



Green Infrastructure Statement

Single Storey Extension to Existing Kitchen Area

Sgwd Gwladys, Pontneathvaughan Road, Glynneath, Neath Port Talbot SA11 5NR

**Green Infrastructure Statement
for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**



Contents

- 1. Introduction 3
- 2. Summary of Proposal.....4
- 3. Existing Green Infrastructure Assets 5
- 4. Proposed Green Infrastructure Assets 6
- 5. Summary 6

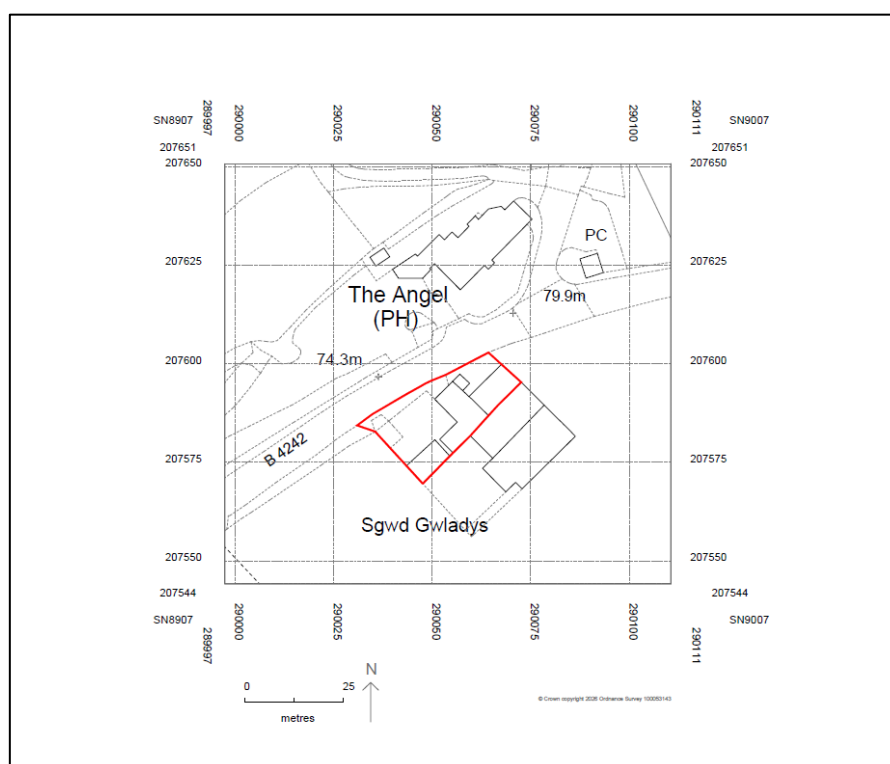
1. Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared to support a planning application for a proposed single storey extension to the existing kitchen at Sgwd Gwladys.

The statement demonstrates the commitment to enhancing and integrating green infrastructure principles as part of the development, in line with relevant Local Development Plan policies and Planning Policy Wales (PPW).

The development proposals follow the Stepwise Approach:

- Avoid – The design has been developed to avoid unnecessary impacts on existing green infrastructure
- Minimise – The scale and siting of the extension minimise loss of vegetated areas
- Mitigate – Green features are incorporated within the design to offset impacts
- Enhance – Opportunities have been taken to increase biodiversity and ecological value



Site Location Plan

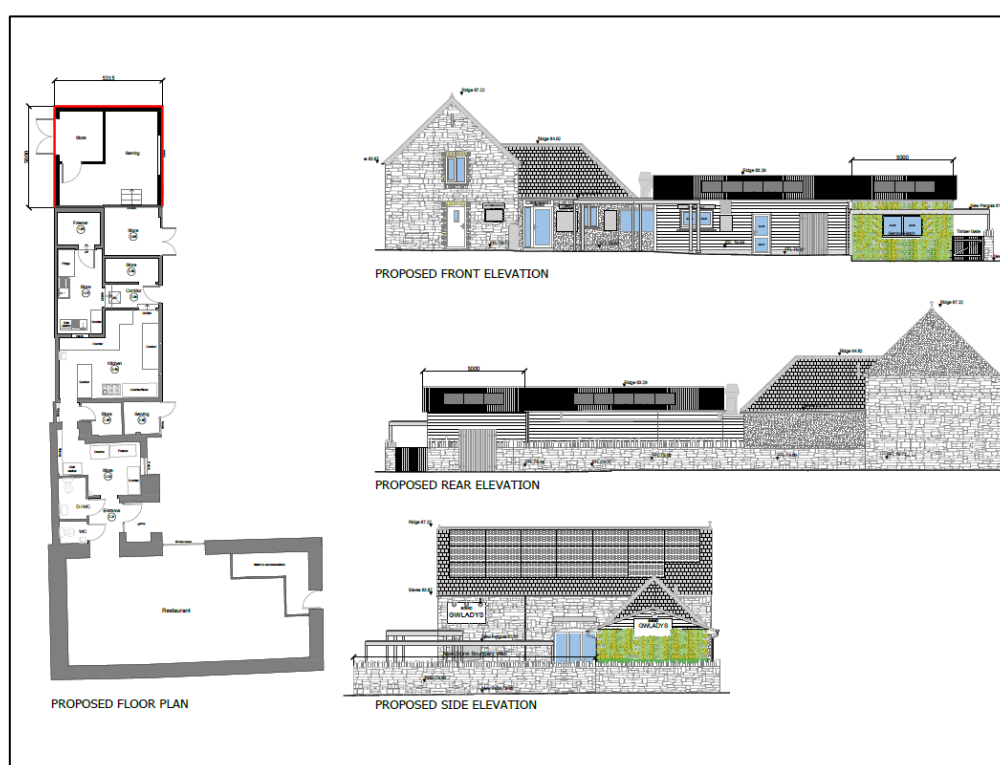
2. Summary of Proposal

The proposal seeks planning approval for:

A 5-metre lateral extension to the existing kitchen area together with the formation of a patio seating area.

The extension will be constructed using living wall (green wall) construction, and the boundary walls enclosing the patio will mimic existing stone walls, incorporating integrated planting features.

The scheme has been designed to sit sympathetically within its setting while enhancing biodiversity and green infrastructure provision.



Proposed Floor Plans and Elevations



Proposed Site Layout Plan

3. Existing Green Infrastructure Assets

The site benefits from existing vegetation and soft landscaping typical of its rural/natural setting. This includes:

- Areas of soft landscaping surrounding the building / boundaries
- Existing planting contributing to visual amenity and ecological value
- Boundary treatments that integrate with the surrounding landscape

The existing green infrastructure contributes to local biodiversity and the character of the area.

The proposal has been designed to retain the majority of existing vegetation, ensuring continuity of habitat and landscape character.



4. Proposed Green Infrastructure Assets

The proposal incorporates a number of measures to ensure a net enhancement of green infrastructure.

Retention of Existing Green Features

Existing planting and landscaped areas are largely retained

This ensures continued habitat provision and preserves the established character of the site

Living Wall Construction (Key Enhancement)

A primary feature of the proposal is the use of a living wall system as part of the extension.

This provides significant green infrastructure and biodiversity benefits, including:

- Increased vegetative coverage without increasing the building footprint
- Creation of new habitats for:
 - Pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies
 - Other invertebrates
- Enhanced ecological connectivity, acting as a stepping stone within the wider landscape
- Improved microclimate, supporting plant and insect life through moisture retention and temperature regulation
- Air quality benefits, including filtration of airborne pollutants
- Rainwater interception, helping reduce surface water runoff

The living wall will be planted with native and pollinator-friendly species, ensuring year-round ecological value.

Patio Area and Boundary Treatment

The proposed patio seating area will be designed to complement and enhance the site through:

- Stone boundary walls that replicate existing materials, maintaining visual continuity
- Integrated planters within the walls, providing:
- Additional planting opportunities
- Habitat for insects and pollinators
- Softening of hard landscaping to ensure it contributes positively to biodiversity
- Planting of herbs and shrubs around the stone boundary walls to attract pollinator-friendly species but also to improve the image of the visitor centre entrance.

Additional Planting

Where opportunities arise, additional planting will be incorporated including:

- Pollinator-friendly species
- Native shrubs and flowering plants

These measures will further enhance biodiversity and ecological value.

5. Summary



This Green Infrastructure Statement demonstrates a clear commitment to incorporating green infrastructure into the design of the proposed development.

The scheme:

- Retains the majority of existing green infrastructure
- Introduces a living wall system, significantly increasing vegetation and biodiversity
- Incorporates planting within boundary features, enhancing ecological value
- Provides new opportunities for habitat creation and pollinator support

Overall, the development results in a net enhancement of green infrastructure in accordance with Policy BE15 and the objectives of Planning Policy Wales.