

Green Infrastructure Assessment

*Mr Blessing
103 Wern Road,
Skewen,
SA10 6DP*

Planning ref – 2024/XXXX

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 :

Two storey side / rear extension to the property

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 firstly the provision of bird boxes on both the side elevations of the existing large detached garage and to aid with providing a net-benefit of green infrastructure, also along the two side elevations of the garage several bushes / shrubs will be planted to 'soften' the existing garden, for example rhododendron and hydrangea bushes. It is worth pointing out that the perimeter of this very large plot is extensively populated with very mature trees (all with TPO's) because of this we feel the implementation of these two elements will be sufficient ecological enhancements for this project.

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 JB-008.

Specifications :

External dimensions:

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



Enhancement implementation:

- Nesting boxes will be installed on completion of work, the positioning is shown of drawing no. jb-008 associated with this document
- Program of planting will take place at the appropriate times of year depending on planning approval date. (Positions shown on JB-008)
- Piles of logs / rocks will be situated at various points around the perimeter 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