

Biodiversity Enhancement & Green Infrastructure Statement

Danygraig, Baglan Road, SA12 8DX

January 2026



Summary

Proposal:

Proposed installation of bin stores and associated works

Location:

Danygraig, Baglan Road, SA12 8DX

Date:

January 2026

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

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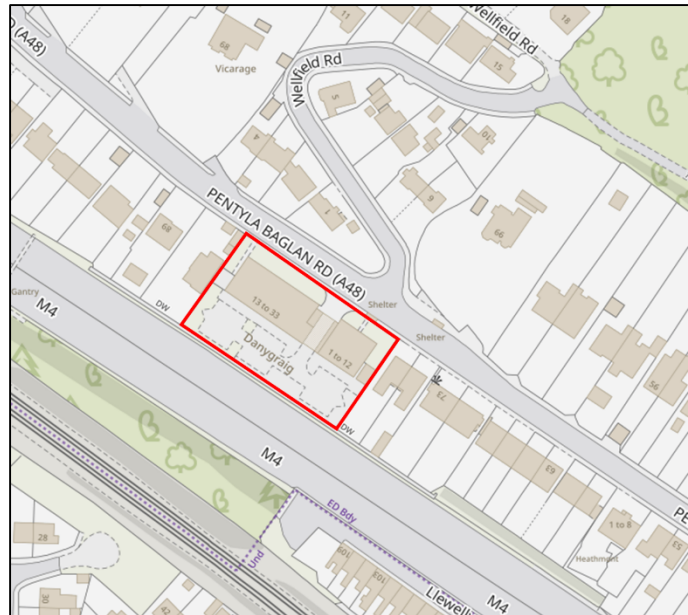
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Introduction & Context

- 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.
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Biodiversity Enhancement

- 2.1 As part of this application, 2no. bat box, 2no. bird box and 2no. swift bricks are proposed to be installed on site but still on land in the ownership of the applicant. The bat box will form a Vivara Pro Woodstone Bat Box. The bird boxes a Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box, and the swift brick will form a Manthorpe swift brick. The specification of the biodiversity enhancements can be found in the links below.

Bird box: <https://www.nhbs.com/vivara-pro-seville-32mm-woodstone-nest-box?bkfno=234956>

Bat box: [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\[subjects_equipment.lv11\]\[0\]=Bat%20Boxes%20%3E%20Bat%20Boxes%20for%20Trees&qtview=195399](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.lv11][0]=Bat%20Boxes%20%3E%20Bat%20Boxes%20for%20Trees&qtview=195399)

Swift Brick: <https://www.nhbs.com/manthorpe-swift-brick>

- 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.
- 2.3 The Vivara Pro Nest Box are manufactured with a mix of concrete and sustainable wood fibres. Unlike a traditional wooden nest box, these boxes will not rot away or deteriorate and are guaranteed for 10 years. Nesting sites have become rare for cavity nesting birds due to changes in woodland management practices, so this would provide much-needed space for rearing chicks and birds that are roosting overwinter with these durable, long-lasting nest boxes.
- 2.4 The Manthorpe Swift brick provides a safe and spacious area for swifts to nest within a building. The visible part of the nest box takes the space of a single brick and is designed to blend into the surrounding masonry.
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- 2.5 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. The bird nest boxes will also be positioned on the tree trunk at a height of at least 3m.
- 2.6 The proposed swift bricks will be installed within the masonry of each bin store. The visible element of each nest box occupies the space of a single brick and is designed to blend seamlessly with the surrounding masonry. The swift bricks will be positioned beneath the verge overhang, providing shelter from adverse weather conditions. A built-in cavity tray within the brick will prevent water ingress into the nest box.
- 2.7 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.
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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 western eastern sides of the site will be removed to improve the amenity of the ground-floor flats, which would otherwise be affected by loss of light. The removed hedgerow will be replaced with a 1 metre high pedestrian barrier.
- 3.3 Given the limited opportunities for additional planting on site, the proposed biodiversity enhancements will focus on strengthening the resilience of the existing green infrastructure (GI) network, its features, and associated habitats. This will be achieved by allowing sufficient space for existing planting to establish and mature, while safeguarding existing soil structure and macronutrient levels. These measures will maintain the visual quality of the area and deliver a net benefit to biodiversity across the site, including the provision of appropriate opportunities for wildlife movement, foraging, nesting, and roosting.

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.
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