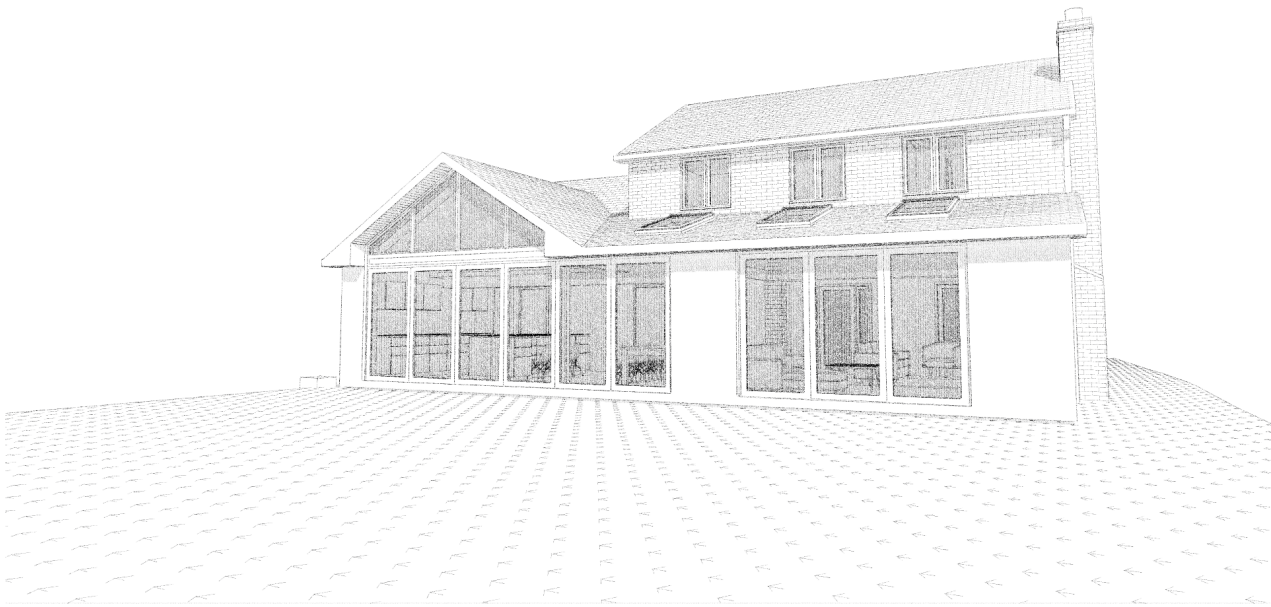




Green Infrastructure Statement

Prepared for: Mr & Mrs Casoria

Prepared by: Jesus Ramos

25 April 2025

Project Number: 343

Project Name: 7 Vicarage Gardens, Marshfield

BACKGROUND

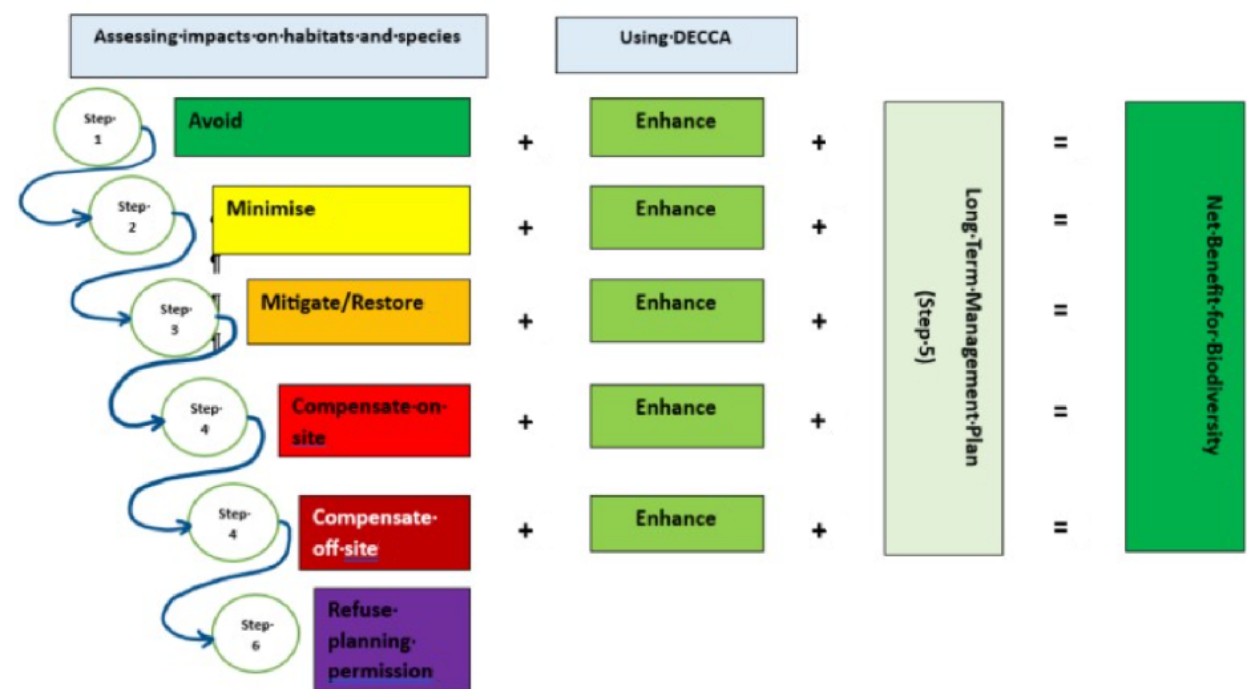
On 11th October 2023 the Welsh Government issued updated National Planning Policy for chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales.

The updated policy guidance recognises the value of green infrastructure within the built environment. In order to facilitate a quality built environment enhanced by integrated green infrastructure all planning applications must now include a green infrastructure statement.

“6.2.6 A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi- functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the step-wise approach (Paragraph 6.4.21) has been applied.”

Figure 1 below sets out the summary of the stepwise approach as set out in Annex 2 to the published advice.

Figure 1



THE PROPOSAL

Single storey rear extension.

Proposed Enhancements

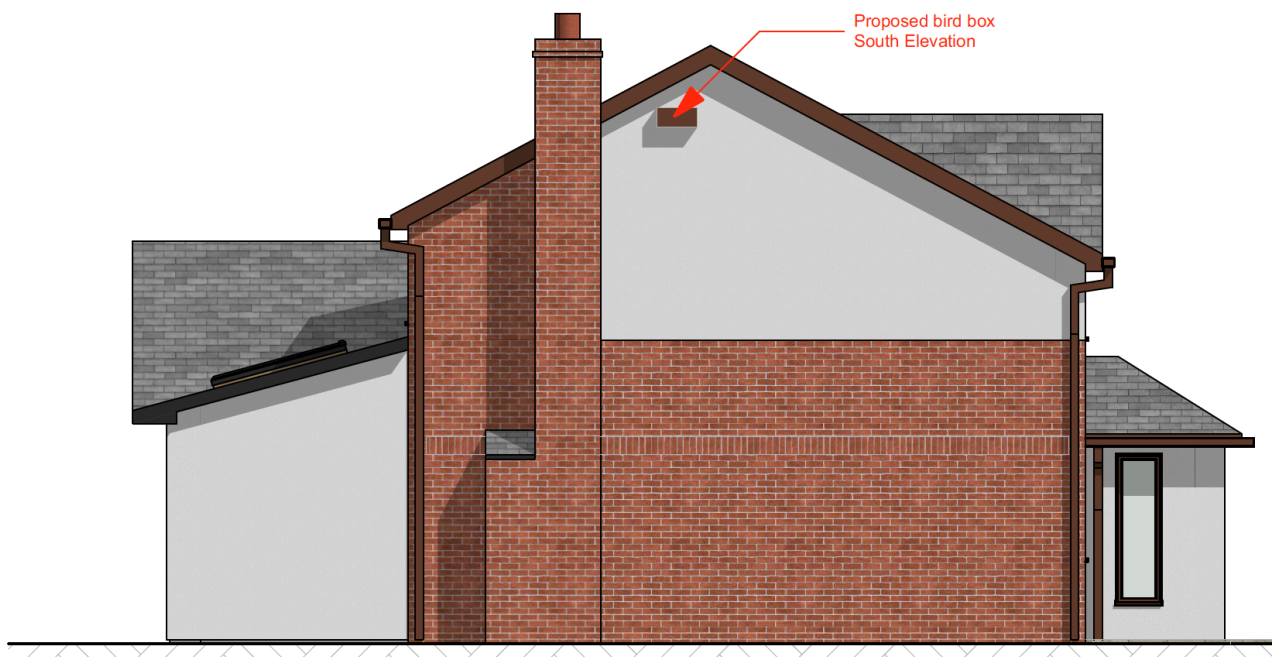
It is accepted that Future Wales now requires ecological enhancement; however, it is submitted that any ecological enhancement must be proportional to the development proposed.

Given the scale of the proposal, it is considered that providing a bird box within the site will provide adequate ecological enhancement.

Location of the bird box

The proposed bird box is located on the side (South East) elevation, as set out below in Figure 2.

Figure 2



BOX SPECIFICATIONS

RSPB Sparrow Terrace Nest Box

The current UK sparrow population is declining, and this is thought to be due to habitat destruction and a lack of suitable nesting spaces. Sparrows are social birds and like to nest in company. This sparrow terrace is ideal for three sparrow families, with its separate nest boxes in one timber terrace, each with its own 32mm entrance hole.

The nest box provides a safe and snug place for birds to roost and nest. It is made from sustainable timber and has excellent insulation properties, keeping it warm in winter and cool in summer. RSPB nest boxes are carefully designed with correct dimensions and ventilation, without perches for intruders to grip onto and threaten the occupants.

Dimensions

Externally the terrace measures: 48cm x 23cm x 17cm (W x H x D) Weight: 15kg

Maintenance

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to disturb breeding birds; therefore, annual cleaning cannot be undertaken between March and September inclusive. Bird nest boxes should be cleaned in October to prevent the build-up of nest parasites in the boxes whilst avoiding the risk of disturbing birds using the boxes as a roost site during the cold winter months. All nesting material and other debris should be removed from the box. Ideally, it should then be scrubbed clean with boiling water to kill parasites (avoid using chemicals). Once the box is clean, it should dry out thoroughly. Bird boxes should be left up over winter as they can provide useful roosting sites for birds in bad weather.

RSPB nest boxes are made with thick timber and will survive for many years, even without preservatives.

If you want to protect your nest box further, use a water-based preservative (preferably one that complies with standard EN71 part 3 as safe for children's toys). Such paint/preservative types are marked on the container and are available from DIY stores and hardware shops.

Preservatives should only be applied outside of the box. Apply in the winter, when there is a low likelihood of occupancy. This will allow time for any remaining volatile components to evaporate.

Site lighting and dark corridors

Measures will be taken to minimise light pollution and reduce any impact on nocturnal fauna, such as bats and moths. Any lighting within the rear garden will be under the guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT 2018). Appropriate ground-facing, energy-saving lighting will be used on timers. Trees and hedgerows on site will not be affected, thus allowing dark corridors to be maintained for Nocturnal wildlife.

Implementation

- Bird Boxes - Within one month of the completion of works

GIA ASSESSMENT

Table 1 below sets out the stepwise approach in assessing impacts of a development on habitats and the species.

Table 1

Steps	Assessment	Enhancement	Long Term Maintenance	Net Benefits
1 Avoid	The majority of the proposed extension replaces the existing extension and hard landscaping. This reduces and damage to the biodiversity of the site, in accordance with the Stepwise approach	A new Bird Box is proposed to the South East Elevation	Light annual cleaning in the off season	Yes
2 Minimise	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 Mitigate/Restore	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4 Compensate on Site	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5 Compensate off Site	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

CONCLUSION

Applying the step-by-step approach, the assessment indicates that:

- The development avoids any damage to biodiversity
- The proposal provides an ecological enhancement proportionate to the scale of the development.
- The proposed ecological enhancement will be maintenance free
- There is a net benefit to biodiversity as a result of the development.