

Green Infrastructure Statement and biodiversity enhancement

Site address: 132 Ridgewood Gardens, Cimla

Development proposal: Loft conversion with front and rear velux windows

Document reference: RIDEGEWOOD 1

June 2024

1.0 Introduction

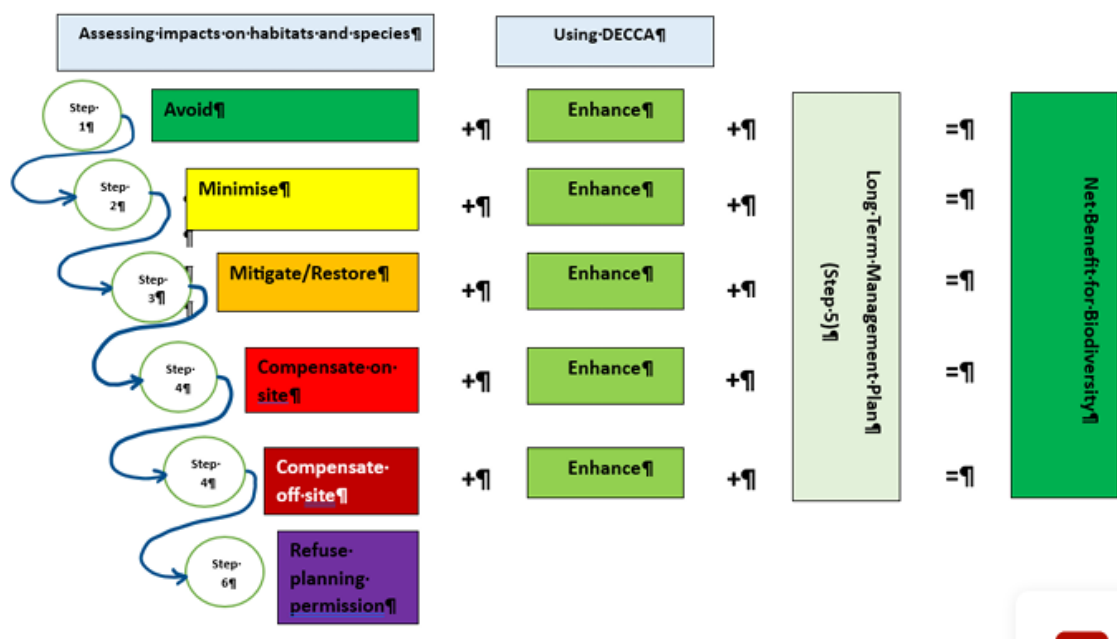
1.1 The Planning Act (Wales) 2015 states that development and the use of land contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The concept of sustainable development has been at the heart of the planning system for many years. Planning Policy Wales, maximises the contribution the planning system can make to the achievement of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales), through place making and identifies five key planning principles as required that all development plan and proposals are prepared within the context of these principles. The distinctive and natural places principle recognises the fundamental role green infrastructure and ecosystem services play in placemaking and the planning systems implementation of Section 6 of the Environment Act (Wales).

1.2 Welsh Government recently made changes to Planning Policy Wales to address the nature emergency by publishing a revised Chapter 6 'Distinctive and Natural Placemaking and Well-Being'. the main policy changes relevant to this statement relate to:

- Green Infrastructure
- Net Benefit for Biodiversity and the Step Wise Approach

1.3 Planning authorities must follow a step- wise approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimized, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for. Enhancement must be secured by delivering a biodiversity benefit primarily on site or immediately adjacent to the site, over and above that required to mitigate or compensate for any negative impact.

1.4 Stepwise approach:



1.5 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 such as that proposed, this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants.

2.0 Green infrastructure assessment

2.1

	STEPS	ASSESSMENT	ENHANCEMENT	LONG TERM MAINTENANCE	NET BENEFIT
1	Avoid	The proposed development consists of the re-development of an existing roof space, within an existing house. The development does not therefore result in any impact upon existing biodiversity features or green infrastructure. The proposed development will therefore accord with the stepwise approach.	To meet the developer's biodiversity duty. New habitat will be created on the development site. This will ensure net gain in biodiversity as a result of the development	No maintenance required	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 offsite	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

2.2 Having worked through worked through the stages of the step-wise approach above, it is clear that the proposed development avoids any unacceptable impact on habitat, biodiversity and existing green infrastructure.

2.3 The primary reason for this conclusion stems from the nature of the proposed development that includes minor alterations to a domestic property, with no loss of existing green infrastructure.

2.4 Overall, the above assessment confirms that there will be an ecological enhancement/ biodiversity net gain as a result of the development and no loss of existing green infrastructure.

3.0 Proposed Biodiversity enhancement

3.1 As identified above, biodiversity enhancements are proposed. The following enhancements are to be provided prior to completion of the loft conversion:

- Nesting provision for Swallows

- attached securely to the north facing elevation of the house at a minimum of 2m above ground level (see blue dot on plan below)

3.2 Example of proposed biodiversity enhancement:



End document