

[illegible]

1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of reference

1.1.1 This document provides a Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) in support of the proposed landscape works, at Malpas park primary school, Newport. The statement has been produced with reference to Planning Policy Wales (PPW). Section 6.2 sets out that green infrastructure should be given early consideration in development proposals and that a GIS should be prepared that is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed.

1.1.1 In line with PPW this GIS aims to describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal and be effective in providing positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site.

1.1.2 The document should be read in conjunction with the associated documents and drawings.

1.2 The site

1.2.1 The site is located approximately 0.6km north of Malpas and is accessed from Wavell drive. The site is surrounded by existing residential areas. The wider landscape leading to Cwmbran and Newport lie to the north and south.

1.2.2 Proposals include the replacement of existing gates and fencing with associated landscape works.

1.3 Document structure

1.3.1 The document is set out in the following sections:

- Section 1: Introduction;
- Section 2: Green infrastructure baseline;
- Section 3: Green infrastructure Strategy;
- Section 4: Net benefit for biodiversity;
- Section 5: Conclusions.

2 Green infrastructure baseline

2.1.1 The existing site contains the primary school and a number of landscape elements. These include areas of amenity grass, hard standing and existing vegetation.

2.1.2 Within the landscape are a number of trees and hedges predominately along the northern boundary.

- 2.1.3 Overall, the green infrastructure within the site is of low value consisting of amenity grass and a small number of standalone trees.
- 2.1.4 Whilst the existing trees and hedge line to the north of the site is to be retained, it is recommended that any trimming should be conducted outside of the bird nesting season or preceded by a visual check for nesting birds.

3 Green infrastructure strategy

- 3.1.1 Utilising the baseline information, a green infrastructure strategy has been developed. This has been informed by the step-wise approach to *"maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimised, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for."*
- 3.1.2 In addition, a number of enhancements are integrated into the development and where possible a net benefit for biodiversity is provided.
- 3.1.3 Table 1.1 sets out the stages considered as part of the step-wise approach and the associated actions integrated into the proposed development.

Table 1.1: Step-wise approach

Steps	Aim	Action
Avoid	Avoidance of any adverse impacts on habitats and/ or species as a direct or indirect result of the development.	The main element of the works lie along the east, south and west boundaries of the site which is identified as being of low ecological value. Retention of the habitat corridor along the northern boundary.
Minimise	Minimise as far as practically the severity of any impacts.	Existing trees at the northern part of the site are to be retained where possible to contribute to the ecological value.
Mitigate	Mitigate for losses as a direct result of the development.	A native hedgerow has been proposed along the north of the site to enhance connectivity.
Compensation (on or off site)	Provision of alternative habitats. Proposed tree planting at a ratio equivalent to the	Mitigation commensurate with the losses anticipated from the development are proposed and no compensation for

quality, environmental and ecological importance of the trees lost (min. 3 trees for every 1 lost).	biodiversity impacts are included.
---	------------------------------------

4 Net benefit for biodiversity

4.1.1 PPW states the planning system must ensure development results in a net benefit for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience to enhance well-being. Furthermore, it defines a net benefit as development leaving *“biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in a significantly better state than before, through securing immediate and long term, measurable and demonstrable benefit, primarily on or immediately adjacent to the site.”*

4.1.2 In line with PPW the development seeks to provide a net benefit for biodiversity. These are provided through a number of enhancements that aim to align with the DECCA framework including:

- Diversity – enhancing diversity by providing new native hedge planting;
- Extent – retention of the existing trees and hedges along the northern boundary to maintain semi-natural habitat areas and linkages;
- Condition – improving the condition of the site with the implementation of a long-term management and maintenance plan;
- Connectivity – creating a habitat corridor along the northern boundary of the site that links between habitats and improves connections; and
- Aspects of resilience – This includes retention of tree planting to help with cooling, shading and carbon storage, vegetation cover to reduce water runoff, along with a range of varied size/scales of habitats to contribute to ecological value and resilience.

5 Conclusions

5.1.1 Overall, the green infrastructure within the site is of low value consisting of a small number of standalone trees and areas of amenity grass.

5.1.2 A number of potential impacts on site have been avoided due to the arrangement of the development. In addition, existing trees are to be retained on site where possible to contribute to the overall ecological value.

- 5.1.3 The retention of the hedge and trees along the northern and eastern boundaries will enhance the connectivity within the site and to the wider landscape.
- 5.1.4 Planting proposals have been included within the development with the aim of mitigating any losses as a result of the development, diversify the existing ecosystem, and provide a net benefit for biodiversity.