# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

Dated 11th September 2026

Land adjoining Glascoed Gatewen Road New Broughton Wrexham

Proposed Outline Planning Application for a New Dwelling

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.01 Welsh Government has asked all planning authorities in Wales to undertake a Green Infrastructure Assessment. To help with the process of drawing up these assessments, together this guide. It provides an overview of what we consider to be the key national datasets held by NRW that could help inform your Green Infrastructure Assessment. It also describes how this data could be used as part of your assessment and where these datasets can be accessed.

1.02 In Planning Policy Wales, green infrastructure has been defined as: “the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places”. Green Infrastructure can function at a range of different scales; from entire ecosystems such as wetlands and rivers to parks, fields and gardens at the local scale and street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls at the micro scale. (PPW 12]

1.03 **Green Infrastructure Assessments aim to address:**

- Opportunities for improvement, support for wildlife and the climate. GIA allows the Opportunities through the provision of new green infrastructure, and the enhancement of existing
- what improvements can be made to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, as well as consider the needs of local communities and society as a whole and how these can be met through green infrastructure;
- Be regularly reviewed, to ensure that the information contained within them is up to date and appropriate for use as an evidence base, to inform development management decisions and assists with relevant reporting requirements (6.2.12)

2.00 **The Project**

2.01 Application for a Single Two Storey Dwelling

3.00 **Meaning of The Natural World**

3.01 The natural world is the most fundamental reason humans are here; we are simply an element that makes up the natural world. The natural world would be thriving without us; we are indeed blinded by gain where we are simply failing to understand that our survival wholly relies on what we are destroying.

3.02 We all need to look around and understand that we need nature before nature need us, Law should not be the tool needed to drive home the damage we are doing. Wild birds, greenfinches, starlings' sparrows [sealed up homes] have seen the greatest decline, Remember the Thrush [plastic grass] [coupled with the glossy show house polished patios]

3.03 The mistle thrush is known for being the is the UK's largest 'traditional' songbird. Territorial in nature, mistle thrushes often defend trees and bushes protecting their trolly of berries in the winter months. Now that their humble berry tree has lost out to your patio, the thrush has now no tree to defend. The removal of garden hedgerows caused by an attitude of one can gain more garden space.

3.04 The proposals would be fully landscaped to ensure that they blend seamlessly into the natural environment. Additional landscaping in indigenous species of trees and shrubs would create wild life

The main elements

Ditch the pesticides.

Plant berry bushes to provide natural food and shelter, increasing garden quality.

Have a water source in your garden e.g. bird bath or a pond (which encourages invertebrates).

Hedges made up of different species which flower at different times of the year provide year-round food and shelter for our songbirds e.g. brambles, hazel, honeysuckle, leave the hedges in, those couple of inches will not make that much difference

Plant flowers that encourage insect life and songbirds e.g. sunflowers, jasmine, fennel, teasel.

3.06 Birds help to shape the world we see around us. They disperse seeds, keeping the balance between plants, herbivores, predator and prey, and recycling nutrients. Birds respond quickly to changes in the environment, whether for good or bad, so they act as our early warning system for when things are going wrong.

They are an essential part of our ecosystem; we need wildlife for our own survival. They also help our souls in an indefinable way, lifting the spirit, bringing comfort and joy, often at times when it is much needed.

3.07 There is evidence that populations of bees and other pollinators are less healthy and abundant than they have been. If action is not taken, pollinator declines will have serious implications for biodiversity, food production and the ornamental garden. Mother Nature needs insect and insects need flowering plants to support this includes [not limited to] bumblebees; solitary bees; wasps; hoverflies other flies; moths and butterflies.

- Forage: The amount and quality of flowering resources have declined. Modern farming practices have reduced the number of flowers on farmed land for example traditionally managed flower-rich meadows, are now very rare. This is likely to have affected all pollinators but specialist pollinators including some bumblebees and solitary bees that collect nectar and pollen from a restricted range of plants more will have been more affected. Where suitable forage remains, its availability is often fragmented, making it more difficult for bee populations to expand and colonise new areas. In urban areas bumblebee solitary bees and other pollinators that feed on a wide range of plants can do well in gardens.

- Nest and breeding sites: Bumblebees and solitary bees have specific requirements for nest sites. Many other pollinators such as hoverflies, butterflies and moth have specific habitat requirements for their larvae. The loss and fragmentation of suitable habitats reduces nesting and breeding opportunities. Gardens can provide suitable breeding places for many pollinators.

3.08 One of the utmost for importance are native plants. Non-native species can outcompete our native wildflowers. Non-native plants may look great but what our pollinators really want are native plants have evolved to feed from them. Planting common knapweed or Bellflower seeds give our pollinators a helping hand. You could also plant some native British herbs such as wild garlic or corn mint, which would be beneficial for you and local wildlife.



## 4.00 **Green Planting and the Landscape Plan**

4.01 In order to integrate the new with existing, there will be a scheme of planting, whereby we envisage to integrate the following to benefit wildlife



DOG ROSE [ROSA CANINA] (PLANTING SEASON AUGUST]

Its scented flowers appear in May and June and range in colour from pale pink (almost white) to deep pink. They are followed by beautiful orange-red hips which hang on its arching, thorny branches well into winter. Plant it alongside other shrubs or as part of a hedge.

Cell grown trees can be planted all year round in most situations if they are given the correct care. Please be aware that depending upon the time of year you receive your sapling (particularly early spring) it may not look very perky upon arrival, please do not worry once it has been planted it should pick up quickly. The flowers are an important nectar source for insects and the hips provide an autumn feast for many birds and mammals. The leaf buds of wild roses are often inflicted with a gall known as robin's pincushion.
It is caused by a specialist wasp and looks like a ball of reddish coloured threads. It is harmless to the rose so no control is needed, though it can be pruned out if preferred.

Oct-Feb - This is the best time of year for planting trees and your sapling is dormant, if it is kept free from frost and wind as well as being kept moist and in light conditions then it will last a few weeks before planting.

Mar-Sept - Your sapling is growing fast and will need planting as soon as possible. Planting it immediately will ensure it does not dry out, lose nutrients etc.

TREE ESTIMATED HEIGHT 1.5 metres

ALDER BUCKTHORN IS AN ATTRACTIVE NATIVE TREE WITH AUTUMN BERRIES.

There are so many benefits of Buckthorn to wildlife that is is a valuable addition to a wildlife woodland. As a small, bushy tree or shrub, it is equally suitable in a garden setting. Through the seasons, the Buckthorn adds interest; with its smooth bark and little white flowers in Spring, Autumn colour, and red berries turning to purple in the Winter. It grows best in damp, acidic soil and an open woodland setting, however it also does well in neutral soil. The Alder buckthorn is less widespread than the Common buckthorn.

WILDLIFE THAT THE FLOWER ATTRACTS:

The leaves are an important food plant of the caterpillar of the Brimstone butterfly. Only this tree and the Common Buckthorn (Rhamnus catharticus) are food plants for the Brimstone butterfly larvae, which is becoming increasingly rare. The pollen is useful for many insects, including bees, and the berries are a winter food source for birds.

PLANTING AREA CONSISTING OF MIXED SMALL SHRUBS

Honesty a cottage garden flower, and looks wonderful in both a traditional and contemporary garden setting. The flowers are usually pink, occasionally white and plants usually flower in their second year as they are biennial. Wildlife attracted: The flowers are a valuable nectar source for bees

MOTH MULLEIN

lovely garden plant, with tall spikes that carry white flowers. The flowers have an attractive dark purple ‘eye’ and the spikes can be 1-1.5m tall, so ideal for a sunny garden border. The flower self-seeds well with continuing flowering.

WILDLIFE THAT THE FLOWER ATTRACTS:

The beautiful flowers of the Moth mullein attract pollinators mostly bees

## 5.00 Objectives

5.01 To contribute towards the delivery of sustainable development, protecting both us and those that sustain us [mother-nature]

- All UK bats and their roosts are protected by law. The Wildlife & Countryside Act introduced in 1981, gave legal protection to all bat species and their roosts in England. The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations 1994 as amended (most recently in 2007 and 2009 and better known as the Habitats Regulations), further strengthened this legal protection. Bat-related offences are arrestable. The potential fine for each offence is £5,000 per bat. An offender can also be imprisoned for six months. If any property has been, or is suspected to have been, home to any number of bats, at any time, legislation requires taking advice and precautions when working on the roof. Legislation also requires provision to allow access for bats if they return.
- Most bats in the UK evolved to roost in trees. Around three quarters of British bat species are known to roost in trees. The remaining species tend to favour humanmade structures because of a lack of suitable and available tree habitat.

5.02 All the UK bat species are more building reliant than others. Different bat species select different types of roosts in buildings since they look for sites comparable to those chosen in natural habitats. Bats that use buildings can generally be divided into four categories, although there is regional variation and some species can occupy more than one category: 1. Crevice-dwelling bats (which tend to be hidden from view) such as the common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Brandt's bat and whiskered bat 2. Roof-void dwelling bats (that may be visible on roof timbers) include serotine, Leisler's bat, Daubenton's bat, brown long-eared bat and barbastelle 3. Bats that need flight space in certain types of roost include Natterer's bat, and brown and grey long-eared bat 4. Bats that need flight space and flying access into the roost include greater horseshoe and lesser horseshoe bat

5.03 **Access, size of roost space and structure**

- Crevice-dwelling bats can crawl into their roosts via small gaps in the range of 15–20mm high (h) by 20–50mm wide (w). The roost area should maintain a crevice of this approximate size that the bats can roost between. The area this roost provision covers can be small but about 1m2 would be useful for summer nursery roosts. The height of entry can be from 2–7m.

- Roof-void dwelling bats require similar dimensions to access the roost but typically need timber joists or beams on which to roost. The height of entry can be from 2–7m.

- Bats needing a flying area require the same access dimension as mentioned above, 15–20mm (h) x 20–50mm (w) situated over 2m in height. The roosting area should not be trussed, to allow flight, and should ideally be about 2.8m in height and 5m in length and width.

- Horseshoe bats need a larger access so that they can fly (instead of crawl) directly into the roost. Lesser horseshoe bats need an access of 300mm (w) x 200mm (h), while greater horseshoe bats need 400mm (w) x 300mm (h). As above, the roosting area should not be trussed, to allow flight, and should ideally be about 2.8m in height and 5m in length and width.

6.00 The proposal shall include the following

- These bats often need a 'letter box' style opening, the size of which will depend on which species you have in your building. Different species of bats prefer differing places to roost. The two most usually found species in the UK are Pipistrelle and Brown Long-Eared. Pipistrelle bats prefer confined spaces such as under tiles on the roof and hanging. The Brown Long-Eared prefer roof timbers and ridges within lofts.

- The roof shall contain a bat tile Each tile is a standard 10 x 6 inch (255 x 160mm) roof tile size. However, this size should be treated as nominal as all tiles are handmade. Each tile has nail holes, but not nibs to allow roofers a degree of adjustment to best match the surrounding tiles on the roof.