

Green Infrastructure Statement

Site Address: 48 The Shires, CF3 2AZ

Proposal: Erection of a single-storey rear extension

1. Introduction

In accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW12), this statement outlines the green infrastructure measures incorporated into the proposed development to enhance biodiversity and contribute to ecosystem resilience at the site.

2. Existing Site Ecology

The existing garden area is domestic in character and contains no protected habitats or notable ecological features. Vegetation removed to accommodate the extension is minimal, as the majority of the extension's footprint sits on the existing patio. A small area of single-species amenity grass will be lost, comprising only limited, self-seeded planting with negligible ecological value and no long-term significance.

3. Proposed Enhancements

To mitigate against any minor habitat loss and to deliver biodiversity net gain, the following enhancements are proposed:

a. Nesting Provision

- A Schwegler 1SP Sparrow Terrace will be installed on the north-facing wall of the existing house, just under the eaves of the hipped roof. This high-level, sheltered position replicates natural sparrow nesting sites and is in line with best practice guidance. The box provides three separate nesting chambers, offering safe and durable habitat for house sparrows, a red-listed UK species whose nesting opportunities have declined due to modern construction.

b. Pollinator-Friendly Planting

- A 5m x 1m raised bed will be installed in the rear garden and planted with a mix of nectar-rich, pollinator-supporting perennials, including *Verbena bonariensis*, *Lavandula angustifolia*, *Salvia nemorosa*, and *Sedum 'Autumn Joy'*. Ground cover herbs such as *Thymus vulgaris* will provide low-growing structure, while *Allium* bulbs add spring interest.
- All planting will be in peat-free compost and finished with a 50mm bark mulch layer to suppress weeds and retain moisture.

c. Water Management

- All new patio or hard surfacing associated with the extension will use permeable materials, such as gravel or permeable paving slabs, to reduce surface water runoff and support sustainable drainage.

4. Conclusion

The proposed enhancements are modest but meaningful, proportionate to the scale of the development, and in line with national biodiversity and green infrastructure objectives. The measures will contribute to local habitat provision, support pollinators and small wildlife, and create a more ecologically functional and attractive domestic garden.