

Green Infrastructure Statement

**HD5079 1,3 & 5 Rugby Avenue, Neath, SA11
1YT**

[Status]



HURLEY & DAVIES



Document Verification					Office Use Only QC Complete ☐	
Job Title	Green Infrastructure Statement			Job Number & File Reference	HD5079 1,3 & 5 Rugby Avenue, Neath, SA11 1YT	
Revision	Date					
	09.10.24	Description				
		Prepared by	Checked by		Approved by	
		Chris Jones	Carl Headon			
		Description				
		Prepared by	Checked by		Approved by	
		Description				
		Prepared by	Checked by		Approved by	
		Description				
		Prepared by	Checked by		Approved by	
		Description				
		Prepared by	Checked by		Approved by	
		Description				
		Prepared by	Checked by		Approved by	

1.0 Overview

This document has been produced to support an outline planning application in reference to the recently published updated Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, February 2024 which sets out the policies to support 'Distinctive and Natural Places'.

A Green Infrastructure Statement is required to demonstrate how a step-wise approach has been considered in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity for the proposals. The assessment should be used to develop a robust approach to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, increasing ecosystem resilience and the multiple benefits obtained from nature, and should identify key strategic opportunities where the protection, retention, restoration, creation and connection of green features and functions would deliver the most significant benefits.



Figure 1

2.0 Application Site:

1,3 & 5 Rugby Avenue, Neath, SA11 1YT

Proposal: Full Planning Application for the reconfiguration of existing flat complex, including demolition of existing 2no. rear annexe extensions, construction of 2no. two storey rear extensions (blocks 3 and 5), external alterations including to existing rear window openings, in order to facilitate the formation of a 10 no. flat complex (number of flats in the building would be reduced from 12 to 10 as a result of proposed development)

2.1 2024/0554 Background

The proposed Rugby Avenue complex is situated to the Northern end of Rugby Avenue adjacent to the TA Centre / Eastland Road. The complex comprises of 3 individual blocks of flats. Each block has a small front patio / entrance with a stone walled gated boundary. An access lane is to the northern end elevation of the buildings. Each block has a rear extension, with a concrete hardstanding / parking space.

The application site is not within a “Special Protection Area, Site of Specific Scientific Interest, or a natural Nature Reserve” or similar designated sites, and as such, the Step-Wise approach will be used. Given that the proposed works are mostly contained within the existing buildings, the development will not impact the existing biodiversity on the site and care will be taken not to store materials, plant or machinery under any trees along Rugby Avenue.



Figure 1 Front Elevations

It is proposed that the development should include the following Ecological / Biodiversity enhancements, however ‘the provision of enhancement features will be proportionate to the scale, location and nature of the development’

2.2 Landscape Proposal

The following enhancements will be considered for the proposed works.

- Provision of new Courtyard Planters to the in the rear courtyards between each block of flats. This will provide habitats for insects, butterflies and moths, With the possible use of native species of shrub that produce flowers, seeds and berries. These will attract insects for the pollen and the pollination of them, while seeds and berries will attract birds and bats and provide food for them.
- Provision for woodstone bird / bat boxes or open soffit boxes incorporated within the design of the proposed rear extensions will benefit the biodiversity. With the

decline in numbers of swifts/ swallows and other nesting birds, nest boxes safeguard against attacks from predators including woodpeckers, cats and squirrels. The nest boxes will be installed within one month of occupation to avoid disruption of the nesting period.

- Integration of hedgehog friendly fencing, this type of fencing allow movement between sites through 100mm gaps at the bottom of the fence.
- Any proposed external lighting would be bat sensitive lighting as recommended in 'Bats and Artificial lighting in the UK' Guidance note GN 08/23 the institute of Lighting Professionals

3.0 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 have consistent maintenance.
- There is a net benefit to biodiversity because of the development.

In conclusion, the mitigation and enhancement proposals included at this site will encourage a more diverse environment of vegetation and wildlife