Cambrian Planning

Green Infrastructure Statement

for

Installation of a free standing Air Sourced Heat Pump

at

10 Oak Avenue, Penley, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL13 0NW



August 2025

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Contents

1. **Introduction** **3**

2. **Summary of Proposal:** **3**

3. **The Step-Wise Approach** **5**

4. **Mitigation/Enhancements** **6**

5. **Conclusion** **7**

1. Introduction

This is a minor application.

Following changes to Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales a green infrastructure statement should now 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.**

2. Summary of Proposal:

Proposed Installation of a free standing air sourced heat pump (PUZ-WM50VHA 5.0KW ASHP).

Site

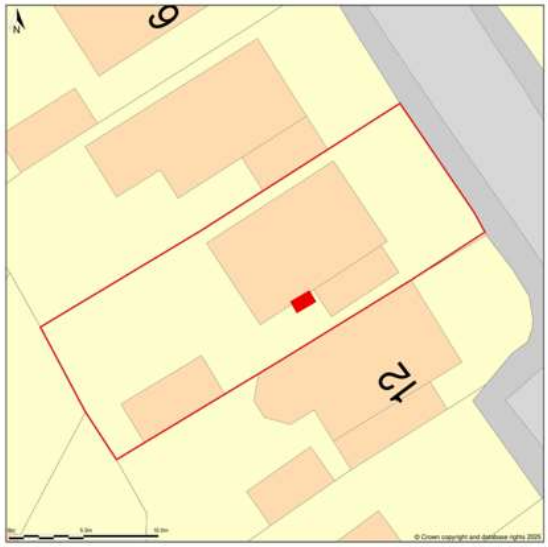
The proposed development is located at 10 Oak Avenue, Penley, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL13 0NW.

The property is set within a residential settlement in a semi-rural setting. In the wider landscape are woodlands pastureland and arable fields which could provide foraging opportunities for wildlife and would support birds occupying nesting boxes that will be sited.



Location plan and site plan





DIMENSIONS (mm)	Width	950
	Depth	330+30^7
	Height	943

Ecology of site







The air source heat pump will be positioned on existing hardstanding and as such will have no negative ecological impact.

Connectivity on site

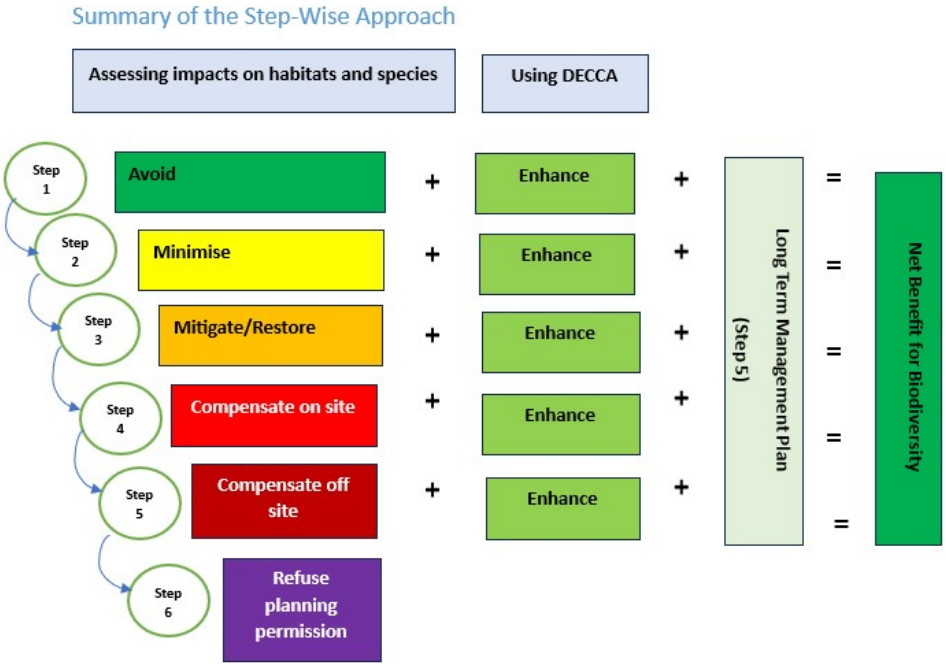
There will be no additional boundaries or fencing erected as part of the installation, existing connectivity will be maintained.

3. The Step-Wise Approach

The Stepwise Approach

Planning Policy Wales makes clear that, when making planning decisions, the Local Planning Authority must follow a stepwise approach. Such an approach ensures that planning decisions maintain and enhance biodiversity and build resilient ecological networks. This approach also serves to ensure adverse environmental effects of development are first avoided, then minimised, mitigated and, as a last resort, compensated for. The same National Guidance states that enhancement of biodiversity must be secured wherever possible.

The stepwise approach is a 'hierarchy' of actions to assess and limit the impact of a development to biodiversity.



The Step-Wise approach has been taken into consideration regarding this development:

Step 1 **avoid** will be achieved as,

- The site is not in an environmentally or ecologically significant area.
- The development will be limited to the minimal amount of land to carry out the installation, this land is currently hardstanding.
- Development Proposals for protection of condition of ecosystems include ensuring the condition of the remaining land is not impacted by the development.
- Provision of bird box.

4. Mitigation/Enhancements

Under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 it places a duty on public authorities to ‘seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity’ and ‘promote the resilience of ecosystems. The following enhancement measures would help to ensure compliance with Section 6 of this Act:

Ecological advantages of Air Source Heat Pumps

- **Reduced Carbon Emissions:**
  Air source heat pumps significantly lower reliance on fossil fuels like oil or gas, leading to a substantial reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. This helps combat climate change.

- **Energy Efficiency:**
  They are more efficient than traditional heating systems, meaning they use less energy to produce the same amount of heat.

- **Lower Environmental Impact:**
  Unlike combustion-based systems, heat pumps don't emit harmful pollutants like carbon monoxide or nitrogen oxides, improving indoor air quality and contributing to a cleaner environment.

- **Contribution to National Goals:**
  By choosing air source heat pumps, homeowners can contribute to national efforts to reduce carbon emissions and achieve net-zero targets.

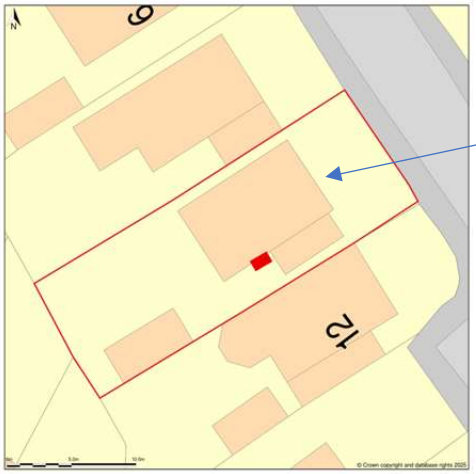
- **Renewable Energy Integration:**
  Heat pumps can be combined with renewable energy sources like solar panels to further reduce carbon emissions.

- **Long-Term Sustainability:**
  With their long lifespan and low maintenance requirements, air source heat pumps provide a sustainable heating solution for the long term.

- **Reduced Reliance on Fossil Fuels:**
  By harnessing renewable energy from the environment, heat pumps reduce reliance on traditional fossil fuel-based heating systems.
  In essence, air source heat pumps are a valuable tool in the fight against climate change, offering a cleaner and more efficient alternative to traditional heating methods.

Birds

The installation of a swift bird box at the site will provide additional nesting habitat for birds. The box should be placed on the northeast or western elevations of the building, located around 3m – 5m from the ground with a clear flight path into the box and away from wind and direct sunlight.



Suggested positioning of bird box



5. Conclusion

In Wales the biodiversity duty is set out under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. It requires public authorities to “seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”

A Green Infrastructure Statement should 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 should be a short description and is not expected to 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 has been applied.

This statement shows the approach taken regarding the green infrastructure of the site and how the ecology will be enhanced and maintained meeting the requirements of the amended Planning Policy Wales.