

Biodiversity Enhancement & Green Infrastructure Statement

**Gaer Road,
Newport**

October 2025



Summary

Proposal:

Proposed change of use of Gaer Road building to community facility (D2 use class), siting of storage container and associated works

Location:

Gaer Road, Newport, NP20 3HW

Date:

October 2025

Project Reference:

25.203

Client:

Hedyn

Product of:

Asbri Planning Limited
Unit 9 Oak Tree Court,
Mulberry Drive,
Cardiff Gate Business Park,
Cardiff CF23 8RS

Prepared by:

Georgia McColm | Graduate Planner

Checked by:

Geraint Jones | Principal Planner

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Introduction & Context

- 1.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement and Green Infrastructure Statement accompanies the full application submitted by Asbri Planning on behalf of Hedyn for the change of use of the Gaer Road building from B2 (Industrial) to D2 (Community facility).
- 1.2 As this planning application comprises a change of use application and does not propose any alterations or changes to the building's exterior (such as roofing works), it is not considered that any significant adverse impacts on the local biodiversity and ecology context, including priority and nesting species, will arise.
- 1.3 The site boundary is outlined in red in the image below.



Figure 1: Site Location

- 1.4 Following the Welsh Government updates in February 2024 to Planning Policy Wales, Chapter 6 '*Distinctive and Natural Places*' of the document states that planning applications are now required to demonstrate how they will encourage biodiversity and incorporate GI. Newport City Council reflects this priority within its Local Development Plan (Adopted June 2017), particularly through its GP5 General Development Principles – Natural Environment policy.
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Biodiversity Enhancement

- 2.1 As part of this application, it is proposed to install both a surface mounted bat box and a surface mounted bird/swift box. The bat box is set to be located on the southern elevation and the bird/swift box on the northeast elevation. These are to be constructed by the users of the Menshed. This is considered proportional for the minor nature of the development proposals, and is considered to contribute appropriately to delivering biodiversity enhancement as a direct result of development. This would improve local opportunities for nesting habitats while taking into account the site's built context.
- 2.3 The locations referenced on the proposed works plan are considered suitable for their intended use. The bat box being situated to the rear of the building is considered beneficial for the bats as the box will benefit from lower light pollution due to the artificial light sources being situated on the front of the building. The bird box is to be situated on the north east elevation which is ideal in protecting against harsh weather conditions. The bat box is to be located approximately 2.4m high on the building and the bird box approximately 2.5m, ensuring that they are not easily accessible to predators.

Green Infrastructure

- 3.1 The site is located in the community of Gaer which is approximately 2.25km from the centre of Newport. The surrounding area consists of a built-up residential context, meaning its local GI features are minimal, and mainly consist of scattered trees and small parcels of grassland. The site itself consists of hardstanding, offering limited biodiversity value and contributing little to the wider GI network. Therefore, the proposed green infrastructure is minimal, including the introduction of two hedgerows and planters. Although minor, these works will enhance and offer improvement to the current hardstanding on the site.

Conclusion

- 4.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement and Green Infrastructure Statement accompanies the planning application submitted by Asbri Planning on behalf of Hedyn for the proposed change of use of Gaer Road building to community facility (D2 use class), siting of storage container and associated works.
- 4.2 The proposals' biodiversity features have been carefully considered in the context of the surrounding built environment and are proportionate to the minor scale of the proposed development. To conclude, it is believed that the proposed measures supply habitats for threatened species (i.e., bats and birds) and add minor green infrastructure to a site which currently consists of hardstanding. As such, the proposal aligns with the requirements set out by Planning Policy Wales and Newport City Council's local planning policy.
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