

BIODIVERSITY (GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE) STATEMENT

3 Tai'r Ynys Fawr, Pontrydyfen, Neath Port Talbot SA12 9RU

Site Description

The property is located within a small area of housing which is positioned close to the Afan Forest Park with all its scenic areas and walks. The site consists of a semi-detached Bungalow with front dormers, as part of a set of four matching dwellings built in the 1960's as an early form of timber frame kit houses. Each property is on a large plot with the front gardens facing onto the A4107 Afan Valley Road, set at a lower level than the road with trees screening the houses from the road. The properties are accessed from the rear via an unmade (unadopted) road also used by the Forestry Commission, as there is no proper access from the busy main road.



Recent Works

In 2024, in accordance with available Grants to this type of property, the heating was upgraded to an Air Source Heat Pump (from existing Oil-fired heating) with an emersion tank and a Solar Array was added to the front garden. The insulation to the whole house was upgraded to all external walls and within the existing roof cavities to comply with the requirements for the new heating system. This means that the roof has recently been surveyed, and work completed internally – there was no evidence of bats found at that time and so it is considered that no further survey is required for this application, which includes new works to the existing roof.



Description of proposed Works:

The proposed project consists of internal remodelling to an existing Dormer Bungalow which includes moving the Kitchen and Living areas into a new Rear Extension and for two of the Bedrooms to be located on the Ground Floor.

There will be the addition of a Rear Extension in the rear of the roof to create more space for the two upstairs Bedrooms and for there to be a bathroom to share on that level. The rear Conservatory will be removed and replaced with a full width Extension with a Flat roof and 2No. Roof Lanterns. An Infill Side Extension is to be created between existing Front Extension and new Rear Extension with Flat Roof to match the roof of the new Rear Extension. To take advantage of the views to the rear of the property we are proposing a New Roof Extension to rear elevation of Main Roof with double doors and Juliet Balconies to each of the Bedrooms, and a window to bring natural light into the stairwell.

The front Decking is to be extended across the front of the house with new rear decking across the new Rear Extension and the Front Door position moved over with the window to the Side Extension changed to Double Doors onto the extended Decking.

Requirements

The owner of the property is a single mother with an extended family, this consists of her own three sons plus two younger adopted children. The children are aged between 11 years and 23 years, the older two have now left home but the younger three will be living with her for many more years to come, as they go through college and university.

Even as the children mature and leave home to have their own homes, she will offer her home to other children for fostering or similar arrangements. For now she wants a larger Kitchen/Living area to the rear so they can enjoy the good views at the rear and have space where they can interact as a family, as currently the space is limited and not amenable to modern living concepts.



Parking

Currently there are 3 parking spaces - Additional Parking to the rear area will be created to include a new patio area and the garden will be developed and landscaped.

Proposed Ecological Enhancements:

The property is in a rural area and the rear garden area is North-Westerly facing and is currently covered in compressed earth and gravel and has the addition of some storage sheds, a couple of these will be removed.

The front garden area is well established and mostly laid to lawn with a large, raised bed. The property has recently been enhanced with an improvement grant providing the addition of an air source heat pump and Solar panels - these have been placed in an array on a raised wooden platform in the front garden.

Most of the proposed project work will be carried out at the rear of the property.

We would look to install the biodiversity measures as required to the rear of the property within 3 months of the work being completed.

The family would like to enhance the natural habitats that are currently around their property for birds and insects therefore will add additional bee friendly plants to the rear of the property when the work is completed such as Alyssum, Lavender, Lilac, Broom, Geranium, Foxgloves and many more. All the proposed additions will attract Birds, Bees, Butterflies or Moths and insects into the garden.

Birds

Several bird feeders which will be hung from branches of both bushes and trees within the garden area. There will also be several Bird Feeding stations placed around the rear garden to include seeds and fat balls like those in Appendix A

Insects

To encourage insects such as solitary nesting bees, and ladybirds etc, an Insect Box will be mounted in a sunny place 1m from the ground to encourage bees to nest – similar to the type in Appendix A

Implementation Timetable

The Biodiversity Enhancement Measures shall be fully implemented within 3 months of the completion of the proposed works.

Caroline Grey

SEAGREY Design Ltd

APPENDIX A

Sparrow Terrace Nest Box



- Help the declining sparrow population by putting up one of these bird boxes designed especially for house sparrows.
- Fixed roof to enable the bird nesting box to be fitted right up in the eaves just where the sparrows prefer.
- These bird nesting boxes are constructed from precision cut FSC certified wooden panels treated with water based environmentally friendly preservative.
- Each terrace can accommodate three pairs of sparrows nesting together.

In the last few decades the population of house sparrows has declined dramatically. Our sparrow terrace has been designed to provide much-needed nesting places for our endangered House Sparrows. House sparrows nest colonially so up to three pairs may be attracted to, and nest in the bird box.

Whilst the box may appear to be a standard "3 in a row" terrace it can be reconfigured into three separate boxes or into different shapes depending on the shape of the wall on which you wish to fit it (or simply what you prefer). The box is the ideal size and dimensions for house sparrows with a 32mm entrance hole. It features a fixed roof which enables the box to be fitted right up at the eaves just where the sparrows prefer. The box is easy to fit with concealed keyholes at the back of the box (easy to reach with a screwdriver through the entrance holes). Each box has slide out floor with drainage holes to enable easy cleaning at the end of the nesting season.

The box is constructed from precision cut FSC certified external grade plywood and has been treated with an environmentally friendly preservative which is kind to the birds but helps to ensure a long lasting dry comfortable nest box.

Product	Sparrow Terrace Nest Box
Product-Code	A1SPTZZZ
Material	FSC Certified Exterior Grade Plywood
Construction	Panels stapled together with surface sunk staples. Slide out floor.
Finish	Non-toxic water based stain and preservative
Dimensions	Overall height: 24cm, Overall width: 39cm, Overall Depth: 17cm
Weight	2.4kg
Fixing	Keyhole at back of each nest unit

To be put in a North / North-East position.

Bug Box Kit

- Enjoy assembling your own bug box without having to worry about getting the sizes right.
- Great for attracting beneficial insects especially ladybirds, lacewings, and solitary bees to your garden.
- These bug box kits are ideal for kids (and adults too!) with easy-to-follow instructions.
- Each pack contains all the components you need to make your own bug box (just add hammer and screwdriver) then collect hollow sticks and pinecones to fill the box and provide somewhere for the insects to live.
- Can be painted or decorated to create a unique bug box.



The box is nailed together with the roof attached by a screw to enable the upper compartment to be filled and checked. The kit contains all the parts for the wooden box, and then you'll need to go foraging to collect and fill the two compartments with somewhere for the insects to live.

The lower part of the box is designed to be filled with hollow sticks to provide somewhere for solitary bees to lay their eggs. This can be bamboo, hollow sticks (alder is especially good) or stems of other plants. We've even seen solitary bees using cut up drinking straws! Once you've collected your sticks, cut them to the right length then fill the lower part of the box with the hollow ends pointing outward. Then wait and watch. Solitary bees will lay their eggs in the hollow sticks then seal them up with mud which they collect.

The upper part of the box is great for providing somewhere dry and protected with lots of crevices for ladybirds and lacewings to tuck themselves away during the winter when they hibernate. Fill the top of the box with something like pinecones, twigs or straw which will give ladybirds and lacewings plenty of places to hide.

Tabarca Insect Hotel



This beautifully designed insect hotel is ideal as a shelter for Solitary bee, among other things. After collecting enough pollen into the bamboo tubes, they will then lay their eggs and cover with more pollen. When the eggs hatch, the pollen forms food for the young bee and works its way out to fly out.

Bees, as pollinators of plants, are essential for our food supply. Help the bees by hanging this insect hotel. Give it a sunny spot, preferably close to many flowering plants. Check out our website for our extensive collection of plants that attract bees. Bring more animals and wildlife into your garden, with an insect hotel.

Dimensions: 13 x 13 x 26 cm

Material: spruce wood and bamboo

Tom Chambers Select Bird Feeding Station



Create the perfect feeding, watering, and bathing station to attract a wide variety of garden birds - Height 230cm.

Includes:

- 3 section pole requiring some assembly.
- 2 double brackets with spiral finial.
- Small bracket
- Water dish
- Seed tray
- Pole diameter 20mm

Feed a variety of foods to a multitude of birds with this essential robust and elegant feeding station.

Featuring a cool grey finish, it performs well under extremely harsh weather conditions.

Easy to assemble, 4 Arm Complete Feeding Station which includes 4 feeders, 4 feeder hooks, seed tray & water bath. Features simple push button connections.

This sturdy feeding station is very easy to assemble to create a perfect feeding environment for wildlife.

When fully assembled it reaches the height of 2.28m, so making it a safe height, where the wild birds have a good vantage point and are out of reach of predators.

Main Pole Diameter 25mm

The feeders are constructed from a strong plastic and steel, which are ideal for novices or experienced bird feeders.

Help to keep your wild birds healthy with some basic hygiene principles by cleaning between refilling.