

Green Infrastructure Statement

Site Address: *131 Longford Road, Neath Abbey, Neath, SA10 7HF*

Proposal: Construction of a single-storey rear extension and associated works, including removal of a section of patio and installation of ecological enhancements.

Step 1: Identify Existing Green Infrastructure Features

- The site comprises a private rear garden with a paved patio and surrounding soft landscaping (e.g., lawn and small shrubs).
- There are no mature trees, hedgerows, or notable habitats on the site.
- The site is of low ecological value, with no records of protected species.

Step 2: Identify Opportunities to Protect and Enhance Green Infrastructure

- Soft landscaping and green areas on the site will be retained and protected during the construction phase.
- The project offers an opportunity to improve the site's ecological value through small-scale biodiversity enhancements.

Step 3: Design with Green Infrastructure in Mind

- The extension footprint has been kept compact, replacing a section of hard paving to minimise impact on permeable green space.
- The design retains all existing green areas and allows for continued domestic garden use.

Step 4: Mitigate Impacts on Existing Green Infrastructure

- Soft landscaping will be safeguarded with temporary fencing or other protective measures during the works.
- Waste from the removed patio will be responsibly disposed of or reused where possible.
- No green infrastructure elements will be permanently lost or significantly altered.

Step 5: Provide New Green Infrastructure Features

- One bird box and one bat box will be installed under the eaves on the rear elevation of the new extension to encourage nesting and roosting opportunities.
- These additions will support urban wildlife and contribute to local biodiversity.
- The existing rear garden will continue to serve as a small but valuable habitat for birds, insects, and small mammals.

Step 6: Manage Green Infrastructure Over the Long Term

- The ecological features will be installed in line with best practice (e.g., correct height and orientation) to maximise their effectiveness.
- The homeowner will ensure these are retained and maintained as part of the long-term use of the property.
- The garden will be managed to support biodiversity, with encouragement to introduce flowering and pollinator-friendly plants where practical.

Conclusion

The proposal at *131 Longford Road, Neath Abbey* demonstrates a responsible and proportionate approach to green infrastructure. By minimising impact and introducing targeted ecological enhancements, the development will result in a net gain in biodiversity and contribute positively to the local environment.