, arboricultural surveys and assessments, sustainable drainage statements, landscape and ecological management plans, open space assessments and green space provision and active travel links”.

1.3 The ‘step-wise approach’, as outlined below, demonstrates the sequential approach that has been adopted as part of the proposed development to maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are first avoided, then minimised, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for. In addition, enhancement has been secured by delivering net biodiversity.

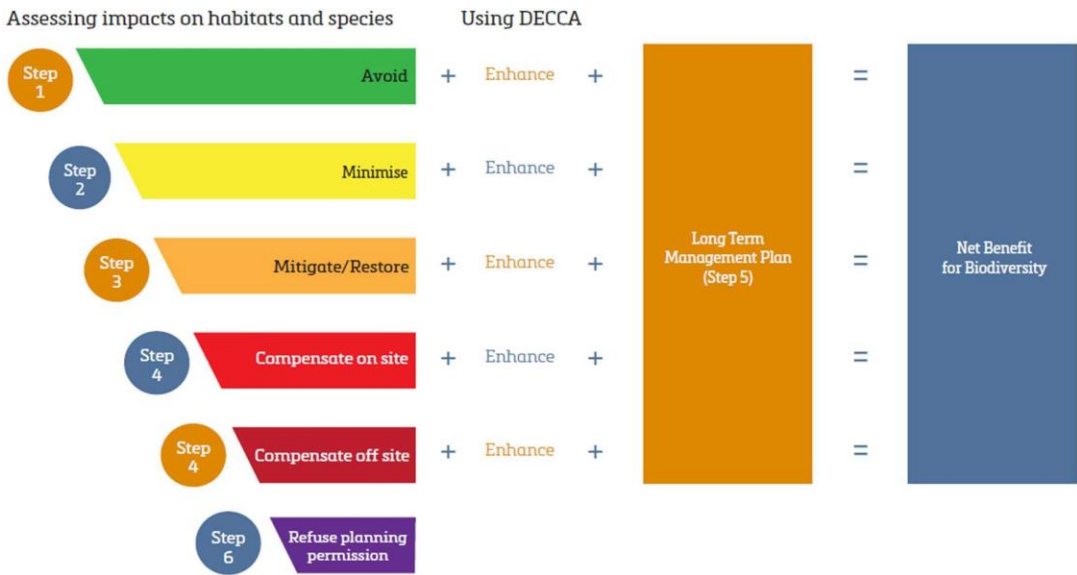


Figure 1: A summary of the step-wise approach taken from Chapter C of PPW (Ed. 12, 2024)

2. The Proposed Development

- 2.1 The proposed development comprises of the removing and relaying of the front driveway, amendments to existing planting zones and the widening of two front entrances onto the property.
- 2.2 The site of the property is located within the Stow Hill area of Newport. The proposed driveway will be a pattern imprinted concrete drive. Offering a textured, patterned surface that mimics the look of natural stone, brick or other materials. This will be non-permeable layer, requiring regular sealing to protect the surface and maintain its appearance with overall minimal maintenance. Aco drainage system will be installed to the perimeter of the property allowing for surface water drainage.
- 2.3 The existing two entrances into the property will require widening to allow for vehicle width to both entrances.
- 2.4 There will also be a small new patio area laid to the left rear of the property with stepping stones as shown on submitted plans (figure 2)

3. Green Infrastructure Baseline

3.1 The application site relates to an existing area of ‘broken crazed’ concrete paving slabs as driveway as well as an area of grassland, both of which are considered to be of relatively low ecological value.

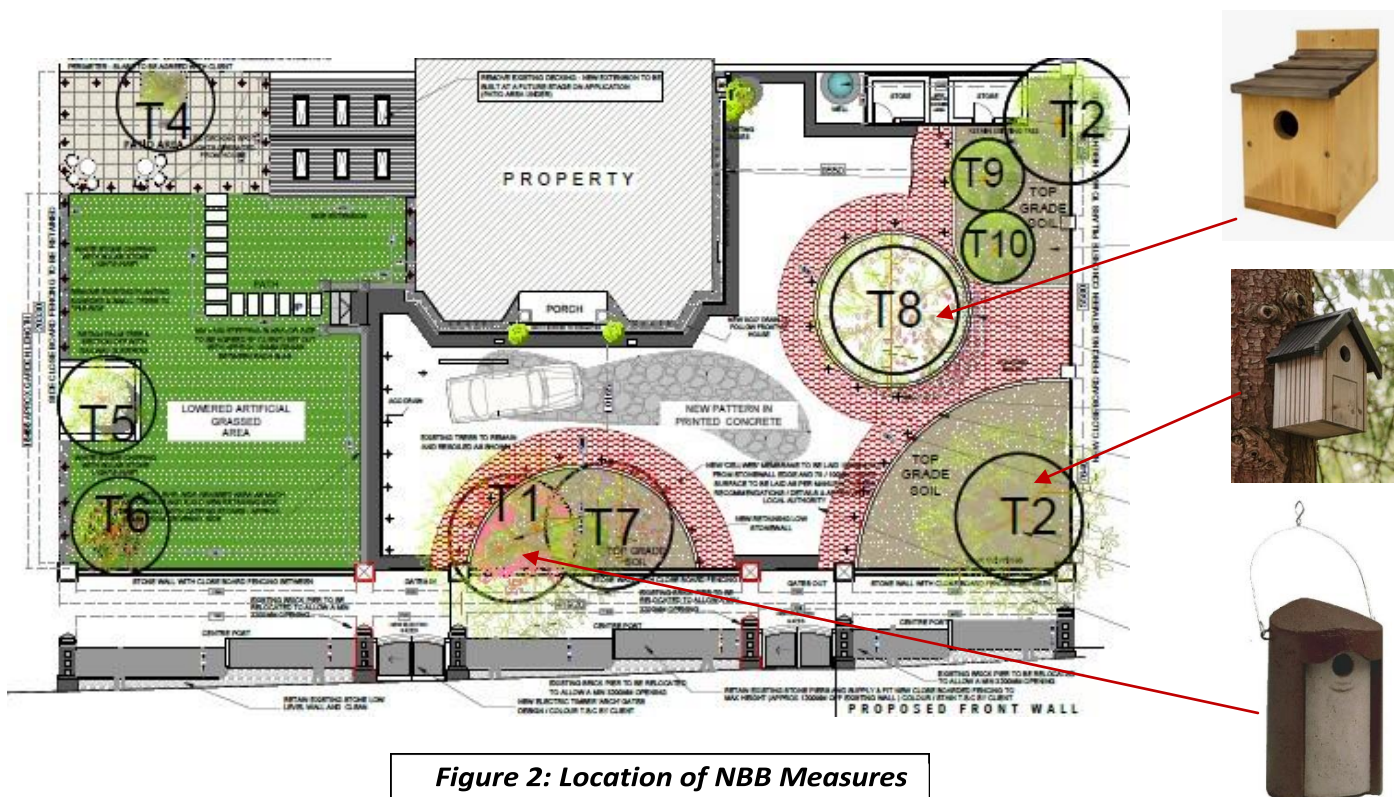
3.2 The existing period semi-detached 4 bedroom house is spread over 2,411 square feet which given the design, age and use, are not considered suitable for use by roosting bats or nesting birds, and the previous structures are therefore considered unlikely to host any biodiversity of interest.

3.3 The application site is not located within or near to any statutory or non-statutory designated ecological sites, and therefore the proposed development does not have any potential to cause an impact upon protected sites.

4. The Green Infrastructure Strategy

4.1 The approach to the design of the proposed building is fully outlined within the accompanying Planning Statement. The submitted design has been arrived at following thought being given to the environmental effects of the proposed development.

4.2 It is proposed that three Woodcrete bird boxes be erected within the garden / tree and planting areas of the front grounds and fixed to existing trees. The locations of the proposed Woodcrete bird boxes are shown on the submitted Biodiversity Enhancement Plan, an extract of which is below:



5. Landscape Proposal

- 5.1 The site Landscape plan describes how the proposed green infrastructure is integrated into the existing layout of the site including:
- 5.2 Creation of new and upgrading existing hedgerows and native planting species along site boundaries to improve ecological habitat on site and beyond.
- 5.3 Provision of Bird Boxes within site boundaries
- 5.4 Non-Permeable hard landscaping with Aco drainage system to boundary of property
- 5.5 Additional Shrubbery with a mix of ornamental planting withing planting areas
- 5.6 New 'cellweb' membrane to be laid 1500mm out from stonewall edge of enclosed planting / tree areas and 75 / 100mm under hard core surface to be laid as per manufacturers recommendations / details & approved by local authority as shown in red (figure 2)
- 5.7 The step-wise approach has been followed as impacts upon habitats and species would be avoided through the siting and design of the proposal. The development would also not prejudice connectivity between nearby habitat for protected species and wider biodiversity.
- 5.8 Off-site ecological mitigation will not be required as there will not be any impact upon protected species on the site.
- 5.9 The Landowner will ensure the long-term management and maintenance of the proposed bird boxes to ensure they are kept in a useable condition.
- 5.10 There will be a 50mm deep bark mulch layer to be spread evenly around the shrubbed areas to prevent weed growth and retain moisture. Alternatively a suitable mulch mat can be used covering the same area.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 It is clear the proposed development would not cause any impacts upon existing green infrastructure, biodiversity, ecosystem resilience or protected species. The proposal has fully followed the step-wise approach as prescribed by Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, and the development would provide a net benefit for biodiversity which is commensurate to the scale of the proposals.