



Ymddiriedolaeth
Genedlaethol
National Trust

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT. TREDEGAR HOUSE AND GARDEN

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Address of site: Tredegar House, Pencarn Way, Newport, NP10 8YW

Grid reference: ST 28571 85338

Description of Proposal:

Replacement of a children's play area in the parkland at Tredegar House. The existing play area at Tredegar House Gardens has reached the end of its usable life and no longer meets modern safety standards or accessibility expectations. The proposed replacement play park represents a significant opportunity to enhance the visitor experience at Tredegar House, particularly for families, while aligning with the National Trust's wider aims of improving inclusive access to heritage sites. The new play equipment has been carefully selected to reflect the character and heritage setting of the gardens, with a design that is sympathetic to the historic environment while offering a safe, stimulating, and durable play space.

1. Policy Context

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016, provides a context for the delivery of multi-functional green infrastructure. Its protection and provision can make a significant contribution to the sustainable management of natural resources. To protecting, maintaining and enhancing biodiversity the extent and condition of these ecosystems, so that they are better able to resist, recover from and adapt to pressures. This means that the development of green infrastructure is an important way for local authorities to deliver their Section 6 duty.

Green infrastructure is the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales and some components, such as trees and woodland, are often universally present and function at all levels. At the landscape scale green infrastructure can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways, peatlands and mountain ranges or be connected networks of mosaic habitats, including grasslands. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, ponds, natural green spaces, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens or may be designed or managed features such as sustainable drainage systems. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to green infrastructure networks.

All planning applications should include a green infrastructure statement which is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and describes how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal.

Green infrastructure assessments and locally based planning guidance should guide development proposals, and the GIS will demonstrate multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site and local area. The GIS will demonstrate how the project design has incorporated the stepwise approach.

2. Description of site and details of all existing green infrastructure

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been produced in respect of the proposed development in the parkland at Tredegar House.

The application site is located within the grounds of Tredegar House, a Grade I listed 17th-century mansion situated on the western edge of Newport, South Wales. The site falls within the registered Grade II* Tredegar House Historic Park and Garden and is under the custodianship of the National Trust. The house and its associated grounds are a nationally significant heritage asset, attracting a high number of local and regional visitors, approximately 520,000 per year.

The existing play area is situated to the north-west of the main house, set within the wider landscape of formal and informal gardens. It is accessed via the main pedestrian circulation routes from the visitor car park and visitor welcome area. The play park is partially screened by mature planting and lies adjacent to informal open lawn spaces. Its location benefits from natural surveillance, good access, and proximity to key visitor facilities including toilets and café.

The existing play equipment is of a modest scale and low visual impact but has deteriorated due to age and weathering. Much of the equipment is outdated, with limited inclusive

features or sensory elements. The surrounding landscape includes a mix of grass surfacing, timber edging, and soft planting.

The setting is semi-enclosed by mature trees and hedging which provide a sense of containment, whilst allowing filtered views across the gardens. The play area sits outside the formal axial alignment of the house and does not intrude on the principal sightlines from or towards the mansion. The main area of the parkland includes managed meadows, which are adjacent to the play area site.

The proposal would remove the existing play equipment and install a new, sensitively designed children's play area with the same footprint. The structures are made from durable, sustainable materials such as timber and rope.

An arboricultural report has been completed by Treecare Consulting as part of the planning of this project, and a plan of neighbouring trees has been provided. There is one tree within the play area footprint. The existing play area includes equipment in this area, but this equipment will be removed and no equipment placed directly by this tree to better manage the root protection zone (T6).

3. Rationale for selecting this location over alternative locations

The existing play area has reached the end of its life, and this scheme replaces equipment within the same play area footprint. This area is not considered to have a high potential for sub-surface archaeological remains and there is minimal ground disturbance required. Visual impacts have been carefully considered, and the locations ensures that the play area does not intrude upon the significant historic view north along Oak Avenue from Tredegar House.

4. What green infrastructure features (trees, hedges, hedgebanks) have already been removed from site and/or require removal to facilitate the development?

No green infrastructure has been removed from site to facilitate the development of the play area.

No felling, coppicing or transplanting is required. As identified in the Arboricultural report, there is minimal pruning required to improve site safety and reduce the potential of future tree failure.

5. How are the retained features being protected during development?

As noted above, an Arboricultural Report was carried out for this development, and the following recommendations given:

- The site office and compound will be placed on hard standing away from the main play area site. Ground protection will be provided for any vehicles between the compound and the development site to spread the load. They will not work on grassed, soft or tree rooting areas without ground protection.
- An on site arboricultural watching brief will be conducted
- Excavation within the T7 rooting area should be hand dug only.
- Any holes dug in rooting areas will need to be lined with polythene prior to any concrete being used in the holes for support.

6. What is being planned as mitigation for losses?

Mixed native hedging will be planted along the boundary of the play area, with the addition of flowering trees (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Nigra' and *Prunus* 'Kursar') in proximity to the play area, suiting early pollinators and partially obscuring the play area to soften its visual impact on the parkland.

Augmenting the adjoining meadow grassland with plug planting to enhance the existing herb layer (inc. *Alchemilla*, cowslip, marjoram and restharrow) and addition of bulbs (native daffodils, snakes head fritillaries) to be planted in late summer/early autumn 2026. These would extend the flowering period across the parkland, adding extra benefit for early emerging pollinators.

Along the boundary of the Caravan Park, opposite the Natural Play Area, there will be more planting of hazel, hawthorn and *Rhamnus* nearby as well as increased planting of decorative cherries along the boundary of the natural play area, providing better habitat and visual links with the rest of the parkland. The hedging species being used will be managed on a coppice rotation to provide an increase of arboreal habitats, creating future spaces for nesting birds and small mammals.

7. How will the connectivity of habitats be addressed?

The enhancements listed in the above mitigation section would help to increase habitat connectivity across the parkland. As well as softening the impact of a built play area within the historic landscape, they would boost the number of flowering plants and the length of flowering in the area, create more edge habitat with the introduction of new green features (hedges and adjoining planting), further develop recent changes to the grassland management of the parkland and create more nesting habitat through matrix management of woodland edge species and scrubby grass. The latter being particularly important for overwintering bumblebees, notably the shrill carder which has been identified on nearby sites.

8. Details of management or maintenance

The surrounding hedge will eventually be laid to improve habitat for birds and mammals, as well as increasing flowering wood for pollinators.

Grassland is managed on a meadow regime, with long grass forming ahead of a hay cut in the late summer. Some areas of grass, particularly near the woodland compartments adjoining the play area, being left to develop tussocks and

All specimen trees in the area will be managed with minimal intervention to ensure the longevity of these individual ecosystems. Careful monitoring of the root zones will be an important part of ongoing maintenance, looking for any signs of compaction pressures that may arise from increased footfall. If observed, remedial action will be taken following the input of specialist arboricultural contractors.

9. Conclusion

Based on the information provided above, this development will result in Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Net Benefits upon completion.

10. Plans and Maps:



Tredegar House
Duffryn
Newport

Play Area TCP-TPP

SCALE: 1:750 @ A4 DATE: 15/10/2025

MAP FILENAME: [Filename]

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Legend:

- TPA 8837 BG 8837 JP Groups & Areas
- AOB/Overseen work areas
- Ground Protection
- Tree Protection Fences

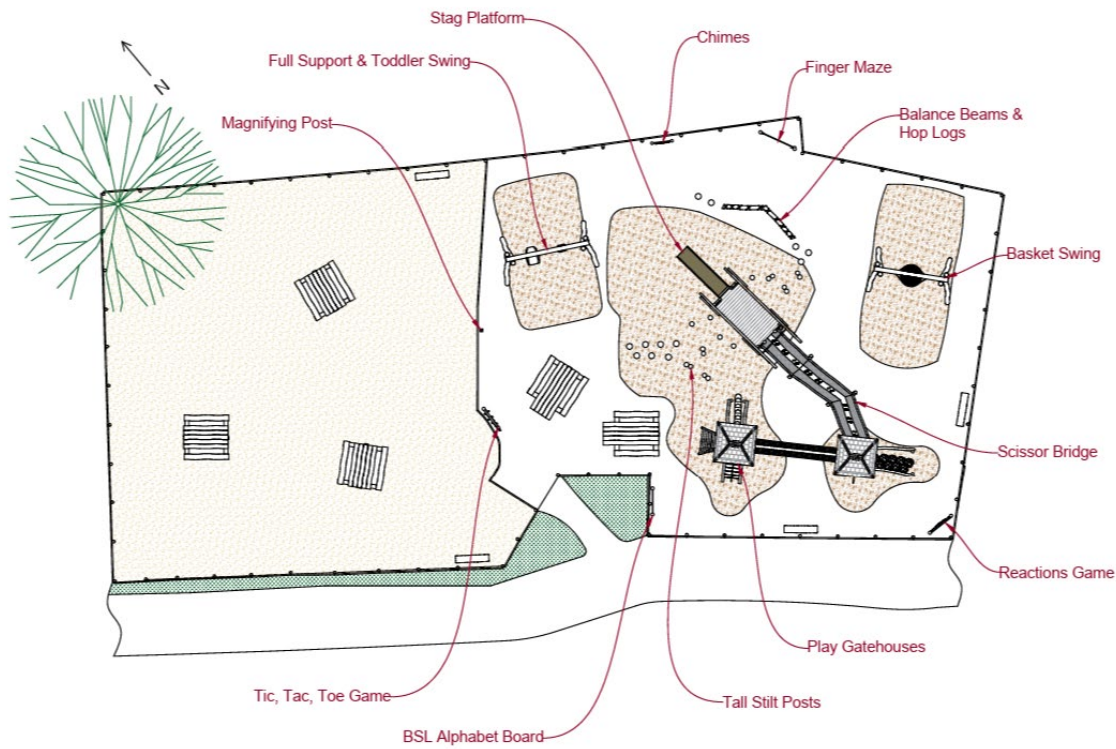
Map features include:

- TPA 8837 BG 8837 JP Groups & Areas (Pink shaded areas labeled G1, G2, G3)
- AOB/Overseen work areas (Orange cross-hatched areas labeled T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7)
- Ground Protection (Red hatched areas)
- Tree Protection Fences (Black lines)
- Ground Spread (Green circle)
- Rock Protection Area (Blue circle)
- Shading Arc (Grey circle)
- Category 'A' (Green circle)
- Category 'B' (Blue circle)
- Category 'C' (Grey circle)
- Category 'U' (Red circle)

Map labels include: Pond, Pavillion, Wr T, Track, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, G1, G2, G3, A, B, C, U.

Scale: 0 to 40m

Play area design plan:



Play Area Plan



[illegible]



11. Photographs

Photographs showing existing play area – note T7 in the play area next to the swings (equipment to be removed)

