Biodiversity Enhancement & Green Infrastructure Statement

Danygraig, Baglan Road, SA12 8DX

December 2025

asbriplanning

Summary

Proposal:
Proposed installation of bin stores and associated works

Location:
Danygraig, Baglan Road, SA12 8DX

Date:
December 2025

Project Reference:
25.232

Client:
Linc Cymru Housing Association

Product of:
Asbri Planning Limited
Unit 9 Oak Tree Court
Mulberry Drive
Cardiff Gate Business Park
Cardiff CF23 8RS

Prepared by:
Sion Mainwaring – Graduate Planner

Prepared by:
Jon Hurley - Director

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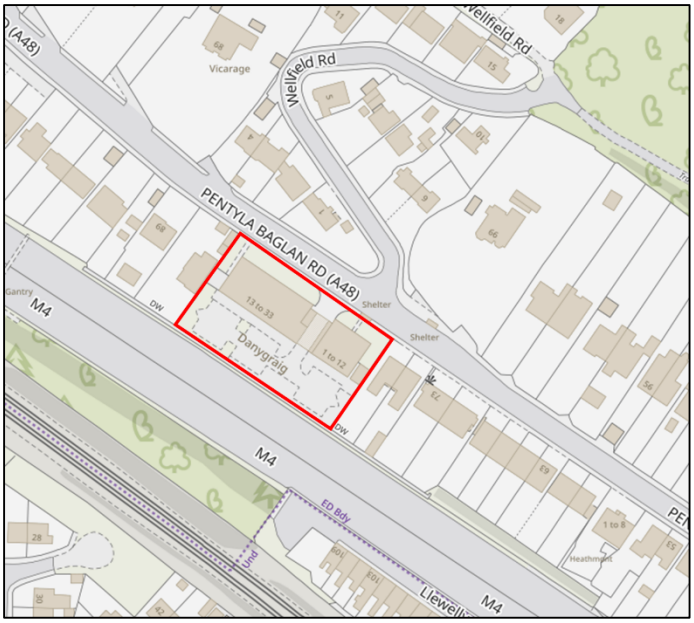
Introduction & Context

1.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement and Green Infrastructure Statement accompanies the full application submitted by Asbri Planning on behalf of Linc Cymru Housing Association for the proposed installation of 2 bin stores with associated works at Danygraig, Baglan Road SA12 8DX.

1.2 The site boundary is outlined in red in the image below.



1.3 Following the Welsh Government's February 2024 update to local authorities regarding Chapter 6 *'Distinctive and Natural Places'* of Planning Policy Wales, planning applications are now required to demonstrate how they will encourage biodiversity and incorporate green infrastructure. Neath Port Talbot (NPT) County Borough Council reflects this priority within its Local Development Plan, particularly through Strategic Policy SP15 (*Biodiversity and Geodiversity*) and detailed Policies EN6 (*Important Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sites*) and EN7 (*Important Natural Features*). In addition, NPT's *Biodiversity and Geodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance* (adopted May 2018) provides a framework for addressing biodiversity and geodiversity considerations throughout the planning process.

Biodiversity Enhancement

2.1 As part of this application, 1no. bat box and 1no. bird box is proposed to be installed on site but still on land in the ownership of the applicant NHA. This bat box will form a Vivara Pro Woodstone Bat Boxes for the wider proposal to extend and renovate the local bin stores. The specification of the bat box can be found in the link below.

https://www.nhbs.com/4?slug=bat-boxes-for-trees&q=&fR[hide][0]=false&fR[live][0]=true&fR[shops.id][0]=4&fR[subsidiaries][0]=1&hFR[subjects_equipment.lvl1][0]=Bat%20Boxes%20%3E%20Bat%20Boxes%20for%20Trees&qtview=195399

2.2 Vivara Pro Woodstone Bat Box is an attractive, hardwearing bat box that will provide much needed summer roosting space for bats in this urban location. Due to changes in building construction and woodland management practices, natural cavities for bat roosts are very rare so providing such a bat box will provide a suitable roosting opportunity for local bats.

2.4 The above location is considered suitable as it is mostly sheltered from the wind but also shaded for most of the day. This location also benefits from relatively low light pollution and no artificial light sources are directed towards the tree. Grouping a number of bat boxes together is preferable to a standalone bat box as it provides bats with different roosting options. The bat boxes will be positioned on the trunk of the tree at a height of at least 3m from the ground on a south-easterly or south-westerly aspect of the trees.

2.5 In addition, the proposal includes areas of retained landscaping on the site itself to be made good with new planting on completion of the construction works. Therefore. in light of the above, it is considered that the proposed biodiversity enhancement measures are in accordance with the recent updates to Chapter 6 'Distinctive and Natural Places' of Planning Policy Wales and the relevant local planning policy. The proposed development will represent a net gain in biodiversity for the area for both flora and fauna.

Green Infrastructure

3.1 The site lies on a residential street on the A48 and is approximately 1.6 kilometres from the centre of Port Talbot, as such located in an urban environment. The local green infrastructure (GI) features of this urban site consist of a network of hedgerows, few scattered trees and grass verges. However, most of the surrounding area is existing hard standing of little value to biodiversity and the GI network.

3.2 As part of the scheme, a section of the existing hedgerow at the north-western corner of the site will be removed to improve the amenity of the ground-floor flat, which would otherwise be affected by loss of light. The removed hedgerow will be replaced with a 1 metre high pedestrian barrier.

3.3 The proposed planting and landscaping mentioned in paragraph 2.5 will ensure resilience of the existing GI network, its features and habitats, including sufficient space for new planting to grow and preservation of existing soil structure and macronutrients. It will also ensure the visual appeal of the area and improve biodiversity across the site, including provision of adequate travel, foraging, nesting and roosting opportunities for wildlife.

Conclusion

4.1 This Biodiversity Enhancement and Green Infrastructure Statement accompanies the planning application submitted on behalf of Linc Cymru Housing Association for the proposed the proposed installation of 2 bin stores with associated works at land at land at Danygraig, Baglan Road SA12 8DX.

4.2 The proposals' biodiversity features have been carefully considered in the context of the surrounding town centre character and are proportionate to the proposed development. In conclusion, it is believed that the proposed measures supply habitats for threatened species (i.e., bats) and more generally improve biodiversity across the

site, both for flora and fauna; allowing for incoming species. As such, the proposal aligns with the requirements set out by Planning Policy Wales and NPT's local planning policy.