

## **Blas Gwent: Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme**

This document sets out the biodiversity enhancements proposed at Blas Gwent Organic Veg Farm as part of the discharge of **Conditions 5 & 6** of the Decision Notice dated 20 March 2025 for consent for our planning application **24/0772**.

**Site Address:** Blas Gwent, St Peters Crescent, Peterstone Wentlooge, Cardiff CF3 2TR

**Consented Development:** Extension of Existing Polytunnel, Erection of An Agricultural Barn with a Photovoltaic Array on the Roof and Installation of a Sewage Treatment System

**Last updated:** June 2026

### **Other relevant documents**

Numerous documents and surveys were submitted in the course of our planning application. This document adds to the following with respect to biodiversity improvement plans:

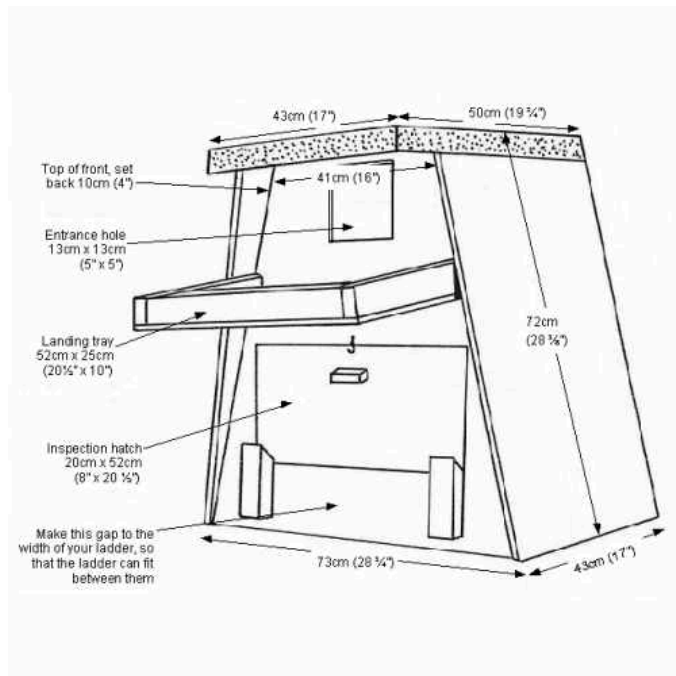
- Green Infrastructure Statement (Received: 17.01.2025)
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Received: 06.11.2024)
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Received: 23.09.2024)
- Blas Gwent Soft Landscape & Management Plan (Received: 23.09.2024)

### **Summary of measures proposed**

- A barn owl box
- Species rich hedgerow planting
- Wildflower
- Management for the Sh

### **Barn Owl Box**

A barn owl box will be installed on the western gable end of the barn. This will be done in accordance with a design recommended by the Barn Owl Trust as shown below and will be fixed at least 4 metres high, as recommended by the Barn Owl Trust.



## Species rich native hedgerow

The existing nascent screening hedge running east/west in front of the development area will be managed and enhanced with an additional row of plants.

A new east/west hedgerow at the southern end of the field will be planted connecting existing hedgerow and scrub on either side of the field. The space between this additional hedgerow and the southern boundary will be a wildlife habitat area of approximately 1 acre.

The hedgerows will be approximately 35% goat willow (*salix capria*), 35% crack willow (*salix fragilis*), 10% downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) and 20% other.



## Wildflower seeding

We will sow mixed native wildflower strips across the site as a means of supporting pollinators, particularly the Shril Carder Bee, and to support natural pest control in line with organic farming principles. The strips will be spread out over the site with the total area of all the wildflowers approximately 1000m<sup>2</sup>. The wildflower seed mix will include:

- Agrimony, Common - *Agrimonia eupatoria*
- Bedstraw, Lady's - *Galium verum*
- Betony - *Stachys officinalis*
- Black Medick - *Medicago lupulina*
- Burnet, Salad - *Sanguisorba minor*
- Buttercup, Meadow - *Ranunculus acris*
- Campion, White - *Silene alba*
- Carrot, Wild - *Daucus carota*
- Clary, Wild - *Salvia verbenaca*
- Clover, red, - *Trifolium pratense*
- Cowslip - *Primula veris*
- Daisy, Ox-eye - *Leucanthemum vulgare*
- Goat's-beard - *Tragopogon pratensis*
- Hawkbit, Rough - *Leontodon hispidus*
- Knapweed, Common - *Centaurea nigra*
- Knapweed, Greater- *Centaurea scabiosa*
- Meadowsweet - *Filipendula ulmaria*
- Plantain, Hoary - *Plantago, media*

- Plantain, Ribwort - *Plantago lanceolata*
- Poppy, Common - *Papaver rhoeas*
- Ragged Robin - *Lychnis flos-cuculi*
- Scabious, Field - *Knautia arvensis*
- Self-heal - *Prunella vulgaris*
- Sorrel, Common - *Rumex acetosa*
- Vetch, Tufted - *Vicia cracca*
- Yarrow - *Achillea millefolium*
- Yellow-rattle - *Rhinanthus minor*

## **Wildlife pond**

An on-site pond is to be created, not connected to existing drainage ditches. The pond will be fed clean water from the polytunnel.

- The pond will consist of a deeper and shallow area, with gently sloping sides
- At least one side of the pond will be adjacent to an area of continuous semi-natural habitat: an establishing orchard with rough grassland and wildflowers.

Hibernacula of stone and brash piles will be created close to the pond edge and maintained, particularly while vegetation is becoming naturally established.

## **Management for Shrill Carder Bees**

The Gwent levels are one of five remaining sites of importance for the Shrill carder bee *Bombus sylvarum*. The habitat will be managed to encourage *B.sylvarum* by combining areas of flower rich foraging habitat with undisturbed nesting areas:

- The wildlife area beyond the newly planted hedgerow will be left undisturbed between March-September to provide tussocky grass for nesting.
- In September, this area will be mown and the clippings removed, to reduce fertility and encourage wildflower species.

There are also numerous records for the declining Brown Banded Carder Bee in the area, which will also benefit from this habitat management.

## **Management for Grass snakes**

The farm and surrounding grassland, scrub, and wetland habitat is suitable for grass snake, and records are present in the local area. Enhancements on site to encourage grass snake include:

- Grass clippings from mowing used to create undisturbed compost piles for egg laying.
- Creating a continuous network of habitat on site with the creation of new hedgerows, undisturbed rank grass areas, and buffer strips of rotationally mown areas alongside hedgerows and ditches.

## **Ongoing enhancements**

The farm is organically certified and biodiversity is a key priority for the farm managers and growers. As we develop our business and growing techniques we will continue to seek new ways to enhance and protect onsite biodiversity on the land and in the reens.