

Green Infrastructure Statement.
Land off Graig Road, Gellinudd.

1.0 Introduction

This is the Green Infrastructure Statement for the proposed construction of a single dwelling at Graig Road, Gellinudd. The site is located on land adjacent to Graig Road in Gellinudd, with a postal code of SA8 3DS.

2.0 TERMS

The definition of Green Infrastructure in the Annex Chapter 6 Planning Policy Wales 11 October 2023 is

‘Green infrastructure is the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales. At the landscape scale green infrastructure can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways and mountain ranges. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to green infrastructure networks’.

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 provides a context for the delivery of multi-functional green infrastructure. Its provision can make a significant contribution to the sustainable management of natural resources. Green infrastructure is capable of providing several functions at the same time and as a result offers multiple benefits, for social, economic and cultural as well as environmental resilience and respond to challenges presented by the climate emergency.

A Step Wise Approach is required to be demonstrated in the Green Infrastructure Statement.
To assess impacts on habitats and species:

Step 1 Avoid

Step 2 Minimise

Step 3 Mitigate/Restore

Step 4 Compensate on Site

Step 4 Compensate Off-Site

Steps 1-4 Using the DECCA Framework for all relevant steps that require enhancement.

Step 5 Long Term Management Plan

These steps will indicate how Net-Benefit-for –Biodiversity is achieved. Without an achievement, Step 6 would result in a refusal for a development. Mitigation’ to mean ‘measures taken to avoid or reduce negative impacts’, as separate from ‘compensation’ meaning ‘measures taken to make up for the loss of, or permanent damage to, biological resources through the provision of replacement areas’

3.0 DOCUMENTS

Refer to the following documents as reference for the statement:

- StiwdioC3 – P01 Site Location Plan
- StiwdioC3 – P02 Existing Site Plan
- StiwdioC3 – P03 Proposed Site Plan
- Green Infrastructure Statement

4.0 EXISTING SITE DETAIL

The proposed 159m² single dwelling, and additional 153m² of hard landscaping will result in the loss of 312m² of existing grass and shrub. The proposed front and rear garden areas will consist of mown grass, a patio area, as well as further planting beds, trees and hard features. Beyond the rear garden area, there will be approximately 6403m² hosting existing wild grassland, shrubs and trees. The site generally has low suitability for habitation use by birds, bats, and other animals.

5.0 ECOLOGY

Please refer to the preliminary ecological assessment completed by Ecological Services Ltd.

6.1 HABITATS

The aspects of the site with opportunity for habitats:

- Front and Rear Garden areas.
- Boundary Treatments such as Hedges.
- Green Wedge area at rear of the proposed property.

6.2 PROTECTED AND PRIORITY SPECIES

The protected species which may occur on site are:

- Birds

The majority of the site is considered to be unsuitable for nesting use by bird species as the short perennial vegetation provides no cover from predation (please refer to ecology assessment).

- Bats

The habitat within the site is considered to have LOW suitability for use by commuting and foraging bats (please refer to ecology assessment).

- Dormouse

Given the limited suitable habitat within the site boundary and lack of local records for this species, dormouse are not considered present (please refer to ecology assessment).

6.3 ECOLOGY SUMMARY

AVOIDANCE

The following measures should be incorporated into the design of the development, including the construction phase, to avoid and reduce impacts on wildlife:

- Removal of 1nr Category C tree (T1) Refer to Treescene Tree Survey.

COMPENSATION/ENHANCEMENT

Compensation is proposed to address the impacts on habitats which cannot be avoided or mitigated:

- Five number native trees to be planted in place of removed trees.

7.0 SITE SETTING

The site is in an urban setting with open spaces and woodland nearby with linkage to these by rear garden spaces and trees.

SUMMARY OF SITE AND NET BIODIVERSITY GAIN.

Currently, the proposed site itself has limited ecological value (please refer to ecology assessment). The proposed site will provide an improvement in connectivity by incorporating a wildflower area and an assortment of native plants and trees thus giving biodiversity net gain.