Green infrastructure

1.1 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Edition 12), 2024 advises that the quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate site selection and use of creative design. It advises that 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.

1.2 PPW advises that a green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications and should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal.

1.3 A summary of the green infrastructure baseline is provided in the table below and assessed against the DECCA Framework to establish any impact on the site's green infrastructure using the step-wise approach in PPW.

Landscape or ecological designations on site or in close proximity	Location	Proximity to site	Potential impact
No designated or protected sites within 2km of the application site	n/a	n/a	n/a

Existing green infrastructure baseline and condition:
Application site comprises of an existing dwelling used for child-minding purposes. The site primarily comprises of a paved parking area to the side and outdoor area to the rear, comprising predominantly of concrete slabs and some vegetation. No known presence of birds or bats within the building itself, therefore the baseline ecological condition is assumed to be low.

The DECCA framework	Step-wise Approach set out in PPW			
	Avoid	Minimise	Mitigate	Compensate
Diversity: individual development proposals should avoid negative impacts on biodiversity by considering how biodiversity assets can be maintained and enhanced	The application site has a low baseline condition in terms of ecological and biodiversity value. Nonetheless, the proposal is contained to internal changes relating to a change of use and minimal physical works, therefore there would be little to no disturbance to nearby ecological designations or areas of biodiversity. No external works are proposed as part of the development, As such there will be no impact upon biodiversity. As required by Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, all planning applications must provide a net benefit in terms of biodiversity that is proportionate to the scale of development proposed. In light of this, it is proposed for 1 no. Martin House Nest Cup to be placed upon the existing property. With the scale of development in mind, being solely for a change of use of existing internal areas, this is considered to be appropriate and provide a sufficient level of biodiversity enhancement,			
Extent: Individual development proposals must avoid loss in the extent of biodiversity and incorporate measures to appropriately maintain and enlarge existing habitats, especially where extent is small or declining, through habitat restoration and creation with adjoining and nearby areas, green infrastructure features and networks				
Condition: individual development proposals must not compromise the condition of ecosystems.				
Connectivity: Individual development proposals should identify and incorporate measures which enable appropriate links to be made between the site and its surroundings so as to improve connectivity				
Adaptability to change: individual development proposals should identify impacts to the ecosystem resilience attributes of biodiversity. They should incorporate measures to ensure that biodiversity's ability to adapt to, resist and recover from pressures is enhanced. Enhancement of resilient ecological networks and securing and enhancing green infrastructure will be key ways of achieving this, as well as facilitating social				

and economic resilience aspirations of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.	