

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STATEMENT

Minor Development / Householder Application

Site Address	69 Moorland Road, Neath
Proposed Development	Construction of a front porch extension and conversion of the existing attached garage into habitable accommodation.
Document Purpose	To describe how existing green infrastructure and biodiversity are protected and enhanced as part of the proposal.

Site Description

The application site comprises an existing two-storey semi-detached dwelling with a hard-surfaced driveway to the side leading to an attached garage. The property has a small enclosed front garden with low brick boundary walls and a larger rear garden. The front porch and garage conversion will be undertaken entirely within the established residential curtilage. There are no significant trees, hedgerows or other notable ecological features within the immediate area affected by the proposed works.

Surrounding Area Description

The property is located within an established residential street comprising similar semi-detached and terraced dwellings with private gardens. Green infrastructure in the surrounding area is principally provided by domestic lawns, shrubs, garden planting and occasional trees. The proposed development does not extend into any woodland, watercourse, designated ecological site or other semi-natural habitat.

Development Impacts and Step-wise Approach

The proposal has been designed to avoid harm to biodiversity. The front porch will occupy a small area of existing hardstanding immediately in front of the dwelling, while the garage conversion will remain within the existing building footprint. No trees, hedgerows, established planting or areas of habitat will be removed. Existing boundary walls, garden areas and vegetation will be retained. As no significant ecological features are affected, compensation is not required. Any new external lighting will be limited, directed downward and positioned to minimise unnecessary light spill. Should evidence of nesting birds or bats be discovered before or during construction, works in the affected area will stop and appropriate ecological advice will be obtained.

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed

To provide a proportionate net benefit for biodiversity, the development will incorporate the following measures:

- Installation of one suitable bird nesting box on the dwelling, positioned away from excessive disturbance.
- Installation of one suitable bat roost box at high level on an appropriate elevation.
- Pollinator-friendly planting within the existing front garden using a mix of flowering shrubs and perennial plants.
- Retention of all existing garden areas and boundary planting.
- Use of permeable materials where practical for any replacement or additional external hard surfacing.

Existing and Proposed Appearance

The photographs below illustrate the current frontage and the intended improved appearance following completion of the porch and garage conversion. The proposed image is an illustrative visualisation; final details will accord with the submitted planning drawings and approved materials.



Existing frontage



Illustrative proposed frontage

Existing Appearance

The dwelling currently has no front porch and the garage door remains prominent on the front/side elevation. The external materials and detailing appear dated and the entrance is visually understated.

Proposed Appearance

The proposed porch will provide a clearly defined entrance with a pitched roof designed to complement the dwelling. The garage door will be replaced with a domestic-style window as part of the conversion, allowing the former garage to read as part of the house. Matching or complementary render, roof tiles, windows and doors will create a more cohesive frontage that remains appropriate to the character of the surrounding residential area.

Conclusion

The proposed front porch and garage conversion follow the step-wise approach by avoiding impacts on existing biodiversity features, limiting construction to existing hardstanding and the established building footprint, and retaining all existing garden vegetation. The bird box, bat box and pollinator-friendly planting will provide proportionate ecological enhancement. The development will therefore maintain existing green infrastructure, improve opportunities for local wildlife and deliver a modest net benefit for biodiversity.

Signed:		
Date:	28/7/26	