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21st Oct 2026

Wrexham County Borough Council
Planning Services.

Description – Green Infrastructure Statement.

Address – 111 Erddig Road, Wrexham.

Client – Mr & Mrs Jones.

1. Introduction

This Green Infrastructure Statement has been prepared in support of a householder planning application for an extension to an existing single-storey garage at a residential property on Erdigg Road, Wrexham.

The property is situated on the outskirts of Wrexham, in a location characterised by its proximity to open countryside and wooded areas. The surrounding landscape provides opportunities for local wildlife, including garden birds, pollinating insects and other species associated with trees, gardens and established green spaces.

The purpose of this statement is to explain how the proposed development will incorporate appropriate green infrastructure and deliver proportionate biodiversity enhancements, in accordance with the principles of Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, Chapter 6, and the requirement to secure a net benefit for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

Given the limited scale and domestic nature of the proposed development, the measures identified below are practical, achievable and appropriate to the site.

2. Existing Green Infrastructure and Proposed Tree Removal

The existing property benefits from garden space and an established cherry tree. The removal of this tree is necessary to facilitate the proposed extension to the existing single-storey garage.

The loss of the cherry tree is acknowledged as a reduction in the site's existing vegetation and potential wildlife habitat. The proposal therefore includes the planting of three additional trees within the front garden, providing replacement planting and an enhancement to the existing landscape.

The front garden is considered a suitable location for this planting, subject to adequate growing space and appropriate species selection. The trees will be visible from the adjacent public highway, helping to retain and enhance the green appearance of the property and its contribution to the local streetscape.

The new planting will provide future opportunities for nesting and foraging birds, seasonal blossom, berries and other natural resources, depending on the species selected. As the trees mature, they will also contribute to local landscape character, carbon storage, shade and the resilience of the garden's green infrastructure.

3. Application of the Step-Wise Approach

The proposal has been considered in accordance with the principles of avoiding, minimising and mitigating adverse effects on biodiversity, followed by appropriate enhancement.

Avoidance and minimisation

The proposed garage extension is designed to accommodate the required development within the existing residential property. The removal of the cherry tree is required to facilitate the extension; however, the impact will be addressed through additional tree planting and other biodiversity enhancements.

Construction activities should be confined to the necessary working area to avoid unnecessary damage to retained vegetation and garden habitats.

Mitigation and replacement planting

Three additional trees will be planted in the front garden to compensate for the loss of the existing cherry tree and provide further landscape and ecological benefits.

Enhancement

A bird box suitable for installation on a low-level building will be provided, together with the retention of the new trees and simple wildlife-friendly garden management measures. These enhancements will provide additional opportunities for wildlife within the residential plot and contribute to the wider green infrastructure network.

4. Proposed Tree Planting

Three additional cut-leaf alder trees (*Alnus glutinosa* 'Laciniata') will be planted within the front garden to compensate for the removal of the existing cherry tree required to facilitate the proposed extension to the existing single-storey garage.

The trees will be positioned to provide an attractive and visible landscape enhancement when viewed from the adjacent public highway. Their location and spacing will take account of the available garden area, proximity to buildings and underground services, and the anticipated mature size of the trees.

The proposed alder planting will introduce additional tree cover and contribute to the green character of the property and its surroundings. As the trees establish and

mature, they will provide foliage, shelter and potential habitat for birds and invertebrates, while contributing to the wider green infrastructure network in this location on the outskirts of Wrexham, close to open countryside and wooded areas.

The trees will be planted during a suitable planting season and maintained during establishment, including watering and appropriate formative care. Any tree that fails to establish or dies will be replaced with a suitable specimen.

The proposed planting of three additional trees will provide a positive landscape enhancement and contribute to the site's overall green infrastructure provision.

5. Bird Box Provision

To achieve a Net Benefit for Biodiversity in accordance with PPW 12, it is proposed to install 1x Schwegler 2H Open Fronted Woodcrete Nest Box (or other equal and approved Woodcrete open-fronted box targeting Robins/Wrens). Due to the property being a garage with eaves lower than 3 metres and a lack of mature trees, a cavity-nesting box is unsuitable. Instead, this open-fronted box will be securely surface-mounted to the external brickwork on the sheltered western elevation of the building at a height of 1.8 metres above ground level. To safeguard against predators, the box will be positioned directly adjacent to/above established garden shrubs, providing immediate cover for fledglings. The exact location is annotated on the submitted proposed elevation drawing.

The installation will create an additional potential nesting opportunity for garden birds and complement the proposed tree planting, which will provide future foraging and shelter opportunities as the trees mature.

6. Additional Biodiversity Enhancements

In addition to the three trees and bird box, the following simple measures will be incorporated where practicable:

- Wildlife-friendly planting: Existing garden vegetation will be retained wherever possible, with additional flowering plants or shrubs selected to provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.
- Reduced chemical use: The use of pesticides and herbicides will be minimised to support invertebrates and the wildlife that depends upon them.
- Sustainable garden management: Fallen leaves and suitable small areas of natural garden vegetation may be retained where practical, providing shelter and foraging opportunities for invertebrates and other wildlife.
- Protection of retained vegetation: Construction materials, excavation and machinery will be kept clear of retained trees, shrubs and other vegetation wherever reasonably practicable.

These measures are modest in scale but will help improve the ecological value of the garden and contribute to the cumulative benefits of green infrastructure within the surrounding residential and countryside setting.

7. Landscape and Green Infrastructure Benefits

The proposed development provides an opportunity to improve the property's green infrastructure through replacement tree planting and additional wildlife features.

The three new trees will introduce further vegetation into the front garden and provide a positive visual contribution to the public highway. Their flowers, foliage and potential fruit will provide seasonal interest while offering ecological benefits as they establish and mature.

The bird box will provide an additional potential nesting feature, while wildlife-friendly planting and appropriate garden management will support pollinators and other garden wildlife.

The property's location near open countryside and wooded areas makes the retention and enhancement of garden vegetation particularly beneficial in supporting connectivity between residential gardens and the wider landscape. The proposed measures will contribute to this connectivity by providing additional habitat features and resources for wildlife.

8. Maintenance and Long-Term Management

The applicant will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the proposed biodiversity enhancements.

The three new trees will be watered and maintained during establishment, with suitable formative pruning undertaken when necessary. Any failed or dead trees will be replaced to maintain the intended planting provision.

The bird box will be retained in a suitable condition and checked periodically, with any cleaning undertaken outside the nesting season and in accordance with applicable wildlife legislation.

Existing and proposed garden planting will be managed in a manner that seeks to retain its value for wildlife while remaining appropriate to the residential use of the property.

9. Conclusion

The proposed extension to the existing single-storey garage will necessitate the removal of an existing cherry tree. This loss will be addressed through the planting of three additional cut leaf alders within the front garden, together with the installation of a bird box suitable for a low-level building and other simple, proportionate biodiversity enhancements.

The new trees will provide replacement vegetation, improve the appearance of the property when viewed from the adjacent public highway and create additional opportunities for wildlife as they mature. The bird box and wildlife-friendly garden management measures will provide further ecological benefits.

Having regard to the limited scale of the proposed development, its residential setting and its proximity to open countryside and wooded areas, the proposed measures represent a practical and proportionate approach to incorporating green infrastructure and enhancing biodiversity.

Subject to the successful implementation and ongoing maintenance of the identified measures, the proposal is expected to provide a positive contribution to the site's green infrastructure and local ecological value, consistent with the objectives of Planning Policy Wales.

The proposal therefore demonstrates a reasonable and proportionate approach to biodiversity enhancement in association with the proposed domestic development.

Yours faithfully,

Spencer Cullis

Cullis Architectural Design