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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

Proposed single-storey extensions, and raise roof of bungalow to allow use of first floor attic space

Rownad, Pontneathvaughan Road, Glynneath, SA11 5NT

8th June 2026 – Our Ref: 4858

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This statement is provided in order to describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the development. The Stepwise approach described in Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales has been followed, and any compensation needed has been designed with reference to DECCA guidelines.
- 1.2 Planning Policy Wales 6.2.1 describes Green Infrastructure as:
“the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales and some components, such as trees and woodland, are often universally present and function at all levels. At the landscape scale green infrastructure can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways, peatlands and mountain ranges or be connected networks of mosaic habitats, including grasslands. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, ponds, natural green spaces, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens or may be designed or managed features such as sustainable drainage systems. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to green infrastructure networks.”

The Step-wise Approach	DECCA framework
Avoid	Diversity
Minimise	Extent
Mitigate / Restore	Condition
Compensate on site	Connectivity
Compensate off site	Adaptation
Refuse planning permission	

2	Avoid	Statutory designated sites, and overall biodiversity
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- 2.1 There are no statutory designated sites on the development site. Cwm Gwrelych and Nant Llyn Fach Streams SSSI is within 500m to the south. The Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC and SSSI is around 1.3km north-east. There are many areas of designated Ancient Woodland nearby, including areas within 200m.
- 2.2 The development proposal has been designed to avoid damage to green infrastructure and have net benefit for biodiversity as described below.
- 2.3 The satellite image below shows the existing green infrastructure. The site lies in the Vale of Neath, close to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park boundary and the area known as ‘Waterfalls Country’. Although the bungalow is within Glynneath settlement boundary, it is on the eastern edge, and adjacent to open countryside. The site is directly connected to open countryside via existing hedges and trees. Agricultural fields are mostly edged with hedgerows and trees, and there are large areas of forestry close by. The numerous stream corridors are mostly tree-lined, and all of these features support excellent connectivity in the immediate surroundings.

4 Mitigate/ restore	Incorporating green infrastructure into the proposal, and description of impact of development
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- 4.1 Green infrastructure in the garden area and land adjacent will be maintained throughout the development. An electricity cable is situated at high level along the line of the north-western boundary, and the easement for work close to the cable will effectively protect the trees in the area.
- 4.2 Two bird boxes are proposed as shown on the plans, to increase biodiversity habitats.

5 Compensate on site	Proposed Green Infrastructure
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- 5.1 The green infrastructure of the garden can be improved through planting a native-species tree (crab apple). These will support many and diverse habitats, increasing biodiversity. This action will maintain condition of the green infrastructure features, and improving connectivity.
- 5.2 See specification below for more information.



Planting schedule						
Common name	species	No.	Girth	height	spacing	Total plants
Trees						
Crab apple	malus sylvestris	1	8cm	1.8m	5m from other trees	1

Planting information and schedule

1. Trees to be bareroot stock.
2. Plant during dormant period, November – March.
3. Obtain plants from reputable suppliers, e.g those listed by the RHS or members of the Horticultural Trades Association Nursery Certificate Scheme.
4. **Tree planting** – Excavate pit twice as wide as the rootball, and at least deep enough to accommodate the roots. Break up bottom of pit to depth to remove large stones. Back fill with excavated material. Secure using short double staking 800mm high. Tie tree to crossbar with expanding rubber belt (25mm wide) and allow for buckle. Tree to be fitted with appropriate mowing guards.

Management

The tree should be maintained for a period of at least 5 years after planting. Any plants that fail during this period should be replaced, with a different species if identified that the species is a reason for failure.

Water - It is essential throughout the spring and summer, to give a heavy enough watering to enable the water to penetrate right down to the deepest root level.

Soak the ground around each tree with enough water to completely saturate the soil. DO THIS AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK during hot weather, or if there is no substantial rainfall for more than one week.

Weed Control – Reduce competition from grass and weeds by maintaining a circle or strip one metre wide completely free of growth for at least 3 years after planting. DO NOT strim the area as damage to trunks is likely. Control as follows:

1. Mulch around the base of the tree by with a thick (at least 40mm) layer of organic mulch such as bark chips. This will conserve moisture and prevent much weed growth. Hand weeding will be needed occasionally.

Staking and Ties - If trees are not correctly secured they will rock in the planting pit. Roots not firmly in contact with the soil are unable to take up moisture and nutrients, resulting in die back or death of the tree. Check, particularly after windy weather, that stakes are still solidly in the ground keeping the base of the trunk firm. The purpose of the stakes is to anchor the roots. Flexing in the wind, higher up the trunk, is not necessarily a problem if the roots are firm.

Stakes and ties should be checked at the end of each growing season for adjustment as the trunk thickens. Non-proprietary materials such as baler twine will cut into the bark and should not be used.

Protection from Animal Damage - Rabbits, deer, sheep, cattle and horses can all potentially damage trees. Appropriate guards should be used depending on animals present.

Formative pruning – the tree should have formative pruning to raise the crown unless already undertaken by the nursery supplier. Inspect annually and prune out diseased or damaged material.