Green Infrastructure Statement

1. Policy Background

1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) supports a full planning application for the construction of a new slurry storage tower and all associated works at LLWYDIARTH, DOLYWERN, PONTFADOG, LLANGOLLEN, LL20 7AG

1.2 This GIS aims to respond to the requirements of Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, 2024). This states:

"6.2.11 The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate site selection and use *of creative design. With careful planning and design, informed by an appropriate level of* assessment, *green infrastructure can embed the benefits of biodiversity and* ecosystem *services into new development and places, help to overcome the potential for conflicting objectives, and contribute to health and well-being* outcomes.

6.2.12 A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale *and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the* case *of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional* outcomes *which are appropriate to the site in question and* must *be used for demonstrating how the step-wise approach (Paragraph 6.4.15) has been applied.*

6.2.13 There are multiple ways *of incorporating green infrastructure, depending on the needs and opportunities a site presents, and the green infrastructure* assessment *should be referred to,* as *appropriate, in order to ascertain local priorities. Landscaping, green roofs,* grass *verges, sustainable drainage and gardens are examples of individual design* measures *that can have wider cumulative benefits, particularly in relation to biodiversity and the resilience of* ecosystems as *well* as *in securing the other desired environmental qualities of places. Wider landscape* measures, *such* as *the creation of* species *rich meadows, woodlands and the improvement of linkages between areas of biodiversity value should be considered for larger* scale *development. In* most cases *the green infrastructure statement should highlight any baseline data considered and surveys and* assessments *undertaken, including but not limited to, habitats and* species *surveys, arboricultural surveys and* assessments, *sustainable drainage* statements, *landscape and ecological management plans, open* space assessments *and green* space *provision and active travel links".*

1.3 The 'step-wise approach', as outlined below, demonstrates the sequential approach that has been adopted as part of the proposed development to maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are firstly avoided, then minimised, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for. In addition, enhancement has been secured by delivering a net biodiversity benefit on-site, over and above that required to mitigate or compensate for any negative impact

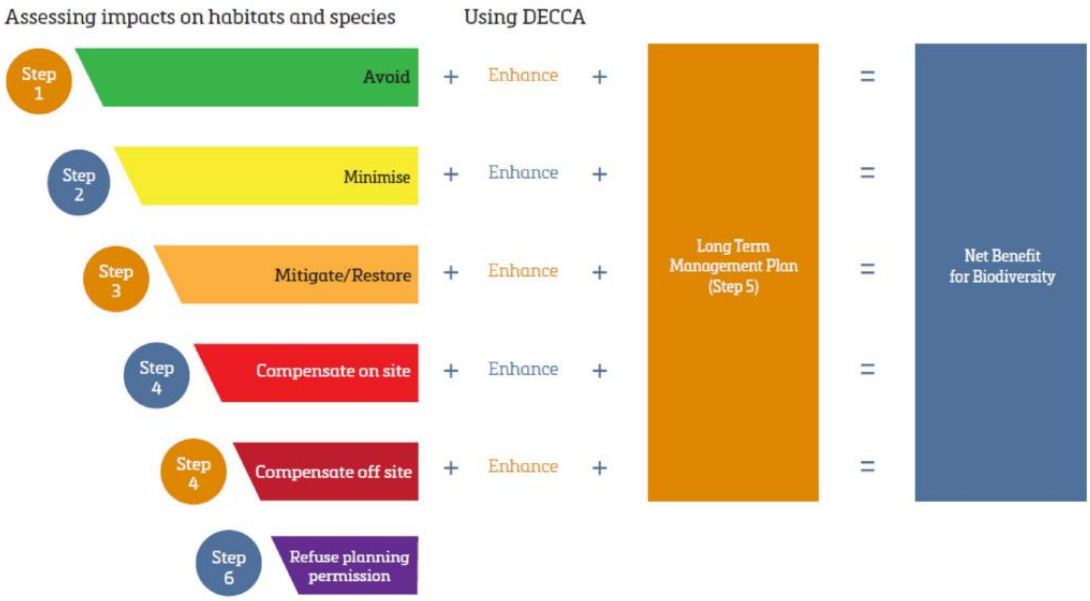


Figure 1: A summary of the step-wise approach taken from Chapter 6 of PPW (Ed. 12, 2024)

2. The Proposed Development

2.1 The application seeks full planning permission for the construction of a new slurry storage tower and all associated works.

2.2 The proposed slurry storage tower would have a floor area of approximately 591m2 and would measure approximately 4.23m in height above ground-levels. The slurry tower's elevations would be finished with 'juniper green' metal. The tower would not have a roof. The tower would be sited on an impermeable concrete base. Slurry from the farm and buildings would be transferred by slurry pump and slurry pipes to the proposed tower for storage.

2.3 The slurry tower will be constructed to comply with SSAFO Regulations and The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations (2021)

2.4 Stock numbers on the holding would not change as a consequence of the proposed developments. Indeed, the proposals are designed merely to align the farm with the current and future regulations set out by NRW and the Welsh Government as defined within The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations (2021).

3. Green Infrastructure Baseline

3.1 At present, the application site comprises improved agricultural grazing land which is in intensive agricultural use. Given the site's current intensive agricultural use, it is not considered to be of any ecological or green infrastructure value.

3.2 Therefore, it is considered the application site is devoid of any 'green infrastructure' at present, is of low ecological value and does not have the potential to be in use by any protected or priority species.

3.3 The application site is not located within or near to any statutory or non-statutory designated ecological sites, and therefore the proposed development does not have any potential to cause an adverse impact upon protected sites.

4. The Green Infrastructure Strategy

4.1 The approach to the design of the proposed development is fully outlined within the accompanying Planning Statement. The submitted design has been arrived at following thought being given to the environmental effects of the proposals.

Hedgerow Planting

4.2 It is proposed to plant approximately 105 m of native species-rich hedgerow to the north of the manure store/ trackway, see Figure 1: Biodiversity Enhancement Plan, (the alignment as shown is indicative only)

4.3 This resource will be planted as staggered, double rows with four to five plants per metre. A minimum of five native woody species will be planted to establish the hedgerow. It would be appropriate to source equal amounts of both the 'standard hedge mix' and the 'traditional hedge mix' from the Woodland Trust14, and then intermix the saplings when planting. These two mixes include Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Crab Apple, Dog-rose, Cornus sanguinea (Dog-wood) and Field Maple.

4.4 Bare-rooted forestry size transplants should be used with the individual plants being notch planted between November and March. They will be planted in accordance with the advice provided by the Woodland Trust15. The trees/ shrubs will need stakes and Rabbit guards, and be fenced from livestock.

Bird Boxes

4.5 Two no. House Sparrow boxes will be attached to the external eastern elevation of the existing agricultural shed. These should, where possible, be at least 1 m apart, have unobstructed access, and not be sited above windows or doors.

4.6 Two no. Vivara Pro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box (double chamber). These will be attached at approximately the locations as indicated by orange stars see Figure 1: Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

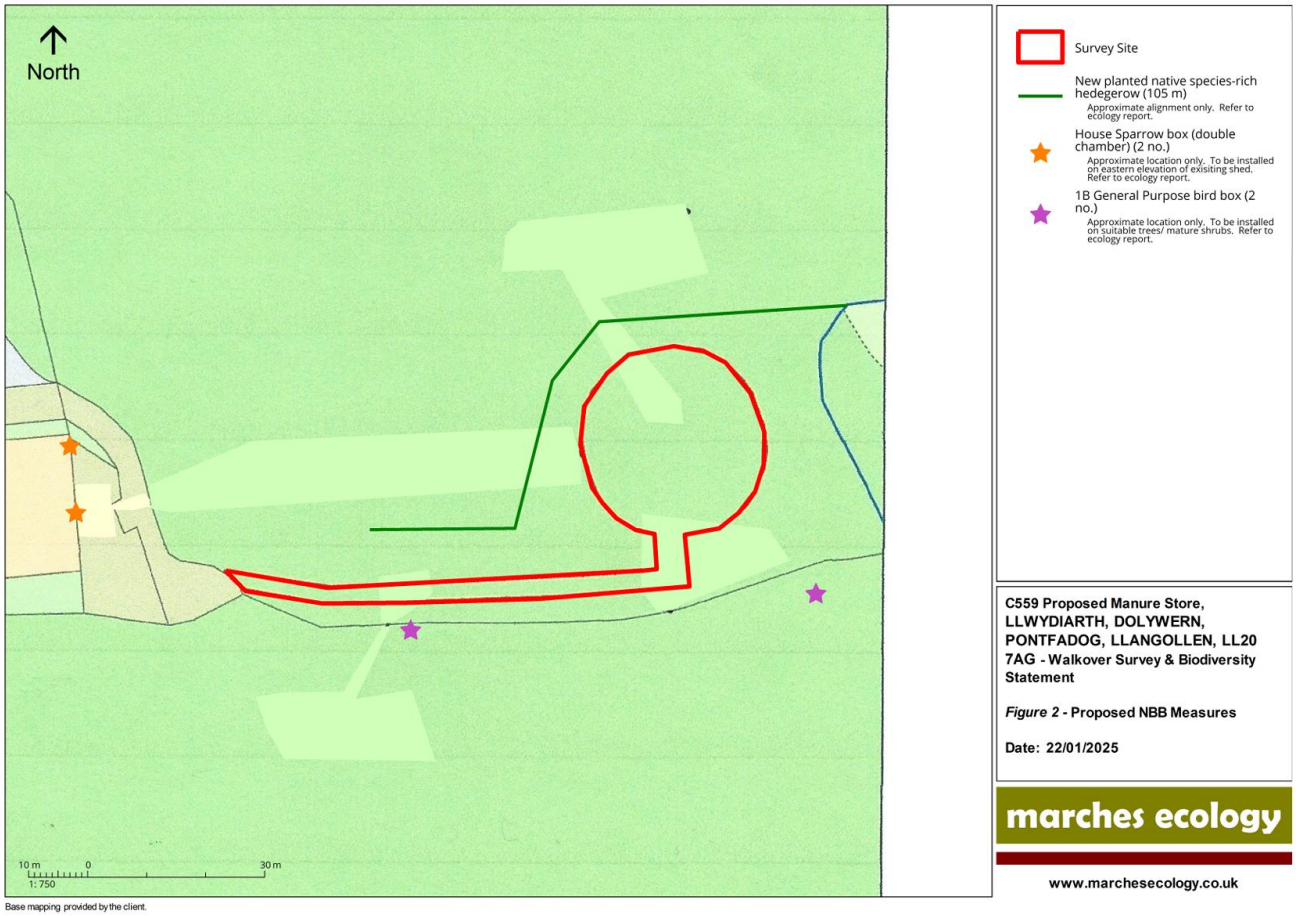
4.7 Two no. 'general purpose' bird boxes will be attached to suitable mature trees/ shrubs. Two no. 1B Schwegler Nest Box18. 1 no. 32 mm hole and 1 no. 26 mm hole. They should be sited out of reach, 3 m or more off the ground. Both should be located somewhere between (facing) north through east to southeast; avoiding prevailing winds and direct sunlight where possible. The boxes should generally be sited near shrubs/ other vegetation that will provide good cover for young birds. They should ideally be installed utilising wire or similar (not nails) to facilitate easy maintenance. These will be attached at approximately the locations as indicated by purple stars see Figure 1: Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

4.8 The step-wise approach has been followed as impacts upon habitats and species would be avoided through the siting and design of the proposals. The development would also not prejudice connectivity between nearby habitat for protected species and wider biodiversity.

4.9 Off-site ecological mitigation will not be required as there will not be any impacts upon protected species on the site.

4.10 The proposals would also achieve an overall net benefit for biodiversity on the holding over and above the baseline.

Figure 1



5. Conclusion

It is clear the proposed development would not cause any impacts upon existing green infrastructure, biodiversity, ecosystem resilience or protected species. The proposal has fully followed the step-wise approach as prescribed by Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, and the development would provide a net benefit for biodiversity which is commensurate to the scale of the proposal