

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS - LOS REYES TAPAS & WINE BAR

Introduction

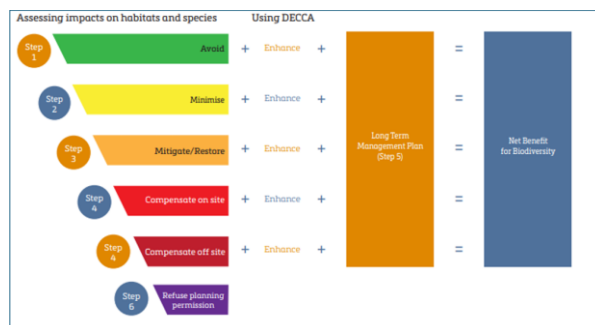
This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the creation of a kitchen garden and orchard at land associated with Los Reyes Tapas & Wine Bar, including the area to the north-east of the main restaurant and existing car park, Belmont Hill, Newport.

The statement outlines how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the development in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and the step-wise approach to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience.

Planning Policy Wales

As per Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024 a Green Infrastructure Statement is required to demonstrate how a step-wise approach has been considered in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity for the proposals. The statement should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed development. Only a short description is required more minor developments such as householder applications. Figure 1 below sets out the summary of the stepwise approach as set out in the Chapter 6 of PPW.

Figure 1: Summary of the Step-Wise Approach



Existing Green Infrastructure Context

The site currently comprises underutilised land, forming part of a wider green setting that includes a wooded embankment and landscaped margins. While parts of the site are already vegetated, the ecological and functional value of the land is limited due to lack of active management.

The surrounding area forms part of a broader leisure and landscape framework associated with the Celtic Manor resort area, where green infrastructure plays a key role in visual amenity, biodiversity and landscape character.

Green Infrastructure Strategy and Design Approach

The proposal adopts a landscape-led approach that places green infrastructure at the centre of the design. The kitchen garden and orchard have been carefully planned to enhance ecological value while supporting sustainable food production for the associated restaurant.

The proposal will deliver:

- Introduction of a productive orchard comprising a variety of fruit-bearing trees
- Establishment of a structured kitchen garden for seasonal vegetables, herbs and soft fruit
- Retention and strengthening of existing green boundaries where feasible
- Use of planting to integrate retaining structures into the landscape
- Creation of diverse habitat structure through layered planting and groundcover vegetation

The design avoids excessive hard surfacing and instead prioritises permeable, vegetated and biologically active surfaces.

Step-Wise Approach

The development follows the step-wise approach as set out in PPW:

Avoidance:

The layout has been designed to avoid unnecessary loss of existing mature vegetation where possible, particularly along the wooded embankment.

Minimisation:

Any engineering required, including retaining structures, has been minimised and is limited to what is necessary to facilitate safe and practical use of the sloping site.

Enhancement:

The proposal delivers significant enhancement through the introduction of orchard planting, productive growing areas, and increased vegetative cover across the site. This will improve biodiversity value, ecological connectivity and landscape structure.

Biodiversity Enhancement

The proposal delivers clear biodiversity benefits, including:

- Increased tree cover through orchard planting.
- Introduction of flowering and fruiting species beneficial to pollinators.
- Creation of varied planting structure supporting invertebrates and birds.
- Improved habitat connectivity within the wider landscape context.

The scheme will result in a net enhancement of green infrastructure value through active management and long-term landscape stewardship linked to the restaurant use.

Long-Term Management

The kitchen garden and orchard will be actively managed as part of the operational use of the site. This ensures long-term establishment and maintenance of planting, seasonal productivity, and continued biodiversity benefits.

Management will include:

- Regular horticultural maintenance of planting areas
- Seasonal replanting and crop rotation within the kitchen garden

- Tree maintenance and orchard management
- Retention of permeable, vegetated ground conditions

Conclusion

The proposed development represents a positive enhancement of green infrastructure within the site. It replaces underutilised land with a productive and biodiversity-rich landscape that supports sustainable food production, strengthens ecological value, and enhances the wider landscape character.

The scheme is fully aligned with the principles of Planning Policy Wales and delivers a clear and measurable improvement in green infrastructure provision.