

Green Infrastructure Statement for Minor Development

Site Address: Unit 20A & 20B, Orchard Street, Neath, SA11 1DU

Proposed Development: Replacement of existing shopfronts

Planning Portal Reference: PP-14263294

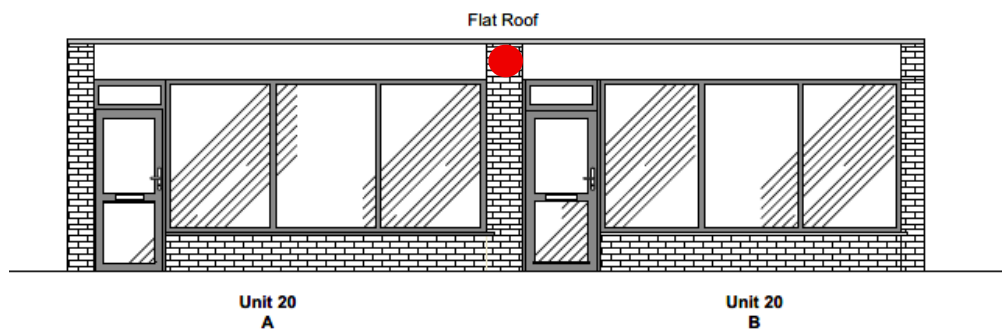
Site description: The application site is located at the western flank of Orchard Street within the Neath Town Centre. The site is located immediately north of the junction between Orchard Street and St David's Street. It should be noted that the site is located within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area. The site comprises of 20A and 20B Orchard Street, which are two commercial units with the shopfront facing Orchard Street. The existing shopfronts represent a modern design with asymmetric fenestrations, and it is considered as poor quality in relation to the host buildings.

Surrounding area description: The site is located at a mixed-use area within the Neath Town Centre, an existing residential block adjoins the western site boundary and a new residential development is located immediate north of the site. Ground floor commercial units, bars and restaurants are available along Orchard Street. Orchard Place Baptist Church is located at the immediate south of the site. The St David's Church is located at the east of the site, separated by Orchard Street.

Green Infrastructure Strategy: Green infrastructure (GI) is defined by the UK government as *"a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities"*. This can include natural habitats ranging from grasslands, wetlands and woodlands to parks, open spaces, playing fields, street trees, rain gardens, allotments and private gardens.

Development Impacts: The application site is located within an urban setting and the site only comprises of the building itself with no hedgerows, trees, etc located within the site boundary. It is therefore considered that the site does not possess any existing green infrastructure features. It should also be noted that the proposal only comprises of the redesign of the shopfront and therefore will not have any detrimental impact to any protected species.

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed: Given the nature and the size of the application site, there is very limited opportunities for biodiversity enhancement. 1. no Woodstone Madrid Swift Nest Box is proposed on the front elevation to enhance the biodiversity on site. The location and the specification of the bird box are listed below:



Dimensions (b x h x d) (mm) 380 x 220 x 260
 Inner Dimensions (b x h x d) (mm) 280 x 170 x 170
 Colour Grey

Conclusion: It is considered that subject to the above, the proposed installation of 1 no. bird box at the front elevation would build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity on site, which is appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposed development.

Signed: Glenn Lee

Dated: 20th August 2025