

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT - LAND ADJACENT TO 20 HIGH CROSS DRIVE, NEWPORT, NP10 9AB

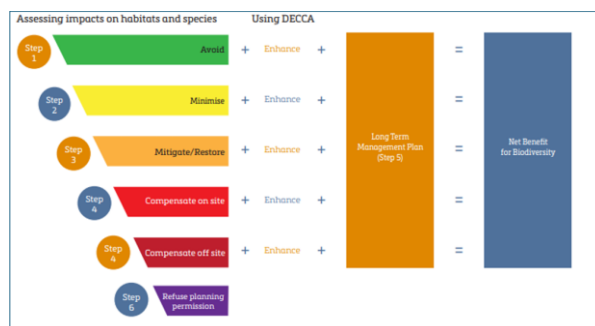
1.0 Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared in support of the outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of one dwelling on land Adjacent to 20 High Cross Drive, Newport, NP10 9AB. It responds to the requirements of Planning Policy Wales 12 (PPW12), Future Wales, and the Newport Local Development Plan in relation to biodiversity enhancement, landscape integration and the Stepwise Approach.

2.0 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. The figure below sets out the summary of the stepwise approach as set out in the Chapter 6 of PPW.

Summary of the Step-Wise Approach



The statement demonstrates how the proposed development avoids, minimises, and mitigates environmental impacts, while delivering measurable biodiversity and landscape enhancement through structured planting, soil stabilisation and ecological design measures.

3.0 Existing Green Infrastructure

The application site currently comprises an underutilised parcel of land with areas of existing grassland, boundary vegetation and established trees. These features provide localised ecological value, particularly in terms of habitat connectivity, foraging opportunities and shelter for wildlife within the surrounding residential area.

The site forms part of a wider residential green infrastructure network characterised by private gardens, boundary trees and hedgerow vegetation within the surrounding streetscape.

4.0 Retained Green Infrastructure

The development has been designed to retain existing trees and boundary vegetation wherever possible. These features will continue to provide important green infrastructure functions, including:

- Habitat provision for birds, bats and invertebrates
- Wildlife movement and ecological connectivity
- Visual screening and landscape integration
- Contribution to local character and residential amenity

Retained vegetation will form a structural framework for the proposed development and will be protected during construction through appropriate mitigation measures.

5.0 Proposed Green Infrastructure

The development incorporates a range of new green infrastructure features designed to enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience, including:

- Native tree and shrub planting within the site
- Native wildflower grassland areas to increase habitat diversity
- New soft landscaping using native species of local provenance where practicable
- Domestic garden space designed to support ecological function alongside residential use

These measures will diversify habitat types within the site and strengthen ecological connectivity within the surrounding area.

6.0 Biodiversity Net Benefit and Enhancement Measures

In accordance with the step-wise approach set out in Planning Policy Wales, the development seeks to avoid, minimise and enhance biodiversity impacts.

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) prepared by BE Ecological Ltd identifies a range of enhancement measures, including:

- Installation of bat boxes and bird boxes within the development
- Sensitive lighting design to minimise light spill and maintain dark corridors
- Native planting to support pollinators and invertebrates
- Precautionary working methods for breeding birds and reptiles during construction

These measures will ensure the development delivers a measurable biodiversity enhancement and contributes to ecosystem resilience, in line with Policy GP5 of the Newport LDP and the Section 6 biodiversity duty.

7.0 Construction Phase Considerations

During construction, best practice measures will be implemented to protect retained vegetation and ecological features. These will include:

- Protection of retained trees and boundary vegetation through appropriate fencing
- Timing of vegetation clearance outside the bird breeding season where possible
- Ecological supervision or pre-commencement checks where required
- Avoidance of unnecessary disturbance to retained habitats

These measures will ensure that existing green infrastructure is safeguarded throughout the development process.

8.0 Conclusion

The proposed development retains existing ecological features where possible and introduces new green infrastructure through native planting, habitat creation and biodiversity enhancement measures.

The scheme delivers a net benefit for biodiversity in accordance with Planning Policy Wales, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and Policy GP5 (Natural Environment) of the Newport Local Development Plan. It also contributes positively to local green infrastructure networks and supports the long-term resilience of ecosystems within the urban environment.

Overall, the development represents a sustainable form of growth that integrates green infrastructure into the design and delivers ecological enhancement in line with national and local planning policy.