



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

PROJECT: PROPOSED REAR CONSERVATORY EXTENSION AND NEW ROOF OVER EXISTING REAR EXTENSION.

7 COBHAM AVENUE, CIMLA, NEATH, SA11 2BP.

CLIENT: MR. & MRS. HOMANS.

DATE: 10th April 2024

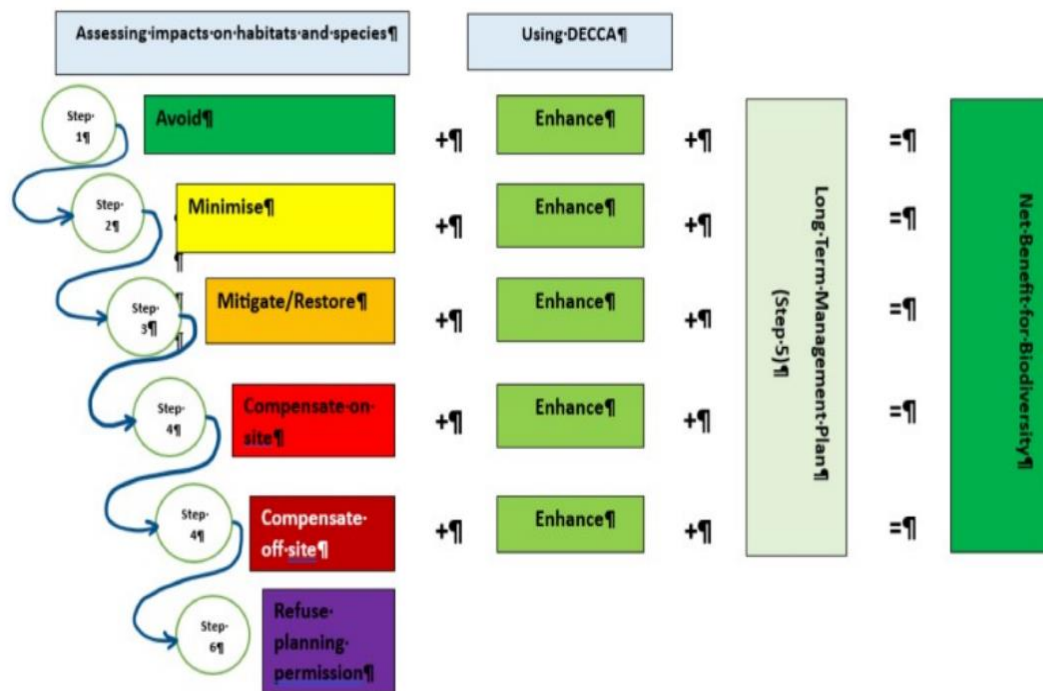
On 11th October 2023 the Welsh Government issued updated National Planning Policy for chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales. The updated policy guidance recognises the value of green infrastructure within the built environment. In order to facilitate a quality built environment enhanced by integrated green 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 the Annex2 to the published advice.

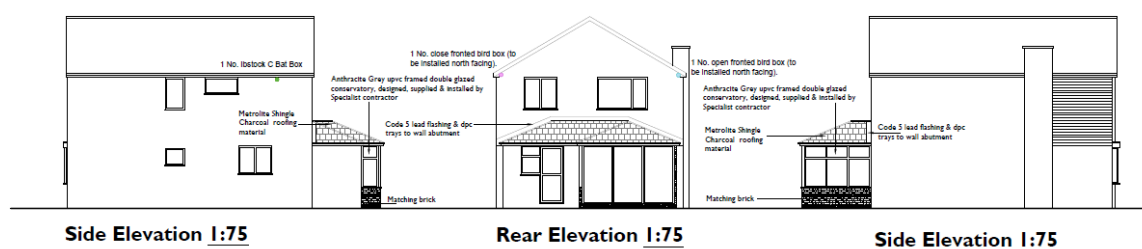
FIGURE 1



Proposed Enhancement 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 the provision of a bird boxes within the site will provide adequate ecological enhancement.

Details of the location and type of box set out below. **1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace**





Location of bird box to Front Elevation.

Box Specifications 1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace The current UK sparrow population is declining and this is thought to be due to habitat destruction and lack of suitable nesting spaces. Sparrows are social birds and like to nest in company, this sparrow terrace is ideal for three sparrow families. Made of Schwegler's revolutionary wood-concrete mix, this terrace is durable, breathable and will last many decades. It may also occasionally attract tits, redstarts and spotted flycatchers. The terrace can be fixed on to the surface of a suitable wall or incorporated into the wall. It is suitable for all types of houses in built-up areas, and on industrial and agricultural buildings such as barns, sheds and factories. Ideally place the terrace 2m or more above the ground. Either install on the surface of the wall using the plugs and screws provided, or install directly into the wall. Cleaning is advisable but not necessary, and the front panel can be removed by turning the screw hook.

Due to its weight, it is not suitable for fences or garden sheds. **Specification Dimensions (brood chamber):** 16cm x 10.5cm x 15cm (H x W x D) **Dimensions (external):** 24.5 cm x 43cm x 20cm (H x W x D) **Weight:** 15kg Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 it is an offence to disturb breeding birds and therefore annual cleaning cannot be undertaken between the months of March and September inclusive. Bird nest boxes should be cleaned in October to prevent the buildup 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 any parasites (avoid using any chemicals).

Once the box is clean, it should be left to dry out thoroughly. Bird boxes should be left up over winter as they can provide useful roosting sites for birds in bad weather. Site lighting and dark corridors Measures will be taken to minimise light pollution to reduce any impact on nocturnal fauna such as bats and moths. Any lighting within the rear garden will it be in accordance with the guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT 2018).

Appropriate ground facing, energy-saving lighting will be used, on timers. There will be no light spillage into landscape areas such trees and hedgerows on site will not be affected

that's 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 the majority of the proposed extensions footprints are being constructed where previously path, patio and areas of hard landscaping are to reduce the damage to the biodiversity and as such accords with the stepwise approach set out in the published advice	Bird boxes to provided	No maintenance required	Yes
2.	Minimise	Na	Na	Na	Na
3.	Mitigate/restore	Na	Na	Na	Na
4.	Compensate on site	Na	Na	Na	Na
5.	Compensate offsite	Na	Na	Na	Na

Bat Boxes



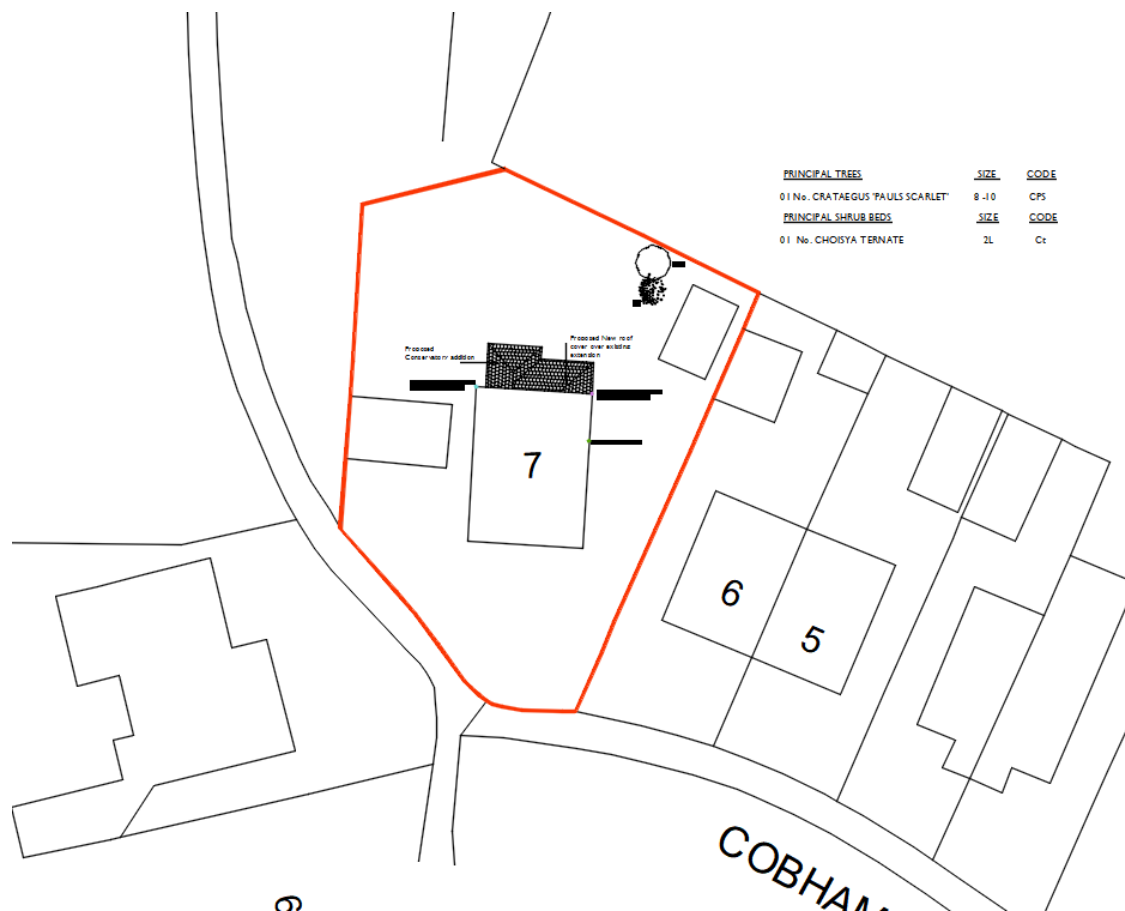
Brand

Nature's Way Bird Products

Product Dimensions	5"D x 12"W x 20.5"H
Material	Stainless Steel,Nylon
Color	Natural
Style	Triple Chamber Bat House

- Easy Grip nylon hanging mesh gives bats a place to easily grip for hanging. Unlike metal mesh, nylon will not rust or corrode and will not scratch or cut bats.
- Landing kerfs on the extended base of the house make it easier for bats to land and climb into the house.
- Stainless steel screws are used in the construction of this bat house to ensure a secure, durable, and safe habitat for your bats to use for many years.
- Holds up to 300 bats; 20.5" x 12" x 5"
- Extensive research shows that multi-chamber bat houses have higher occupancy rates than smaller, single-chamber designs.

Tree and shrub planting has also been introduced. These will be planted within 6 months of final completion of proposed extension.



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.