

Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity Statement

Planning Department

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
The Quays, Brunel Way, Baglan Energy Park, Neath, SA11 2GG

Name of Agent

Dunraven Ltd

Name of Applicant & Site Location

Mr & Mrs Davies
15 Golwg Y Cwm, Cwmgos, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, SA18 1RS

Application No: P2025/0058

Proposed Development

Erect an Storm Porch to the Front Elevation

This statement has been prepared by Dunraven Ltd in support of a householder planning application for a Storm porch to the front elevation of 15 Golwg Y Cwm, Cwmgos, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, SA18 1RS which is currently a domestic dwelling, the scale and design of the Storm porch is in keeping with the existing property, The proposed Porch does not use up the available garden area.

Site description

Semi-detached bungalow property, The front garden area has a grassed lawn, To the L/H side one small hedge / bush, small shrubs, To the R/H side Stone chippings & concrete driveway for off road parking.



Image; Siting of Proposed Storm Porch

The integration of Green Infrastructure (GI) into planning and development has become a cornerstone of sustainable, resilient, and healthy communities in Wales. Underpinning this approach is a robust framework of legislation and policy, guiding the creation of Green Infrastructure Statements (GIS) that ensure effective planning and delivery of GI benefits. This document delves into the key elements of this framework, drawing upon Planning Policy Wales (PPW), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

This Green Infrastructure (GI) statement accompanies the planning application for a Storm Porch at 15 Golwg Y Cwm, Cwmgos, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, SA18 1RS; a thoughtful addition that embraces sustainable living while respecting the existing home. The dwelling in Golwg Y Cwm, Cwmgos cradles memories and whispers of Glamorgan's natural beauty. Yet, evolving needs call for expansion, a challenge met not just with bricks and mortar, but with ecological conscience.

This storm porch isn't simply about space; it's about responsible growth. It acknowledges the deep connection between human well-being and environmental health. GI principles aren't mere add-ons; they're the very foundation upon which the storm porch rests. The design strikes a harmonious balance: expanding living space while minimising environmental impact. The storm porch seamlessly blends in but aspires to be more – an active contributor to the local ecosystem.

Green Infrastructure & Ecological Enhancement Measures:

Planning permission is being sought to construct a storm porch to the front elevation of the above property, note the only removal of ground area is the existing concrete patio slabs, No greenfield land gardens, or Hedgerow, trees or scrub are Not to be removed. The proposed development does Not have an unacceptable impact on, Wildlife / animals & plants where naturally occur.

The storm porch construction / Blocks / Bricks / Roof and Frames will provide extra shelter and habitat for all insects species, bees and pollinating insects to nest within tiny holes and gaps within the building, will provide a valuable habitat for pollinators, birds, and insects, promoting biodiversity within the built environment. The strategically planted native species around the extension will further contribute to a thriving ecosystem by offering food and shelter for local wildlife. This not only enriches the natural world but also serves as an educational resource, raising awareness about the importance of native species and environmental stewardship.

Ongoing management – An annual check of new planting will be carried out, *with replacement planting carried out where necessary*. Once established, the bushes and shrubs may need periodic pruning, with any arising retained on site either as low brash or as chippings to act as a mulch, where practicable to do so. Weeding will be carried out where necessary to ensure new planting establishes. The timing of any management /pruning will be carried out during the late winter months (late January into February) before the onset of the main bird nesting season.

The areas planted up will be of benefit to wildlife, providing nesting opportunities.

The planting will require occasional weeding and pruning of plants where necessary. Shrub areas, planted for the benefit of invertebrates, will be covered with a mulch for water retention, which will aid flower / nectar production. Regular dead-heading of flowers will encourage further flowering, improving the supply of nectar for butterflies and other insects. At the end of the season, plants will not be pruned or dead-headed until later in the winter, ***allowing birds to feed on any seeds.***

Protect important biodiversity and geodiversity features, especially where they provide ecological connectivity. Bats, nesting birds such as swifts and house martins badgers, dormice, barn owl, ***(No impact to the Wildlife / Wild Birds Breeding sites).***

Protection of all wildlife carefully considered at all times. No evidence of bat droppings or even live bats at the property. The Environment Act requires Local Authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity. ***(No impact to Bat Roosts within this building).***

Justification: Installing bat boxes, bird feeders, and hedgehog houses provides vital resources and shelter for these species, encouraging them to utilise the site and contributing to a balanced ecosystem. This aligns with the Wales Act 2016's duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promotes public awareness about wildlife conservation. The proposal will facilitate 'Bee Bricks' that provide a safe nesting place for non-swarming solitary bees like red masons and leafcutters.

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The project's use of reclaimed or locally sourced building materials will minimise its environmental footprint by reducing transportation emissions and conserving resources. This approach not only benefits the planet but also supports the local economy by strengthening the community's fabric.

Installation of *Bat and Bird Boxes* are considered and will be installed within the grounds, *Photographs of the installed Bat box will be sent to the planning department once installed.*

Dunraven building department can confirm that a bat box will be installed to the Side elevation of the main house and at the highest point, *away from bright lighting.*

Ecological Enhancement



Proposed Bat Box:-

The Kent Bat Box.

The building is Not listed, or have No historic local interest, The site has No archaeological interest, and is Not within a historic park / garden or registered battlefield.

It is therefore considered that the current proposal does not conflict with the objectives of policies, the proposal responds positively to the surrounding area. Also the proposal accords with National Planning Policy objectives.

Biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth. It is crucial for the functioning of ecosystems, which provide us with products and services without which we couldn't live, Oxygen, food, fresh water, fertile soil, medicines, shelter, protection from storms and floods, stable climate and recreation all have their source in nature and healthy ecosystems. But biodiversity gives us much more than this. We depend on it for our security and health; *it strongly affects our social relations and gives us freedom and choice.*

Biodiversity is extremely complex, dynamic and varied like no other feature of the Earth. Its innumerable plants, animals and microbes physically and chemically unite the atmosphere (the mixture of gases around the Earth), geosphere (the solid part of the Earth), and hydrosphere (the Earth's water, ice and water vapour) into one environmental system which makes it possible for millions of species, including people, to exist.

Environmental Sustainability

In preparing this statement, reference to the relevant guidance for sustainable homes has been made, the guidelines establishes six key principles of sustainable design, which are; Energy, Materials & Resources, Water usage, Landscape & Biodiversity, Place & Local distinctiveness, & Robust Building.

Energy

The internal and external works will comply with current building regulations. Both the applicant and contractors are committed to ensuring all aspects of the build will be efficient as practically possible, and this includes energy efficient equipment.

Avoiding adverse impacts to priority habitats and species as listed under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

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The development of the proposed Storm Porch will not have an unacceptable impact on the following within this area, and careful consideration to Retain - Protect all of the following:-

Greenfield land Greenspaces

Woodland

Nature Reserves

Hedgerow, tree line or scrub

(No impact, No removals intended).

Wetlands or Marshes

Water courses (sea, rivers or streams)

Ponds / wetlands

(No impact on water quality).

Mines / caves & Quarries.

(No impact)

Imported materials are minimised.

Materials are chosen from sustainable sources.

All Waste Materials are recycled by Dunraven.

Please note we are not Ecological Consultant's.

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