

Green Infrastructure Assessment

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Introduction :

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

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

The Proposal :

Single storey extensions to the side and to the rear of the application site.

Proposed Enhancement :

It is accepted that Future Wales now requires ecological enhancement, however any ecological enhancement needs to be proportionate to the proposed scheme.

Given the scale of this proposal it is considered that the provision of bird boxes on the proposed side elevation will be sufficient ecological enhancement for this project.

Recently the numbers sparrows have declined substantially and in some areas they are now rarely seen. Long term studies have confirmed this drastic reduction in their numbers across Europe. The survival of these species is particularly threatened by widespread building renovation and clearance which denies them many nesting possibilities. To mitigate this we are proposing the installation of at least 2 terraced nesting boxes.

Sparrows prefer to nest in groups or colonies, so this nest box has been designed with 3 separate chambers to allow them to breed in close proximity.

This style of nest box is predominantly for house and tree sparrows, but it is not unknown for other birds to utilise them such as tits, redstarts and spotted flycatcher.

The positioning of the bird boxes is illustrated on drawing number MM-002.

Specifications :

External dimensions:

(H) 240mm, (W) 430mm, (D) 220mm



- Nesting boxes will be installed on completion of work, the positioning is shown on drawing no. MM-002 associated with this document
- Piles of logs / rocks will be situated to the rear of the garden to provide protection for animals such as frogs, toads, beetles and hedgehogs
- No harmful pesticides will be used at any point in this project.
- All existing plants and hedges on site will remain.

Conclusion :

We feel we meet the criteria set out in the revised National Planning policy as

- The development avoids any damage to biodiversity in the immediate vicinity.
- The proposed enhancements are proportionate to size of the project
- The ecological enhancements provided require minimal / no maintenance.
- There is a net benefit to diversity as a result of the development