

BIODIVERSITY (GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE) STATEMENT (Updated)

25-481P/107 – 23 Dyffryn Road, Taibach, Port Talbot, SA13 2UG

Site Description

The property is located in the area of Taibach within Port Talbot, in close proximity to the M4 flyover. This neighbourhood mainly consists of semi-detached houses with access from the main road (Dyffryn Road), and is situated below the flyover supporting the M4 motorway. Located to the South of the property is a small area for around 5-6 No. cars to park under the flyover, leading on to a large flat green space to the West of the site. The front of the house (East) overlooks the garage/parking area of the opposite property.

**Description of proposed Works:**

Currently the existing house consists of 3 No. Bedrooms upstairs (although one is quite small), whilst on the Ground Floor there is separate living and dining rooms, kitchen, bathroom, and a utility space with a W/C. There is a moderately sized paved amenity space



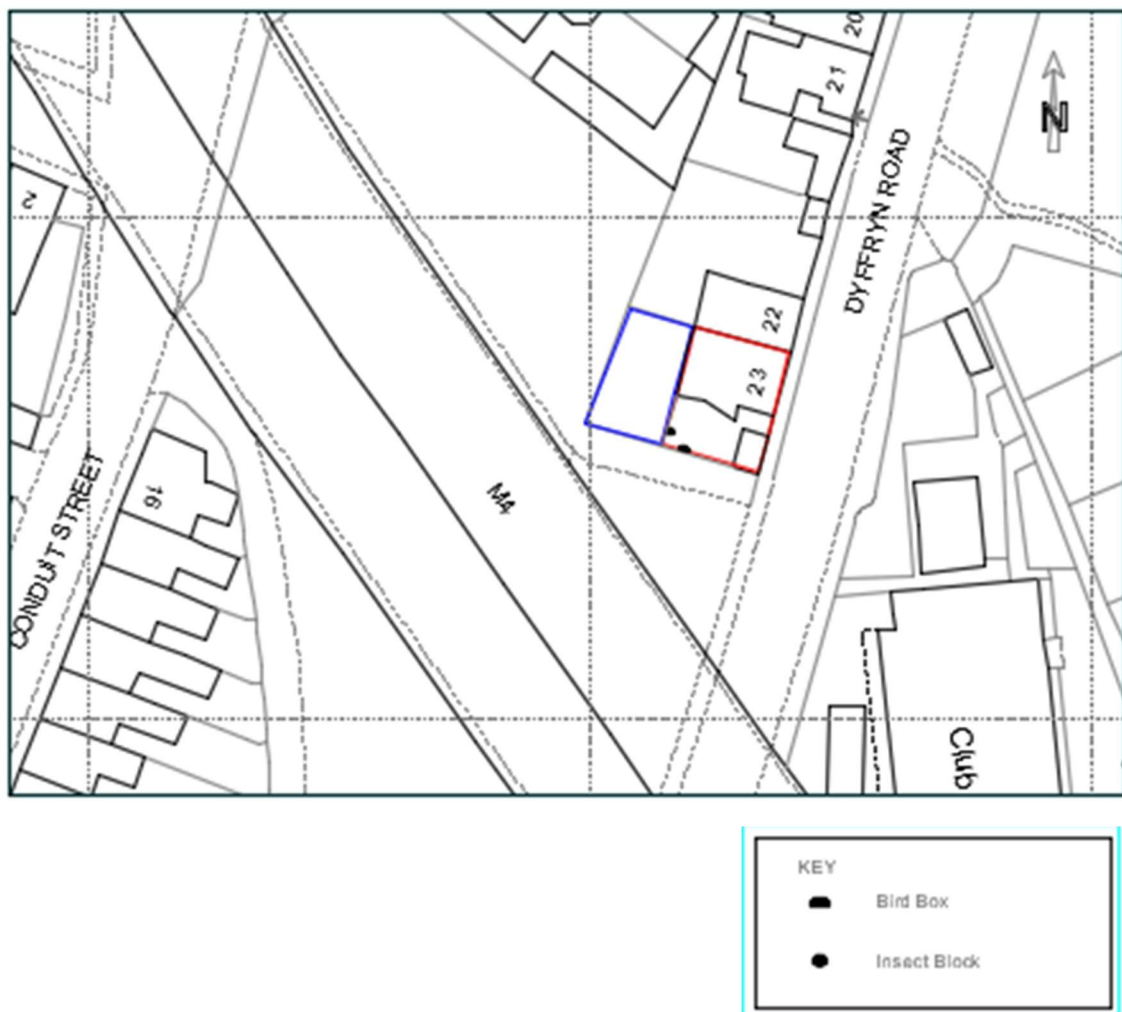
for residents to use, which has been separated via a fence from the larger grass garden at the rear owned by the landlord.

The proposal is to change the use of the property to a 3 No. Bedroom HMO with good quality accommodation. A new single bedroom will be created on the ground floor will have an area of 9.5m² which is larger than the 7.5m² specified in the Technical Housing Standards published by www.gov.uk. This is due to an existing bedroom (First floor) being insufficient in space for a HMO. The spare room on the First Floor will be designated as a shared Study Room for the smaller bedrooms for added facilities.

Proposed Ecological Enhancements:

The owner is proposing to install a bird nesting box as indicated and to provide an insect habitation to encourage more natural habitats for these creatures – they are keen to observe the increase in diversity in the garden as a result.

The proposal is to add an insect/bug box on the separation fence away from the wall of the house itself. As the garden is predominantly South facing the locations of any nesting boxes need to be considered at a higher level (away from predators) on the North facing wall of the existing garden.



Location Plan of Ecological Enhancements

Birds

The development will make enhancements for nesting birds in the form of a Sparrow Nest Box (or similar) mounted at the top of the North-facing wall of the existing amenity garden space. See Appendix A for details and above for location plan.

Insects

To encourage insects such as solitary nesting bees, and ladybirds etc, there will be the addition of a Bug Box Kit (or similar) to be mounted at 1.5m high upon the garden fence at the end of the paved garden with an East-facing aspect – similar to the type shown within Appendix A.

Implementation Timetable

The Biodiversity Enhancement Measures shall be fully implemented within 2 months of the completion of the proposed works.

APPENDIX A:

BIRDS



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

Source: <https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/sparrow-terrace-nest-box>

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.

Source: <https://www.nestbox.co.uk/products/bug-box-kit>