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### Green Infrastructure Statement SD1225 St Helens

Planning consent is sought a retrospective consent for a rear dormer to the roof of a residential property.  
Aerial images showing the development site within the context of the village of Goldcliff which is provided in Appendix 1. This report focuses on the enhancement within the site boundary only. The site comprises of a large, flat, area of land, bounded by highways with extensive vegetation or ecological habitat, none of which is altered in this application.

Section 6.2 of Planning Policy Wales 2024 (12th Edition) requests that all Planning Authorities Have a strategic and proactive approach to green infrastructure. Paragraph 6.2.12 advises that a infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. The approach green infrastructure within planning applications needs to be proportionate to the scale. nature of the development proposals.  
*This development contains minimal building work, no changes to amenity space and is an existing building.*

Paragraph 6.4.15 details a stepwise approach for the consideration of green infrastructure within development proposals. In summary this approach follows the below steps:  
• AVOID - Consider options to avoid any potential harm to an ecological feature.  
*There is no impact on any ecological feature to avoid.*

• MITIGATE - If negative effects are unavoidable, measures should be implemented minimise and reduce potential effect.  
*Additions have been made within the constraints of the site.*

• COMPENSATE - If negative effects are still likely to be experienced, despite measure reduce impacts being implemented, appropriate compensatory measures should. implemented.  
*There is nothing to compensate for.*

• ENHANCEMENT - Works should always seek to provide net benefits for biodiversity to help meet the section 7 & 6 requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 201  
The DECCA Framework helps to implement the Section 6 biodiversity duty of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016. In summary the DECCA Framework requests:

- DIVERSITY - can the proposals deliver a more diverse habitat and species assemblages.

*Planting and habitat added.*

- EXTENT - can the proposals help to maintain or increase the extent of habitat or species assemblages.

*The extent is widened with the constraints of the site.*

- CONDITION - can the proposals help to maintain or increase the conditions of habitat and species range within a site or local area.

*Habitat added*

- CONNECTIVITY - can the proposals deliver opportunities to connect ecological network within the local or regional area.

*Connectivity exists in this open setting.*

- ADAPTABILITY - do the proposals help to provide measures which ensure ecological networks can adapt to external pressures. Severely restricted opportunity habitats will allow some roosting of avian and mammalian species.

#### Site Location

The site is situated on Chapel Lane Goldcliff,

The site is level and the gardens are laid to lawn and general planting.

The residential area of Goldcliff extends to the south, this is a mixture of houses and bungalows.

#### Existing Green Infrastructure

A walkover survey of the development site was conducted on the 15th of November 2025

The survey visit found the site to contain standard garden planting within its boundary; there are fence panels to the boundaries.

#### Proposed Green Infrastructure

There are no detailed landscape plans available at present due to the fact there is no alteration to the existing area. Given the small scale of the development site and the fact there is no ground level development, there is no reason to add native planting feature.

#### Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements

While these measures aren't strictly green infrastructure features, they help improve the overall biodiversity value of the development site.

One bat and one bird box will be provided on the existing building. The exact type of bat and bird box suggested are boxes like Vivara Pro WoodStone® Swift Nest Box and Schwegler 1FF Bat Box, these are to be provided. A swift box has been chosen not to attract swifts, specifically, as swift boxes are known to be used by a variety of small bird species. There is open access between the site and the neighbouring properties.

Obviously, this is a minimal proposal, and this represents a proportionate response to the minimal space of the proposal, as required by the legislation.

Fig 1. Greenery in land



## **Conclusion**

With no external changes to the land around the house and the retention of the current external planting, the habitat is maintained. The addition of some plants for foraging fauna and habitat facilitating nesting birds and bats is the extent of this proportionate response.

## *Appendix 1. Planting Statement*

### **Organic Mulching**

Prepare the Area: Clear any existing weeds or debris from around the base of the clematis.

Apply the Mulch: Spread a 75mm layer of mulch around the base of the plant, keeping it 50mm away from the stems.

Maintain the Mulch: Replenish the mulch layer as needed, especially if it decomposes or becomes thin.

### **Plant Supply:**

5L Potted Nursery Stock to BS 3936 Part 1 'Nursery stock specification for shrubs'

Name, forms, dimensions and other criteria as scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification. If specified plants are unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at the time of ordering, obtain approval before making any substitution.

Plants should be: Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy, vigorous, of good shape and without elongated shoots. Grown in suitable environment and hardened off. Free from pest's diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders. Budded or grafted plants to be bottom worked unless otherwise specified or approved. UK grown. Produced in peat-free compost.

Evenly spaced lateral roots with minimum four major laterals.

Evenly spaced, well developed fibrous roots. An intact root-ball with the root-flare clearly visible.

### **Plant Handling:**

Handling of plants to HTA National Plant Specification and the Committee for Plant Handling and Establishment

Part 3 'Recommendations for Plant Handling from Delivery to Successful Establishment' and BS 8545:2014

All plants delivered on racks.

Protect plants from frost and from drying out.

Handle plants with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.

All plant material is to be carefully lifted, adequately and carefully packed and protected for delivery to site. Plants should not be lifted and stored on the delivery vehicle overnight. Ideally plants should be lifted, delivered to the site and planted on the same day. On delivery to site, bare-root or root-balled plants, should be stacked together, away from the effects of the drying winds, their roots being covered with sand or fine soil and watered to prevent drying out. Plants may require to be heeled-in, using prepared trenches, covered with soil (fine material) and watered thoroughly. Stored plants should be checked regularly to ensure their root systems are fully covered and that the soil (fine material) is kept moist.

### **Planting:**

Set out plants evenly to density and quantities shown, arranged to avoid straight lines and geometric patterns. Plant to the nursery soil depth, face up to present best side, and firm in.

For bare root stock, dip in a proprietary alginate prior to planting such as Alginure/Broadleaf P4 anti-desiccant gel before planting.

**Mulch specification:**

Generally, an amenity grade of bark mulch is required. Spread evenly to a depth of 50mm, increasing to 75mm. around trees. Ensure no plant foliage is covered by mulch, lift all ground cover foliage above.

**Immediate aftercare:**

Immediately after planting cut back any damaged, dead or diseased, weak, thin or malformed growth.

Water as necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all planting. Ensure the full depth of topsoil is thoroughly wetted. Use a fine rose where appropriate to avoid damaging or loosening plants.

Numbers.

A 3 no. Barberry -*Berberis* spp.

B 2 no. Currant -*Ribes* spp.

C 4no. English Lavender -*Lavandula angustifolia*

D 3 no. Honeysuckle-*Lonicera periclymenum*

**MANAGEMENT**

For new planting and seeding areas undertake maintenance visits in April, May, July, and September.

During the 5-year establishment phase to carry out maintenance of the planted areas as follows:

**MONITORING AND REMEDIAL MEASURES**

An annual walkover will be undertaken by the applicant to monitor establishment success, with any plants or areas that fail to thrive during the 5-year establishment phase to be replaced in the next suitable planting season. Replacements will match the size of adjacent or nearby plants of the same species or should match the original specification, whichever is the greater.

**PLANTING DETAIL**

Plant in a single row, cover hedge area with organic mulch to 50mm depth x 800mm width.

full width bark mulch to 50mm from plant. site-won topsoil to BS3882: 2015 to 300mm depth

trench width 750mm and top slightly domed to shed water.