

GOLYNOS COTTAGE, MOUNTAIN ROAD, ROGERSTONE, NEWPORT, NP10 9GR

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR REPLACEMENT DWELLING

**Green Infrastructure Statement
November 2025**

Overview

As part of the development process, the existing Green Infrastructure (GI) asset has been assessed through an ecology and landscape survey, and the context of the site, in its wider GI network, and within the policy framework updated Chapter 6 of PPW 12. The following statement reports on the iterative GI process and how it has influenced the design approach, focusing on the appropriate and proportionate GI benefits that development of the site can contribute, with regard to, and taking all reasonable steps, to enhance the proposal.

Chapter 6 of PPW states *‘all reasonable steps must be taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems and these should be balanced with the wider economic and social needs of business and local communities’*

Introduction

Definition of Green Infrastructure.

The term *‘Green Infrastructure’* first came to prominence in the early 2000’s most notably in the Landscape Institute Position Statement *‘Green Infrastructure An integrated approach to landuse’* (2009). This document defined Green Infrastructure as;

‘The network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect villages, towns and cities. It is a natural, service-providing infrastructure that is often more cost effective, more resilient and more capable of meeting social, environmental and economic objectives than ‘grey’ infrastructure.’

GI Functions are described as the:

‘roles that assets can play if planned, designed and managed in a way that is sensitive to, and includes provision for, natural features and ecosystems services. They may have obvious primary functions, but each asset can perform different functions simultaneously – ‘multifunctionality.’

The natural environment between and within towns and cities, including greenspace, vegetation and water. Provision of GI offers a multitude of ecosystem services (i.e. the benefits that people derive from nature) and forms part of a sustainable approach to the

management of natural resources. New infrastructure should seek to strengthen and reinforce existing assets within a site, and it should be planned and designed to be beneficially multi-functional.

Principal Targets of GI.

The principal multifunctional targeted benefits of GI are to:

1. Protect and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems and their connectivity;
2. Consider Opportunities for habitat protection, restoration, creation and management in the provision of GI;
3. Contribute to improved mental health with more direct contact with nature, the seasons and natural processes;
4. Identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure could be improved and enhanced as part of placemaking;
5. Provide opportunities for improved physical health and wellbeing through recreational access, community permeability and connectivity;
6. Enhance place-making, identity and sense of community ownership;
7. Improve townscape and landscape quality and visual amenity;
8. Integrate play and recreation in GI networks;
9. Improve micro-climate (summer cooling/winter shelter);
10. Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate changes improving of;
 - Oxygen production.
 - Carbon sequestration (locking carbon in vegetation and soils).
 - Water sequestration (vegetation evapotranspiration and formal attenuations).
 - Improve air and water quality.
 - Reduce flood risk.
 - Provide alternative transportation opportunities (cycling/walking/public transport links).

Green/Blue Infrastructure (GI) is the term adopted in this document to incorporate the now more fully developed drainage requirements for developments under SABs, (Sustainable Drainage Approval Body) in Wales, along with other GI elements including all the features of

Policy & Guidance

Planning Policy Wales 2024 (12th Edition)

6.2 Green Infrastructure

“Green infrastructure plays a fundamental role in shaping places and our sense of well-being, and are intrinsic to the quality of the spaces we live, work and play in. The planning system should protect and enhance green infrastructure assets and networks because of these multi-functional roles. The protection and enhancement of biodiversity must be carefully considered as part of green infrastructure provision alongside the need to meet society’s wider social and economic objectives and the needs of local communities. The multiple benefits that resilient ecosystems and green infrastructure offer to society, including the economic and social contribution they make to local areas, should be taken into account when balancing and improving these needs.”

“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, green infrastructure can embed the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services into new development and places, helping to overcome the potential for conflicting objectives, and contributing towards health and well-being outcomes.”

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure

“To ensure the enhancement of biodiversity, the resilience of ecosystems and the provision of green infrastructure, the Welsh Government will work with key partners to:

- identify areas which should be safeguarded and created as ecological networks for their importance for adaptation to climate change, for habitat protection, restoration or creation, to protect species, or which provide key ecosystems services, to ensure they are not unduly compromised by future development; and
- identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure could be maximised as part of placemaking, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and well-being.

Planning authorities should include these areas and/or opportunities in their development plan strategies and policies in order to promote and safeguard the functions and opportunities they provide. In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity (to provide a net benefit), the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through

innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment.”

“As part of a green infrastructure assessment, broad opportunities for habitat protection, restoration or creation and the provision of green infrastructure may be specified as part of identifying areas to be safeguarded or may take the form of more specific allocations. This may be achieved, for example, through the provision of buffer areas around protected sites or stepping stones connecting habitats or through the identification of green infrastructure in and around urban areas.”

Development GI Process

The stepwise approach (PPW 12, page 148 figure 12) has been implemented. A summary of the stepwise approach;

1. **Avoid**
To avoid damage to biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.
2. **Minimise**
Alternative sites that would result in less harm, no harm or gain are to be fully considered to minimise the any harmful environment effects.
3. **Mitigate/Restore**
‘...ensure that features and elements of biodiversity or green infrastructure value are retained on site and enhanced or created where ever possible.’
4. **Compensate on site**
Onsite compensation must be sought when all other options have been exhausted.
5. **Compensate off site**
Offsite compensation must be sought when all other options have been exhausted.
6. **Long Term Management**
Long Term Management of retained and new GI assets to secure enhancement.

Summary of Effects, Mitigation & Enhancement,

The ecology walk over and bat emergence survey have identified the following key consideration.

- No evidence of protected species were recorded during the site walkover assessment.
- No evidence of use by roosting bats was identified over the course of the building inspection and emergence survey and based on the findings, the building was considered of Negligible roost potential. There are a limited number of features present that could allow access for individual or low numbers of bats on an irregular basis, with the northern lane and associated hedgerows/scrub confirmed as being used by foraging/commuting bats.
- The current survey has established likely absence of bats from the building
- Potential for nesting birds within the on site woodland, scrub and buildings.
- Potential for hedgehogs to utilise amenity grassland habitat on site for foraging and commuting purposes.
- Potential for existing woodland within the west and north of the site to support hibernation and breeding sites. Hard standing may be suitable for basking.
- Potential foraging opportunities for invertebrates within amenity grassland within southern areas of the site and within the wooded areas to the west and north.

Step 1: **Avoid**

The proposals will not remove any trees or hedges.

The timing of site clearance will be undertaken in autumn/winter (Sept – March) unless supervised by an ecologist.

Step 2 **Minimise**

On-site woodland, scrub and buildings offer potential for nesting birds.

Where possible, demolition works to be undertaken in autumn/winter (Sept – March) to further reduce the risk that bats would be present and also to minimise the risk of encountering nesting birds unless supervised by an ecologist.

There will be additional planting and laying of hedges and this work will be times to suit the growing and ecological seasons.

Step 3/4: Mitigate/Restore and Compensate

Hedgerows to the eastern and western boundaries are to be 'gapped up' with native species, to include Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) respectively. Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) is proposed to be used to 'gap up' the eastern boundary while, a new hedge comprising of Privet (*Ligustrum ovalifoilum*) is proposed to the southern boundary of the site.

The additional hedges and new garden area will mitigate for the loss of existing scrub areas.

Step 5: Compensate (offsite)

All enhancements are on site and no offsite compensation is required.

Step 6: Long Term Management

With the simple nature of the proposed Landscape /GI elements, formal long term Management is considered to be minimal. Grass and the proposed hedges will require periodic cutting, laying and replacement of any planting that does not become established.

GI Conclusion

The above stepwise GI assessment process has informed the development approach, will avoid loss of important GI and result in positive enhancements to the ecology and landscape.