

BIODIVERSITY (GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE) STATEMENT

DOCUMENT REF: 25-489P/301

ADDRESS: 55 RHYD-HIR, NEATH ABBEY, SA10 7HR

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

This is an unusual design of house; it is a Semi-Detached Ex Council property with a catslide Roof and dormer window to the right-hand side. The property is on a bus route in the Neath Abbey area and has access to rural areas in the surrounding green belt countryside.

Description of proposed Works:

The proposals are to provide a rear Roof Extension in the Attic to create a bedroom with access via a new staircase. There is no evidence of any bat occupation as this area is partly converted, therefore no requirement for a bat roost survey.

The Front Bedroom will be removed to create access for the disabled owner via a new Stannah Internal Lift. The current staircase will be removed, and a new staircase will be created within the same Front bedroom.

A new Rear extension is proposed to create a larger Kitchen with a Flat Roof and Roof Lights. The current kitchen will be converted into a Utility Room with a new access door to the rear in place of the current window.

The Front door is to be moved to the right-hand side of the building to create a new access and the original door space to be converted into a window. The side door will also be changed to a window to the enlarged Ground Floor WC.



Proposed Ecological Enhancements:

The householders are going to create a wildflower garden area along with a rockery to the rear garden. They will enhance these areas with a range of wildflowers to include Welsh Poppy, Forget-Me-Nots, Red Campion, Wild Marjoram, Meadow Thistle, and Wood Anemone. Some of the plants that will be looked at to be included in the Rockery are - Trailing Bell Flower, Aubrieta, Candytuft, Thyme, Saxifrage. This is just a small selection of plants that can be included which will encourage bees and insects to use the garden.

There will be the inclusion of a Bug Box for various insect habitations to encourage a more natural habitats for these creatures – they are keen to observe the increase in diversity in their garden because of creating these areas see appendix A.

All the above will give feeding for Bees and Butterflies through the seasons.

**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 top end of the garden with a South-facing aspect – 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.

APPENDIX A:

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>

