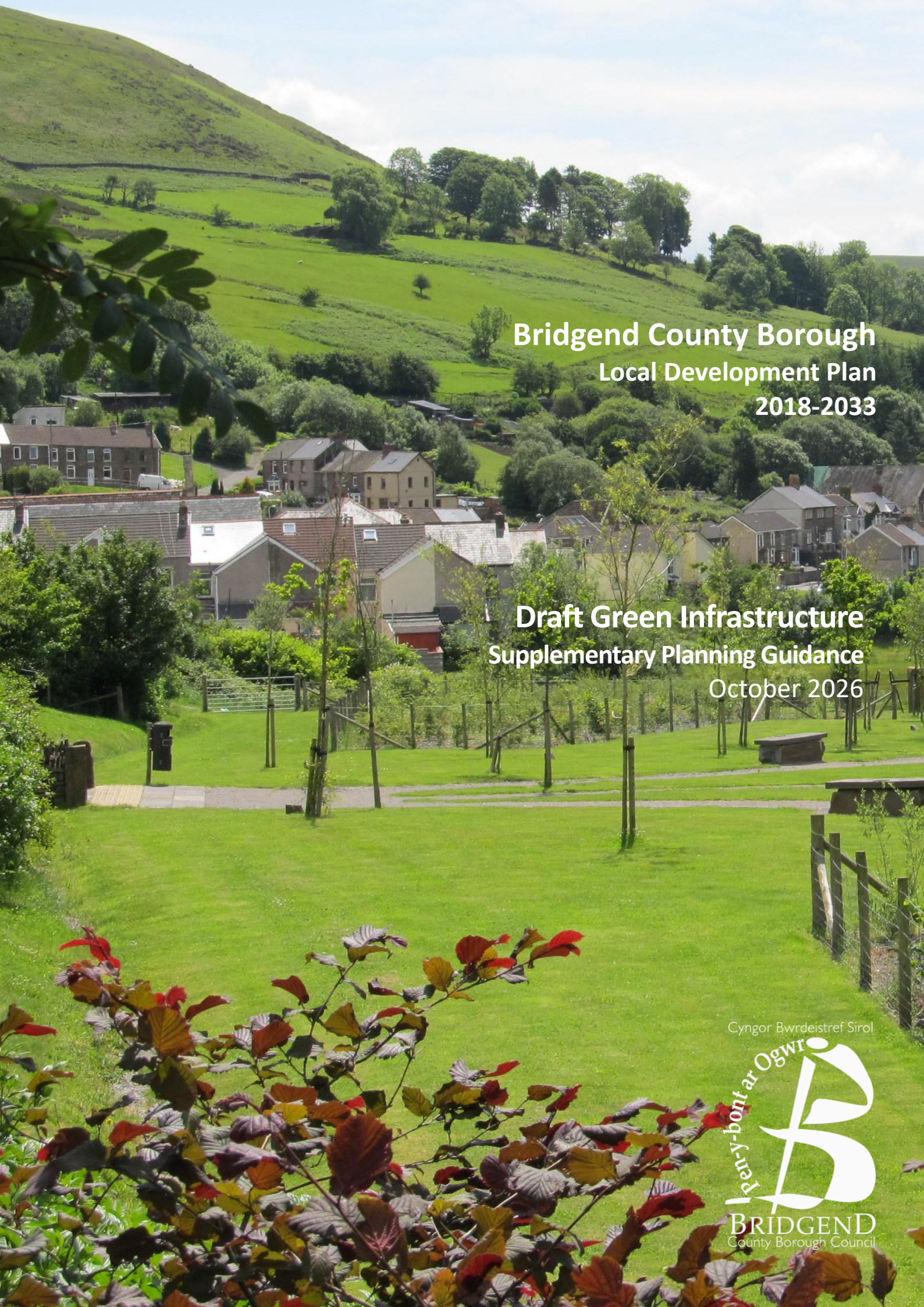


Bridgend County Borough
Local Development Plan
2018-2033

Draft Green Infrastructure
Supplementary Planning Guidance
October 2026

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

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Cover photo Parc Calon Lan, Blaengarw



Beacon Brazier, The Graig, Newcastle Hill, Bridgend

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) is to support and provide further direction on the implementation of the policies associated with the protection, enhancement and provision of green infrastructure (GI) contained within the adopted (March 2024) Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). It outlines how development proposals throughout Bridgend County Borough should integrate, protect and maintain existing GI assets while enhancing the extent, quality, connectivity and multi-functionality of the GI network. Its purpose is to clarify how applicants, developers, and decision-makers should interpret and apply the policies' requirements for embedding GI, ensuring that new developments contribute positively to biodiversity, climate resilience and the health and well-being of Bridgend County Borough's residents.

1.2 Once adopted, this SPG will be a material consideration in the determination of all planning applications for residential development, including applications for renewal of consents.

1.3 Anyone wishing to submit an application for development within Bridgend County Borough is urged to consider this SPG and to contact the local planning authority (LPA), in advance of submitting an application, to discuss the issues that are raised in this document on a site-specific basis.

1.4 This SPG provides specific guidance on:

- The principles of GI, including what it is, why it is important, and the range of assets and features that contribute to GI networks;
- The strategic and development management policy framework for GI; including the requirements of Policy DNP8 of the RLDP;
- Planning requirements for new development, including how to:
    - Develop a detailed understanding of existing GI assets within and adjacent to a site's red line boundary;
    - Understand, integrate, protect and maintain existing GI assets and features within and adjacent to development sites;

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- Enhance and strengthen the extent, quality, connectivity and multifunctionality of GI through development proposals; and
- Mitigate and compensate for unavoidable impacts on, or loss of, GI assets and features;
- Produce a Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) tailored to each development proposal.



Bedford Ironworks, Cefn Cribwr

2.0 Policy and Legislative Context

2.1 National planning policy guides the provision and management of GI through the planning system. This is set out in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and Technical Advice Notes (TANs) 5 (Nature Conservation and Planning), 12 (Design), 15 (Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion), and 16 (Sport, Recreation and Open Space).

Legislation

2.2 **Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015** outlines a definition of "sustainable development" as 'the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.'

2.3 It places a duty on public bodies to align with the 'sustainable development principle' meaning that any bodies must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

2.4 **Environment (Wales) Act 2016** is the legal framework that underpins the drive for Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB), including the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty ('Section 6 Duty') in which public authorities must maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems. The Act's Section 6 Duty is supported by the DECCA framework, which includes diversity, extent, condition, connectivity, and adaptability of ecosystems.

2.5 **The UK Climate Change Act 2008** requires the UK Government to report on climate change adaptation at minimum 5 yearly intervals. GI forms a key element of this climate change adaptation response.

2.6 **The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)** aims to protect hundreds of wildlife sites throughout the UK as well as the protected species that occupy these areas.

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National Planning Policy

2.7 **Future Wales: The National Plan 2040** is the national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040. Policy 9 'Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure' seeks to ensure that "action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity (to provide a net benefit), the resilience of ecosystems and GI assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment".

2.8 **PPW (Edition 12)** was subject to targeted updates in 2023 to strengthen the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in new development. Key changes include a requirement for all proposals to demonstrate a NBB using a step-wise approach (avoid, minimise, mitigate, compensate), stronger safeguards for designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and the integration of GI, trees, and woodlands into development design. The updates also encourage nature-based solutions to support ecosystem resilience, align development with local biodiversity priorities, and ensure long term ecological management.

2.9 Chapter 6 of PPW requires that a GI Statement must be submitted with all planning applications. It also advises that all development must deliver a NBB and ecosystem resilience from the baseline state (proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed). Even if the biodiversity value has been maintained, there must still be a proactive process to look for and secure enhancement through the design and implementation of the development.

2.10 **TAN 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)** defines how development should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation.

2.11 **TAN 12: Design (2009)** provides advice on 'Promoting sustainability through good design'; and on the preparation and validation of mandatory design and access statements. It encourages design that supports biodiversity and climate adaptation, such as by incorporating green roofs on buildings and integrating natural features into development design.

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2.12 **TAN 15: Development, Flooding and Coastal Erosion (2025)** advises on development and flood risk and provides a framework within which the flood risks arising from rivers, the sea and surface water, and the risk of coastal erosion can be assessed. It also provides advice on the consequences of the risks and adapting to and living with flood risk. TAN 15 encourages the use of 'site-level resistance and resilience measures, such as incorporating GI, to help reduce the amount of flood water that can enter a site.

2.13 **TAN 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009)** guides local authorities in meeting the PPW requirement to "provide a framework for well-located sport, recreation and leisure facilities which should be sensitive to the needs of users, attractive, well designed, well maintained, safe and accessible to all".

Local Plans and Strategies

2.14 **Bridgend County Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28** contains 'Wellbeing Objective 5', which aims to respond to the climate and nature emergency, by:

- Moving towards net zero carbon;
- Improving the energy efficiency of buildings and services;
- Protecting the County Borough's landscapes and open spaces and planting more trees;
- Reducing, reusing or recycling as much waste as possible; and
- Improving flood defences and schemes to reduce flooding of homes and businesses.

2.15 The Plan states that the Council aim to deliver projects such as woodland protection, develop and protect the natural environment in partnership with communities as part of the Bridgend Biodiversity Plan.

2.16 **Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) (2014)** is a County Borough-wide assessment of the biodiversity in Bridgend. It highlights opportunities to focus action to protect, restore and enhance biodiversity.

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Newbridge Fields, Bridgend

3.0 Background

3.1 The adopted RLDP seeks to maximise multi-functional GI coverage throughout the County Borough. It recognises the importance of protecting, enhancing and integrating GI networks as a fundamental component of creating resilient, healthy and attractive places. GI is an increasingly important element of sustainable development and placemaking, with its role now widely recognised as central to addressing the climate and nature emergencies, while also helping to create high-quality places that support health and wellbeing and enable people to live well. The RLDP therefore recognises that the effective integration of GI within both existing and new development is vital to strengthening these networks and ensuring their multiple benefits are embedded within the wider built and natural environment.

3.2 This SPG provides further information on the role of GI, the types of assets that contribute to GI networks, and the range of functions and benefits that GI can provide, if planned effectively.

What is Green Infrastructure and Why is it Important?

3.3 GI is a network of multifunctional green spaces, natural features and environmental management systems – from country parks, rivers, watercourses, lakes and woodlands to urban interventions such as green roofs and street trees - which help to provide a natural life support system for people and wildlife.

3.4 PPW describes GI as:

"…the network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of green infrastructure can function at different scales and some components, such as trees and woodland, are often universally present and function at all levels. At the landscape scale green infrastructure can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways, peatlands and mountain ranges or be connected networks of mosaic habitats, including grasslands. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, ponds, natural green spaces, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens or may be designed or managed features such as sustainable drainage systems. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to green infrastructure networks."

3.5 Depending on how it is designed, GI can provide a range of important benefits to people and wildlife; for example, improved connectivity through footpaths and cycle routes; space for nature that contributes to the local or sub-regional pattern of connected habitat; imaginative recreational facilities that give educational and physical health benefits to local people; and places that will be more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. By framing the integration and management of 'natural' features in this way, it is possible to maximise the numerous benefits it delivers to both people and wildlife. Specifically, the benefits that GI can deliver, include (but are not limited to):

- **Climate change mitigation** – GI can help to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. For example, planting new trees and preserving mature trees can help to maximise the amount of carbon absorbed (sequestered

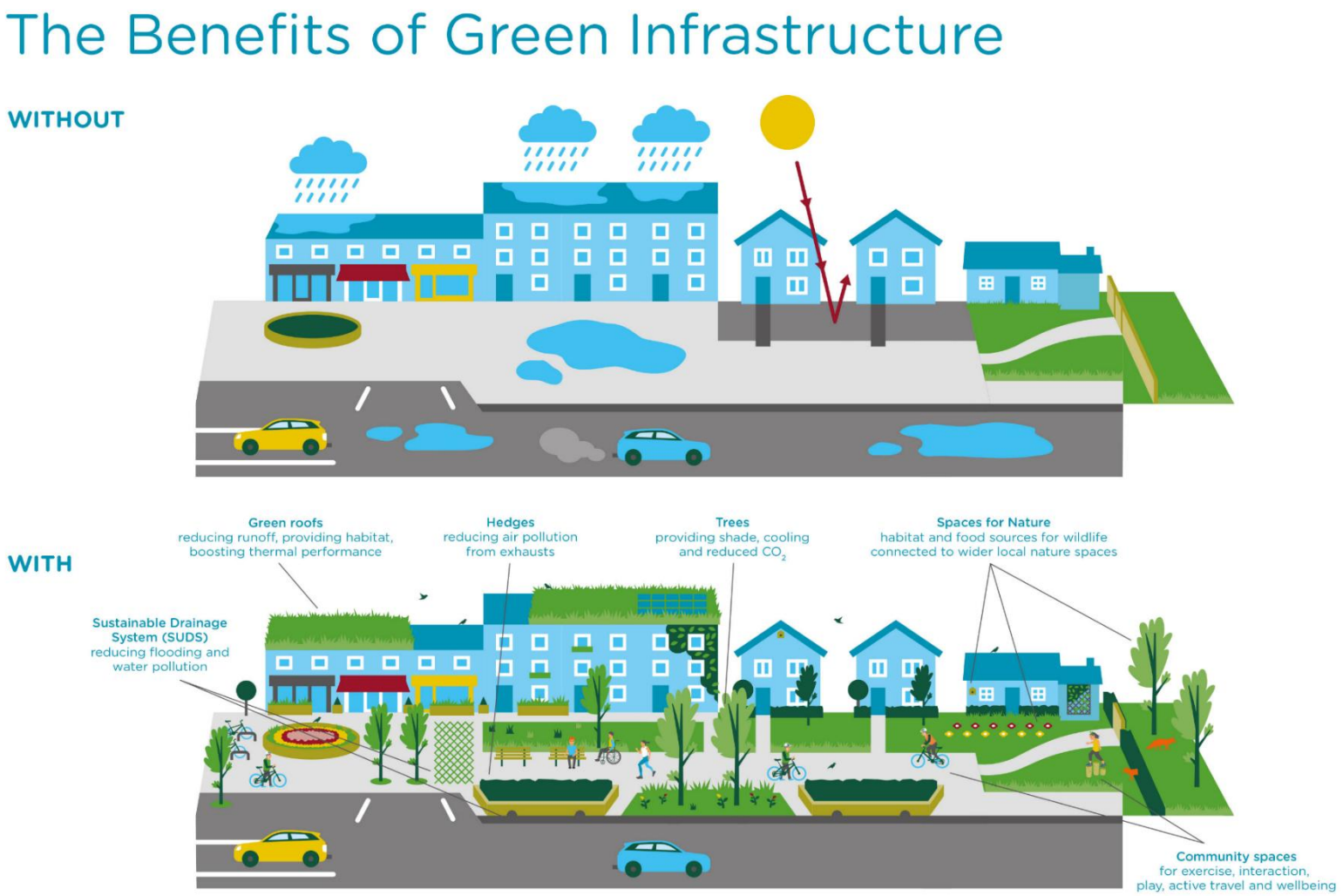
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from the atmosphere), thus reducing the overall long-term impact of climate change.

- **Climate change adaptation** – GI can be designed to support people and wildlife to better adapt to the current and future impacts of climate change, by providing permeable surfaces to minimise the impact of flooding when it occurs, providing shading (through street trees) and helping to mitigate the urban heat island effect during warm weather.
- **Biodiversity/Environmental protection** – High-quality networks of multifunctional GI (as opposed to fragmented natural habitats) support wildlife to move through the urban landscape, which is essential for enabling species to flourish. GI can also be designed to provide new natural habitats thus supporting NBB, wherever possible.
- **Access, recreation, play, movement and leisure** – GI can provide people with the spaces to exercise, play, socialise, experience and care for nature, among other activities that support health and well-being.
- **Landscape setting and context** – GI can help to support and reinforce local landscape character, contributing to a sense of place and natural beauty.
- **Reducing health inequalities** – By improving access to high-quality GI for all, LPAs, communities and developers can help to tackle health inequalities.
- **Increasing food sustainability** – GI can be designed to provide spaces for people to grow and produce food close to where they live, which helps to reduce the carbon emissions associated with the transportation of food.
- **Supporting economic sustainability** – GI can drive economic prosperity and regeneration, helping to create high-quality environments where businesses want to trade and people want to live.
- **Supporting active travel** – GI can be integrated with active travel links, which can help to encourage more people to walk, wheel and cycle to key destinations.

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Figure 1. The Benefits of Green Infrastructure



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3.6 GI should be seen as critical infrastructure in the same way as 'grey' infrastructure is used to build utilities, transport networks schools and hospitals. If it is possible to integrate it into a development's design at the start of a project, there is potential for achieving significant cost savings long term through the delivery of multiple benefits.

Green Infrastructure Assets

3.7 GI can be planned for at a range of scales; from buildings, streets, and neighbourhoods, to the wider landscape. GI assets can therefore be planned/designed at each scale. Below, we list some of the types of GI assets that can be integrated at each scale.

3.8 **Buildings:**

- Green roofs
- Green walls
- Gardens
- Rainwater collection systems
- Permeable driveways

3.9 **Streets:**

- Boundary features (hedges)
- Street trees
- Grass verges
- Green bus shelters
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Porous/Permeable paving
- Pocket parks
- Planters

3.10 **Neighbourhoods:**

- Amenity greenspaces
- Public parks and gardens
- Play areas (ie. Local Areas for Play (LAPs), Local Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs), and Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs)

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- Allotments & community growing spaces
- Playing fields & sports pitches
- Cemetries & churchyards
- Swales, reeds
- Urban woodlands
- Ponds & watercourses
- Urban nature reserves

3.11 **Wider Landscape:**

- Historic parks & gardens
- Ecological designated sites i.e. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), etc.
- Green corridors connecting key GI assets and sites
- Country parks
- Forests and woodlands
- Grasslands, heathlands and wetlands
- Community woodlands
- Nature reserves
- Farmland

3.12 The GI concept reconciles the seemingly ‘competing’ objectives of ‘development’ and ‘nature conservation’ and introduces a new approach to the way these are perceived and how they interact. It provides an approach that moves away from the historical view of the environment and development being in conflict to viewing the natural environment as an ‘asset’ that is seen as an essential part of development process.

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4.0 Planning Framework

4.1 The RLDP sets the framework to provide an appropriate and sustainable supply of housing land to deliver inter-connected, balanced communities that form the basis enabling everyone to live well. The strategic planning framework is set out within Strategic Policy 17: Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment (SP17), which is supported by Development Management (DM) Policies DNP1 – DNP9:

SP17: Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment
DNP1: Development in the Countryside
DNP2: Conservation of Rural Buildings
DNP3: Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside
DNP4: Special Landscape Areas
DNP5: Local and Regional Nature Conservation Sites
DNP6: Biodiversity, Ecological Networks, Habitats and Species
DNP7: Trees, Hedgerows and Development
DNP8: Green Infrastructure
DNP9: Natural Resource Protection and Public Health

4.2 Policy DNP8 provides specific policy criteria to assess how development proposals are protecting existing GI and integrating new high-quality GI throughout the County Borough. It requires proposals to integrate, protect and maintain existing GI assets, and to enhance the extent, quality, connectivity and multifunctionality of both existing and new GI. Where damage to existing GI is unavoidable, Policy DNP8 requires proposals to introduce appropriate mitigation and compensation measures. All developments are required to submit a GIS. The aim of the policy is to ensure that the benefits of GI are maximised through the DM process.

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5.0 Planning Requirements

5.1 This section of this SPG provides detailed guidance for planning applicants, officers and other key stakeholders on the interpretation and application of Policy DNP8 of the RLDP, by outlining key considerations that should be addressed through the planning process. Reflecting the requirements of Policy DNP8, this section sets out five distinct steps that applicants should follow. By carefully following and applying these steps to proposals, applicants can reduce the likelihood of delays during the planning process. They are set out as follows:

Step 1: Establish the Baseline – Understand the existing GI assets, function, condition and connectivity.

Step 2: Integrate and Protect – Design development around existing GI, protect sensitive assets and maintain connectivity.

Step 3: Enhance and Strengthen – Improve the extent, quality, connectivity and multifunctionality of GI, with appropriate planting and long-term protection.

Step 4: Mitigate and Compensate – Avoid and minimise harm, mitigate unavoidable impacts and compensate for unavoidable loss.

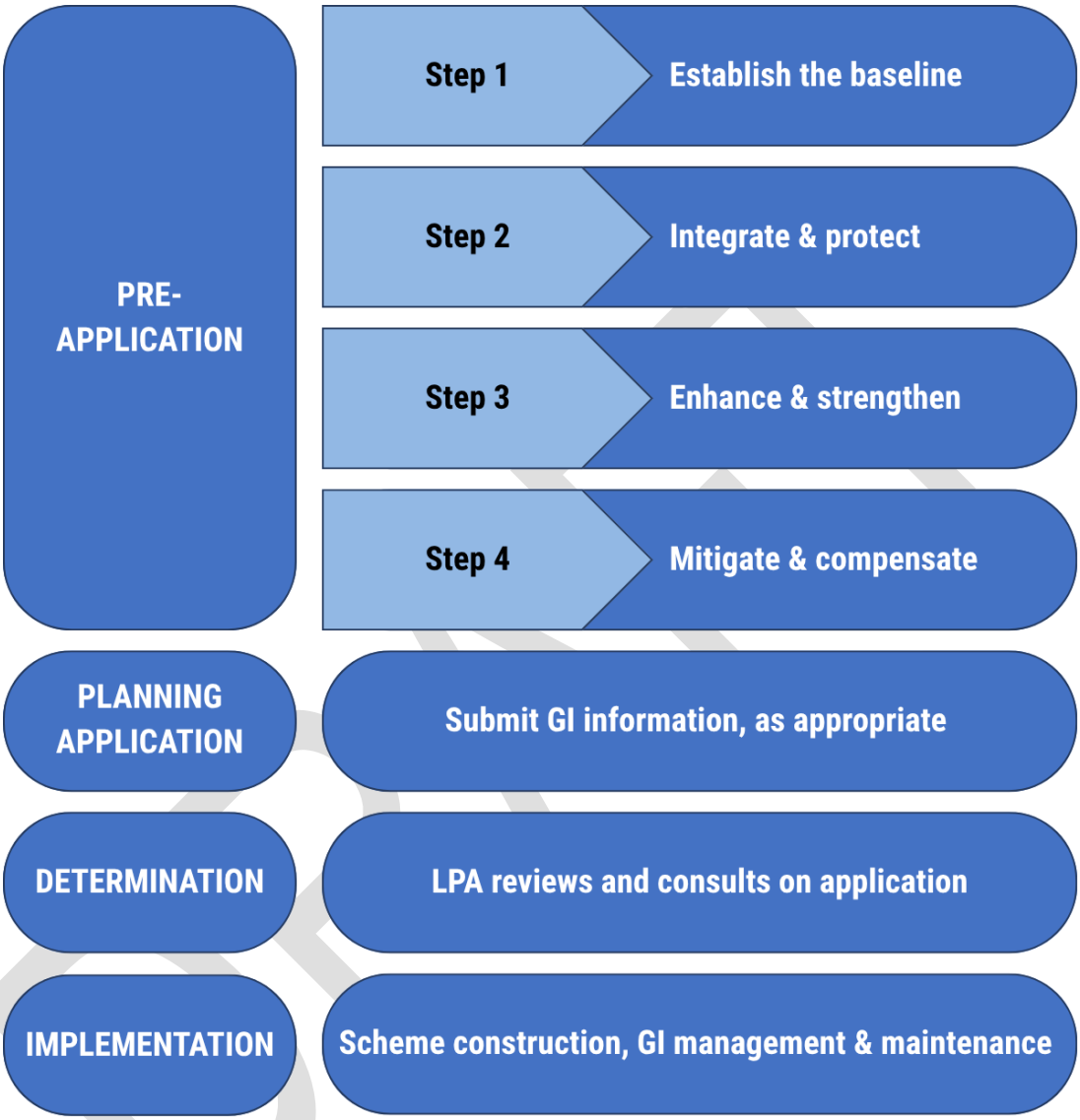
5.2 Compliance with DNP8 should be demonstrated through the submission of a GIS, following the detailed guidance in the following steps. A template GIS is provided in Appendix B. Since the time of drafting the RLDP, an updated iteration of PPW has been published which clarifies the precise meaning of a GI Assessment in the Welsh planning context. **It should be noted that the reference to 'Green Infrastructure Assessment' (GIA) within Policy DNP8 should instead be interpreted as a 'Green Infrastructure Statement' as defined within this SPG and PPW. A GIS should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed.**

5.3 GI should be designed alongside all other development features at the pre-application stage to ensure it is given equal weight in the design process. Applicants are expected to follow the step-by-step process set out in the

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following sections, with the outcomes clearly evidenced and demonstrated through the GIS.

Figure 2. GI Planning and Design Guidance – Key Steps



5.4 Step 1: Establish the Baseline

5.5 Policy DNP8 requires development proposals to integrate, protect and maintain existing GI assets on-site. This is important as, most often, existing GI assets deliver the most benefits to people and wildlife. For example, mature trees sequester significantly more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than a newly planted tree. They will also provide significantly greater biodiversity value. It is

therefore important to begin by developing a thorough understanding of the existing GI features on-site so they can be protected.

Understanding Existing Green Infrastructure Assets

5.6 It is necessary to develop a comprehensive understanding of the site's existing GI assets, functions, sensitivities and connections *before* design work is commenced. Before opportunities for protection, enhancement and long-term management can be identified, applicants should first develop a clear understanding of the GI assets, functions and networks present within and adjacent to the site.

Review Existing Strategic Evidence

5.7 Applicants should first review the LPA's latest GIA and other relevant strategic evidence to understand the wider GI context of the site and the surrounding area.

5.8 Relevant evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- The Council's latest GIA;
- Ecological network mapping;
- Landscape character assessments;
- Habitat inventories;
- Flood risk and drainage mapping;
- Open space assessments;
- Access and active travel networks;
- Nearby environmental designations.

5.9 Key information can be sourced from, but is not limited to:

- **SEWBReC:** Screening to determine the presence of protected species and habitats should be carried out on the basis of data provided by SEWBReC.
- **DataMapWales:** A wide variety of publicly available data that could support in understanding the GI / biodiversity baseline. DataMapWales contains datasets that include Priority Habitats, the Ancient Woodland Inventory, habitat networks, among other useful datasets.

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- **NRW datasets:** NRW datasets provide environmental information on habitats, species, designated sites, woodland, water, flood risk and other natural resources, which can be used to identify ecological constraints and sensitivities.

5.10 Planning applicants should begin by referring to the sub-area and/or strategic site maps contained within the latest GIA for the location of the proposal. These maps should be used to identify and map the existing GI assets within and



Hillside, Pen-y-fai

adjacent to the development site, providing an initial understanding of the site's GI baseline. The GIA identifies key assets (e.g. ancient woodlands, watercourses, hedgerows, local wildlife sites, etc.) and considers their ecological, social and functional value. The GIA will be periodically reviewed and updated; therefore, applicants should ensure that the most up-to-date version is used to inform the assessment and design of proposals.

Undertake a Site-Specific GI Audit

5.11 Reference to the GIA should be considered a starting point only. Applicants are expected to supplement this data with their own detailed audit of existing GI assets both within and adjacent to the site's red line boundary. This analysis should identify and assess:

- Existing GI assets within and adjoining the site;
- Topography and landform;
- Trees, hedgerows, woodland, and habitats;
- Watercourses and blue infrastructure;
- Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and access routes;
- Landscape features and local character areas;
- Ecological corridors and stepping stones;
- Existing condition, sensitivity and value; and
- Relevant local and national designations.

5.12 The scope and type of surveys required should be proportionate to the site context, characteristics, and sensitivities. For all major development, it is recommended that planning, landscape, arboricultural and ecological consultants should be used to provide guidance on the type and location of GI appropriate within the proposal. For minor schemes within sensitive locations, it may also be appropriate to seek specialist expertise.

5.13 Engineers, architects and planners should also be engaged with the same development project, to ensure that landscape and biodiversity aspects are fully considered throughout the development process. Using this approach will help ensure landscape and biodiversity aspects of the development are fully

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considered and successfully integrated with all other aspects of the development.

5.14 For major developments near the County Borough boundary, the analysis should extend to include any GI assets in neighbouring authority areas that could be affected. In this context, “within the vicinity of the site” refers to these cross-boundary considerations.

5.15 The GI audit should identify and map assets in and around the site, providing as much detail as possible. The GI audit should be proportionate to the size and scale of the proposed development. Smaller sites will usually only require limited appraisals whereas larger sites may require extensive and complex audits, identifying sensitive GI assets and corridors further from the site’s red line boundary.

Assess Functionality, Connectivity and Ecosystem Resilience

5.16 The GI audit should not only assess the presence and location of GI assets, but also:

- Their multifunctional role;
- Ecological value;
- Recreational and amenity function;
- Drainage and climate resilience function;
- Connectivity for people and wildlife; and
- Relationship to wider GI networks.

5.17 Applicants should use the ‘DECCA Framework’ to assess the resilience of ecosystems on, and adjacent to, the site. Developed by NRW, the framework provides a system for understanding and improving ecosystem resilience. It specifies five attributes of ecosystem resilience which, if measures are designed to enhance, the health of ecosystems will be improved. These attributes include:

- **Diversity** – i.e. increasing vascular and non-vascular plant richness, creating new habitats and restoring existing ones, opening mosaics and delivering ‘messy’ / patchwork landscapes.

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- **Extent** – i.e. restoring unfavourable habitats (such as intensively managed or disturbed features), expanding the size of existing woodland and grassland, providing nest boxes and additional shelter for species, maintaining the largest possible area of existing habitat supporting biodiversity, particularly 'Section 7' (of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016) priority habitats and species.
- **Condition** – i.e. Enhancing habitat structure, controlling INNS, removing undesirable features, erosion control, pollution prevention, flood regulation and improving soil health.
- **Connectivity** – i.e. linking woodlands with hedgerows, softening 'groomed edges', introducing successional habitats and features, creating vegetated buffers, restoring riparian corridors, installing green roofs, restoring stone walls.
- **Adaptability** – i.e. Using nature-based solutions such as SuDS, woodland creation and peatland restoration and taking the above attributes into account to enable ecosystems to recover from environmental pressures and resist future disturbance.

5.18 By assessing the extent to which the site's existing GI supports each of the above five criteria, it is possible to establish the site's contribution to ecosystem resilience. GIS submitted with proposals should demonstrate how the development supports ecosystem resilience in accordance with the DECCA framework. When applying the DECCA Framework to a development, it may be useful to refer to CIEEM's 'Net Benefit for Biodiversity Briefing Paper'.

5.19 As part of this process, applicants should complete an assessment of the connectivity of each asset for people and wildlife, not just about that asset in isolation, but also how it 'connects' with high-quality assets both on-site and within the vicinity of the red line boundary. Greater importance will be placed upon the protection of assets that provide connectivity to other assets.

5.20 Once a thorough understanding of existing GI assets has been established, site visits should be conducted to assess the range of functions/benefits (ecosystem services) delivered by each GI asset within and adjacent to the development site.

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5.21 During the site visit, particular consideration should be given to:

- Ecological corridors;
- Habitat fragmentation;
- Movement routes;
- Links to surrounding green spaces; and
- Opportunities to strengthen network connectivity.

Prepare a Green Infrastructure Context Plan

5.22 The findings of the GI Audit should be visually presented through the preparation of a GI Context Plan to inform site layout design for maximising the benefits delivered by existing GI assets in and adjacent to the development site. The GI Context Plan can help inform discussions around site design at pre-application stage.

5.23 This should:

- Identify existing GI assets and constraints;
- Map corridors and connections;
- Identify sensitive features requiring protection;
- Highlight opportunities for enhancement and integration; and
- Demonstrate the site's relationship to the wider GI network.

5.24 The GI Context Plan should be completed as part of the GIS and used to inform the site layout and design.

5.25 Step 2: Integrate and Protect

5.26 Once a detailed understanding of the existing GI assets and the functions they deliver on and adjacent to the development site has been established, the next step is to put strategies in place to integrate these into the development's design and to protect them. The GI Context Plan prepared as part of the GI Audit should be used to inform this stage.

5.27 Development should aim to reflect and reinforce the local area's distinctive character by conserving and integrating the existing landscape features (i.e. ancient woodland, important historical/cultural features, hedgerows, etc.). In doing this, GI can be designed to reinforce the area's unique character, an

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important contributor to effective placemaking. The existing GI assets identified as part of the GI Audit must, wherever possible, be conserved and integrated into the design of the development. This should be considered at an early stage in the development design process to ensure assets are an integral part of the development's design. Consideration should also be given to the range of functions each GI asset delivers, and measures to protect these should also be incorporated into the development's design.

5.28 Below, several principles are listed which, by following, developments can ensure that existing GI assets are fully integrated into the site's design.

Design Development around Existing GI Assets

5.29 Existing GI assets should inform site layout from the earliest design stages. The GI Context Plan should be used as a primary design tool when preparing design proposals.

5.30 Every effort should be made to retain existing GI assets within a layout as they form vital biodiversity and GI connectivity and are an intrinsic characteristic of the landscape. Such assets include mature trees, veteran trees, hedgerows, woodland, grasslands, watercourses, ponds, wetlands and species-rich habitats. GI should not be treated as residual space left over after development footprints have been established, only as an integral part of the development's design.

Trees

5.31 Refer to SPG 07: Trees and Development and Policy *DNP7: Trees, Hedgerows and Development* of the RLDP. Existing - particularly mature - trees should be protected from development as these serve important functions in terms of providing shading during hot weather, biodiversity value and carbon sequestration. Existing trees should be fenced off (in accordance with BS5837:2012) during construction works. A plan showing trees proposed for retention and removal should be submitted in draft during any pre-application discussions with the Council. Care should be taken to ensure that any ground works do not disturb/damage each tree's underground rooting system. For any trees lost, PPW requires replacement planting at a ratio equivalent to the quality, environmental and ecological importance of the tree(s) lost and this

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must be preferably on-site, or immediately adjacent to the site, and at a minimum ratio of at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every 1 lost.

Hedgerows

5.32 The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) provide some protection for those hedgerows considered to be 'ancient and/or species rich hedges'. The regulations exclude those hedgerows forming a domestic curtilage, however all hedgerows should be prioritised for retention due to their potential for making a valuable contribution to biodiversity, connectivity and landscape character. It is vital to assess the condition and significance of existing hedgerows prior to making a decision on whether to remove them. As for trees, hedgerows should



Near St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr

be adequately fenced off and protected during construction works and incorporated into the design of the development. Adequate space either side of hedgerows should be provided to protect their root systems and ecological functionality, and ensure they can be properly maintained. Pathways/cycleways can be integrated with existing hedgerows where this will not compromise their ecological functionality, including through inappropriate lighting, disturbance or loss of connectivity.

Species-Rich Grassland

5.33 Species rich, or naturally occurring, grassland should be prioritised for retention as these habitats are difficult to recreate successfully. Preference should be given to managing and conserving existing species rich grasslands over planting/seeding due to their biodiversity value.

Other Habitats

5.34 All ecological habitats (including those listed above) should be assessed, retained and incorporated into the proposal, wherever possible. Loss of habitat fragmentation should be avoided, particularly where they support priority habitats, protected/priority species (as listed in Section 7 of the Environmental (Wales) Act 2016), or form part of the wider GI networks.

<u>Protect Sensitive GI Assets</u>

5.35 Once sensitive GI assets have been identified, every effort should be made to protect these from a) construction activities; and b) operational activities throughout the development's lifetime. Below, are some principles developers are expected to follow when considering this.

5.36 **Design Around GI Rather than Retrofit** – Development proposals must protect existing GI assets, wherever possible. Existing GI should inform the design of the site. This is significantly more cost-effective, yields greater ecological benefits, and avoids the structural and spatial limitations of grey infrastructure. Retrofitting GI should be considered as a last resort.

5.37 **Avoid Fragmentation of Existing GI Networks** – Development should ensure that, where it is not possible to avoid the loss of GI assets, developments should avoid fragmentation of the GI network. For example, connectivity of the

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GI network must be prioritised, and developments should avoid creating unconnected 'islands' of GI.

5.38 **Align Streets, Buildings and Other Infrastructure with Existing Landscape Features** – Development proposals should be designed to respond positively to existing landscape features and GI assets, with streets, spaces, and building layouts aligned to and integrated with the existing landscape structure.

5.39 **Retain and Buffer Sensitive Assets** – Sensitive GI assets, such as ancient woodland, veteran trees, priority habitats, watercourses and other ecological features, should be protected through the provision of appropriate buffer zones. Development proposals should be designed to maintain a suitable buffer surrounding sensitive GI assets in order to avoid adverse impacts on their integrity, function, connectivity, and ecological value. The advice of a suitably qualified ecologist/arborist should be sought to establish the appropriate buffer around each asset.

5.40 **Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZs)** – Sensitive GI assets identified on the GI Context Plan should be adequately protected from construction works. For example, CEZs should be identified from the base of the tree's trunk as per S5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction– Recommendations. The CEZ should be protected with substantial fencing and excluded from the rest of the construction site area. If works are necessary within the CEZ, the Council's Ecologist must be contacted at the design and implementation stages to identify measures to minimise damage.

5.41 **Root Protection Areas (RPA)** – Development proposals should protect the roots of existing trees and woodlands from encroachment, excavation, compaction, level changes and other harmful impacts arising from development. The RPA is normally calculated by measuring the trunk diameter at 1.5 metres above ground level, and then multiplying this distance by 12 and converting the result into a radius centred on the tree. The design of RPAs should be confirmed by a suitably qualified arborist.

5.42 **Managing Construction Works During Bird Nesting Season** – Construction activities should be planned to avoid impacts on nesting birds, wherever

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possible. While the main bird nesting season is typically March to August, nesting activity may occur earlier, including during February. Where vegetation clearance, demolition, or other potentially disturbing works are proposed, appropriate ecological surveys and pre-works checks should be undertaken. The presence of nesting birds does not necessarily prevent development from proceeding but works must be managed in accordance with the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist to avoid harm or disturbance to nesting birds and comply with relevant legislation.

5.43 **Pollution Prevention Measures** – Measures such as controlling surface water runoff into nearby watercourses, preventing watercourses, ponds and wetlands and groundwater from contamination from sediment, chemicals and fuels, minimising air pollution impacts on sensitive habitats and vegetation, managing dust generation as a result of construction works, preventing soil contamination and compaction, storing fuels, oils and chemicals appropriately, and incorporating SuDS that help to absorb/treat runoff before discharge into the surrounding natural environment, can all help to minimise the impacts of pollution on local wildlife and GI.

5.44 **Lighting Impacts** – Measures should be taken to protect existing natural habitats from lighting, both during construction works and during the lifetime of the development. Temporary and permanent lighting installed should be placed away from sensitive natural habitats, and kept to a minimum. As a minimum, all lighting should be downward facing and avoid light-spill onto habitats used by nocturnal wildlife such as trees, hedges and bat boxes. Bat-sensitive lighting can be installed to help minimise disruption to nocturnal wildlife. Appropriate lighting plans and lux diagrams, for both construction and operational activities of a development, may also be required through the planning process; these should demonstrate how lighting disturbance to GI and wildlife has been avoided/minimised. For further information on lighting impacts on wildlife, refer to Bat Conservation Trust Guidance 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK' Guidance Note GN 08 / 23'.

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5.45 **Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs)** – Where appropriate, development proposals should prepare CEMPs to ensure that GI is adequately protected during development construction.

5.46 **Incorporate Existing Drainage/Natural Features** – Development proposals should incorporate existing natural features and drainage patterns into the design and layout of the scheme, wherever possible.

5.47 **Construction Management** – During construction works, GI should be protected by fencing off sensitive areas and works should be carefully timed to avoid times of the year where particular species may be disturbed (i.e. during nesting season).

5.48 **Long-term Management and Maintenance** – Appropriate long-term management and maintenance plans for existing GI assets should be submitted with the planning application. These should include details of measures to protect retained GI assets throughout the construction and operational lifetime of the development. This should include appropriate construction management measures, long-term maintenance and management arrangements, and replacement provisions, if required.

Maintain and Strengthen Existing Connectivity

5.49 Where key habitat connections/corridors have been identified in the GI Context Plan, steps should be taken to ensure that these are maintained and strengthened as far as possible. These corridors should be left unbroken and enhanced, wherever possible. Such linear corridors may include hedgerows, woodlands, riverbanks, and canals acting as ‘highways’ for species movement and genetic flow, which is essential for enabling wildlife to thrive.

5.50 Where new infrastructure is proposed that will break an identified corridor, alternative natural habitats should be put in place to provide new connectivity across that infrastructure. For example, for a new building, green walls and roofs, tree lined streets, or linear green corridors along rivers, canals, roads and railways, can all help to provide the connections that wildlife need to move through the landscape. Ecological ‘bridges’ over or underneath new

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infrastructure can help wildlife overcome the barriers created by roads, railways and new buildings.

5.51 Step 3: Enhance and Strengthen

5.52 Having addressed the protection and integration of existing GI assets in the previous step, this section of the SPG outlines how development proposals can enhance the extent, quality, connectivity, and multifunctionality of GI in order to deliver wider environmental, social, economic, and placemaking benefits.

5.53 It is important that any GI provision and biodiversity design as part of a development appropriately integrates the DECCA framework attributes (as



Newcastle Castle, Bridgend

described above). When designing measures to enhance GI, applicants should ensure that they support each of the five attributes (diversity, extent, condition, connectivity, adaptability) that, together, support and strengthen ecosystem resilience.

Enhancing Extent

5.54 Development proposals must maximise GI coverage across the development site area. While each development will have its own constraints, development proposals should seek to maximise the extent of GI and permeable soft landscaping across the site, while minimising the use of unnecessary hard surfacing. Where feasible, green walls and green roofs should be constructed.

5.55 Opportunities should be sought to maximise tree coverage across the development site, through the planting of new trees. New habitats should be created, wherever possible, providing they don't conflict with the primary use created by the proposal. SuDS should be installed to minimise the impact of surface-water flooding while also providing biodiversity and recreational value.

5.56 The GIA identifies local opportunities for GI expansion (e.g. gaps in the network, underutilised land, etc.). Developments should align proposals with the opportunities listed within the latest GIA for the sub-area they are located in.

5.57 Integrating a range of GI measures within the design of a scheme can help to increase overall green coverage, strengthen multifunctionality, and deliver wider environmental and placemaking benefits. Measures that may contribute towards enhancing the extent of GI include:

- Semi-natural vegetation (e.g. trees, woodland, species-rich grassland) maintained or established on-site;
- Wetland or open water (semi-natural; not chlorinated) maintained or established on-site;
- Intensive green roof or vegetation over structure; substrate minimum settled depth of 150mm;
- Standard trees planted in connected tree pits with a minimum soil volume equivalent to at least two-thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree;

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- Extensive green roof with substrate of minimum settled depth of 80mm;
- Flower-rich perennial planting;
- Rain gardens and other vegetated sustainable drainage elements;
- Hedges;
- Standard trees planted in pits with soil volumes less than two-thirds of the projected canopy area of the mature tree;
- Green wall – modular system or climbers rooted in soil (see NBS Guide to Façade Greening); and
- Groundcover planting – All new planting should be native species of local provenance.

Enhancing Quality

5.58 Enhancing the quality of GI is not solely dependent upon maximising the quantity across the development site, but on how effectively it functions, performs, and contributes to the character, resilience, biodiversity value, and liveability of a place. Its quality is also dependent upon how well it is designed to ensure its longevity. High-quality GI should be multi-functional, well-connected, accessible where appropriate, resilient to the future impacts of climate change, and designed to provide long-term environment and social benefits.

5.59 The nature of enhancements will depend on the nature, scale and location of the development proposal and the type of GI within and adjacent to the site. New GI assets introduced as part of the design of a development should:

- Respond positively to local landscape character and context;
- Provide year-round colour and interest, minimal maintenance and be appropriate for the required use/function;
- Support biodiversity and ecological resilience;
- Contribute to climate adaptation and urban cooling (i.e. provide appropriate shading, permeable surfaces to absorb stormwater, etc.);
- Incorporate diverse and climate-resilient planting;
- Support sustainable drainage and natural water management;
- Be accessible, usable, and safe where appropriate;

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- Contribute positively to health, well-being, and placemaking;
- Be designed for long-term establishment, management, and maintenance; and
- Function as part of an integrated and connected GI network (both within and beyond the site's red line boundary).

Plant Selection

5.60 Planting proposals should take account of projected future climate conditions, with species selection and landscape design carefully managed to enhance resilience to heat stress, drought, pests, disease, and an increasing prevalence of extreme weather events. For developments close to the coast, plant species should be carefully chosen to be resilient to coastal salt exposure. As mentioned above, all new planting should be native species of local provenance. Any wildflower seed mixes used should also be native perennials.

Tree Planting in Built-Up Areas

5.61 New tree species should be selected so that their canopies are visible on the skyline above buildings so that they fully contribute towards the creation of the urban woodland. Species should include a variety of native species. Development proposals should avoid using large numbers of the same tree species to achieve adequate screening.

5.62 To enable trees to grow to full height, careful consideration should be given to providing appropriate rooting environments underground following up-to-date guidance to enable them to grow to full height and survive long-term. Trees should also be carefully sited to avoid conflict with underground utilities and other infrastructure. They should be planted a minimum of 6m from buildings. Where required, a structural soil system, such as the Stockholm Tree Pit (an innovative solution for providing enough space for tree roots to grow underground in dense, built-up areas) is advised, to maximise potential rooting areas for new planting whilst minimising the negative impacts associated with tree root systems on the urban setting. Details of all tree planting will be required to include detailed tree pit designs and target soil volumes for tree pits.

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Land at Tondu Road, Maesteg

Building with Nature Standards (BWN)

5.63 PPW states that the BWN standards represent good practice and are an effective prompt for developers to improve the quality of their schemes and demonstrate the sustainable management of natural resources. The BWN standards are the UK's first GI benchmark for the UK built-environment sector and are good practice guidelines to deliver high-quality and defined GI. The BWN framework is made up of 12 standards that sit under 4 different categories; 'Core Standards'; 'Well-being Standards'; 'Water Standards'; and 'Wildlife Standards'. The framework claims that, through assessment and accreditation, a BWN Award offers a means of recognising and valuing policy and development that goes beyond standard practice to deliver high-quality multifunctional spaces for new and existing communities that:

- Optimise multifunctionality and connectivity;
- Positively respond to the climate emergency;
- Maximise environmental net gains;
- Champion a context-driven approach;
- Create distinctive places;
- Secure effective place-keeping;
- Bring nature closer to people;
- Support equitable and inclusive places;
- Deliver climate resilient water management;
- Bring water closer to people;
- Deliver wildlife enhancement; and
- Underpin nature's recovery.

5.64 BWN accreditation for developments should be pursued, wherever possible, running concurrently with the planning application process, including future management and maintenance of the site.

Enhancing Connectivity

5.65 Development should make every effort to design to enhance connectivity of GI both within the red line boundary and to those assets adjacent to the site. That is to design development to keep habitat connections and allow wildlife to move

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through the site. GI should be designed to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity across development sites and the wider landscape. This may include the provision of continuous vegetated corridors spanning the site or, where physical breaks are unavoidable, the incorporation of suitable crossing points, gaps or tunnels to facilitate species movement. GI networks should, where practicable, connect off-site habitats and ecological features in order to support wider habitat permeability and resilience. Reference should be made to the latest GIA to assess which opportunities there are to link new GI on-site with GI within the site's vicinity.

5.66 For major developments, a suitably qualified ecologist should be employed to assess opportunities for enhancing connectivity, and improvements to connectivity must be demonstrated through the GIS.

5.67 Green spaces should be designed within the layout of developments to form a connected network, joining up habitats within the site and with the wider landscape. Boundaries should allow the movement of wildlife. Where close-board fencing is required, gaps must be included to allow wildlife such as hedgehogs to move between gardens.

5.68 Wherever possible, isolated GI assets should be connected with other GI assets on-site and adjacent to the red line boundary through the provision of new GI.

5.69 Developments should improve connectivity by:

- Creating green corridors;
- Ensuring permeability for wildlife; and
- Aligning with the GIA's strategic GI network map to identify key connections.

<u>Enhancing Multifunctionality</u>

5.70 Wherever possible, landscaping and design choices should deliver multiple benefits for people and wildlife.

5.71 However, care should be taken to ensure that functions do not conflict with each other. For example, recreational activities can result in disturbance to

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sensitive habitats and wildlife if not carefully planned and managed. Potential conflicts between functions should therefore be identified at an early stage, with the design seeking to balance competing demands and, where necessary, separated incompatible uses through appropriate zoning, buffering or management measures.

5.72 Opportunities to 'layer' GI functions should be considered at the earliest stages of development proposals, as an integral part of development, taking into account existing natural assets.

5.73 It is recognised that smaller development sites may find it more challenging to combine multiple functions, however even small-scale GI can provide cumulative benefits. Developments should focus on maximising opportunities within the site's constraints.

Secure Long-Term Management and Maintenance of New and Enhanced GI Assets

5.74 New and enhanced GI assets should be supported by robust long-term management and maintenance arrangements to ensure they continue to deliver their intended functions and benefits throughout the lifetime of the development. Management responsibilities, funding mechanisms, maintenance requirements, and monitoring arrangements should be clearly defined from the outset and secured through appropriate legal, planning or adoption mechanisms.

5.75 A site-specific GI Management and Maintenance Plan should be prepared for all significant GI assets across the site. The plan should identify management objectives, maintenance operations, inspection requirements, performance standards, responsibilities and review mechanisms, ensuring that GI assets remain functional, resilient and capable of delivering biodiversity, landscape, drainage, climate adaptation, and recreational benefits over the long term. The advice of a suitably qualified ecologist should be sought on the level and type of management and maintenance arrangements necessary to secure the long-term survival of GI assets. Some key questions concerning the management and maintenance of existing GI assets that should be considered as part of any development proposal include:

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- Who will be responsible for the long-term management of GI?
- How will appropriate access for maintenance be retained?
- How will retained GI remain functional, resilient, in good condition, and deliver their intended ecological, social and environmental benefits throughout the lifetime of the development?
- How will management support biodiversity value and deliver biodiversity enhancement?

5.76 Step 4: Mitigate and Compensate

5.77 Where it is not possible to avoid the loss of existing GI (i.e. due to site constraints), these impacts must be mitigated and compensated.

5.78 Where harm to the integrity of the GI network is wholly or partially unavoidable, development should seek to minimise the harm through re-design or use of effective mitigation measures.

5.79 Where, despite mitigation, there would be significant residual harm to the integrity of the GI network, as a last resort, development should compensate for the harm by providing GI assets of an equivalent or greater value secured by planning conditions or obligations, as necessary.

5.80 Any mitigation or compensation proposals must be carefully thought through to guarantee that they will be effective and implementable. This can often require protracted negotiation between developers, planners, nature conservation bodies and landowners. Skilled negotiation can identify proactive solutions which meet the needs of all parties and enable development while safeguarding sites.

5.81 Where planning permission is to be granted that results in unavoidable loss or deterioration because wholly exceptional reasons for the development are demonstrated, planning conditions or obligations will be used to make sure the developer:

- Avoids damage;
- Mitigates against damage; and
- Compensates for loss or damage (used as a last resort).

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When is Loss Unavoidable?

5.82 Loss of GI should only be considered ‘unavoidable’ where the element of the development giving rise to that loss delivers overriding social, economic, environmental, infrastructure, or public health benefits, and where it has been robustly demonstrated that all reasonable alternatives to avoid the loss have been fully explored and exhausted.



Maesteg Welfare Park

Design Principles for Compensatory Measures

5.83 When introducing compensatory measures, developments should follow these principles (advice should be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist):

- Compensation should be a last resort, only after avoidance and mitigation have been exhausted;

- Compensation should seek to maintain or enhance the overall integrity, functionality and connectivity of the GI network (refer back to GI Context Plan);
- Compensation should be provided as close as possible to the location of loss unless there is a clear justification for delivering it elsewhere;
- Compensation should provide benefits that are equivalent to or greater than those lost. Careful consideration should be given to the functions/benefits previously delivered and the need to replicate or improve upon these; and
- Compensation should be secured and managed for the long-term. Details for securing their long-term maintenance must be included within the Management and Maintenance Plan submitted with the GIS.

Compensation Options

5.84 Compensatory measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Creation of new GI assets on-site;
- Enhancement of existing on-site GI assets;
- Creation of new GI assets off-site where on-site provision is not feasible;
- Enhancement or restoration of existing off-site GI assets;
- Removal of physical barriers and strengthening of ecological or recreational connectivity within the wider GI network (within the vicinity of the site);
- Delivery of strategic GI projects identified by the LPA; and
- Long-term habitat restoration and other measures to enhance the GI network.

5.85 There may be some circumstances where a financial contribution is considered acceptable in place of physical compensatory measure provided, however this should only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

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Appendix A – External resources

1. BSI - BS42020:2013 - British standard for Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and development
2. BSI - BS8683:2021 - Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain – Specification
3. CIRIA - B£ST – Benefits Estimation Tool
4. Building Research Establishment (BRE) - Home Quality Mark guide
5. Sintali - Building with Nature – the defining standard of high-quality green infrastructure
6. Valuing Nature Network - Demystifying Series
7. IEMA - Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Delivering Quality Development
8. Biodiversity in Planning - Wildlife Assessment Check
9. NRW - State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) 2025
10. NRW – South Central Wales Area Statement
11. Buglife - Creating green roofs for invertebrates: Best practice guidance
12. Bat Conservation Trust - Designing for Biodiversity: a technical guide for new and existing buildings
13. TCPA - Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity. PERFECT Fact Sheet
14. CIRIA, CIEEM, IEMA - Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development.
15. The Wildlife Trusts - Homes for People and Nature: How to build housing in a nature friendly way
16. Plantlife - Managing Grassland Road Verges: Best practice guidance
17. Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) - Trees Species selection for Green Infrastructure
18. Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) Cymru
19. Welsh Government - Statutory National Standards for Sustainable Drainage
20. SusDrain - National Standards for Sustainable Drainage
21. Ciria - SuDS Manual (Chapter 6 part B - Designing for Biodiversity)
22. Freshwater Habitats Trust - The Pond Creation Toolkit
23. Bat Conservation Trust - Planning and the law

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24. Wales Biodiversity Partnership - Biodiversity in Wales guidance, including S6 duty biodiversity guidance and the Action Plan for Pollinators
25. RSPB, CIEEM and RTPI - Planning naturally: Spatial planning with nature in mind in the UK and beyond
26. TCPA - Planning for green and prosperous communities. Guide 7 Practical Guides for Creating Successful New Communities
27. Design Commission for Wales – Placemaking Wales Guide
28. Welsh Government - Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures
29. NRW - Terrestrial and Freshwater Resilient Ecological Networks: a guide for practitioners in Wales
30. BS - British Standard for Biodiversity (BS 42020:2013)
31. Welsh Government – Planning policy and guidance: green infrastructure
32. NRW – Green Infrastructure Assessments: how to use NRW datasets as part of a GI Assessment
33. Welsh Government – Section 7 list of species and habitats of principal importance in Wales

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Appendix B – Green Infrastructure Statement Template

Full name	
Company Name (if applicable)	
Date Form Completed	
Address of Application Site	
Grid Reference	
Description of Proposal	
Description of Surrounding Land Use. Please include the location of any other buildings and land	
Planning Reference (if you have one)	

Existing Green Infrastructure (GI) On-Site

This section should demonstrate that existing GI has been understood before design decisions are made.

	All Existing GI on and adjacent to site	**Has this GI already been removed?**	**Will this GI need to be removed?**
Example	*Non-native hedge*	*Partially – gap widened from 3m to 5m for access*	*No further removal required*
Boundary 1			
Boundary 2			
Boundary 3			
Boundary 4			
Front garden			

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Rear garden			
Other			

How are the retained features being protected during development (provide as much detail as possible)? You should consider:

- Which GI assets are being retained.
- How the layout has been designed around retained assets.
- Measures to protect sensitive assets during construction and occupation.
- How existing ecological and recreational connections have been maintained.

Example	*Hedge protected using Heras fencing*
Boundary 1	
Boundary 2	
Boundary 3	
Boundary 4	
Front garden	
Rear garden	
Other	

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Describe what has been/will be done to avoid any impacts as far as possible.

Example: Footprint of the extension has been considered to avoid removal or impacts to the rear hedgerow.

If necessary, describe what will be done to mitigate (minimise) any impacts. You should describe:

- Description of unavoidable impact; and
- Mitigation measures.

Example: Vegetation will be removed between September and February to avoid the bird nesting season.

If necessary, describe what will be done to compensate for (replace) any losses.

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Example: A new native hedgerow will be planted to compensate for the loss of lawn and shrubs. Any lawn that is damaged will be re-seeded with a species-rich grass seed.

What measures are being implemented to enhance GI? Applicants should explain how the development enhances:

- The diversity of species;
- The extent of GI;
- The quality of GI;
- Condition;
- Adaptability;
- Connectivity; and
- Multifunctionality.

Example: New native tree

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How will the new planting/habitat creation works be implemented, managed and/or maintained? You should consider:

- Responsibilities for management;
- Maintenance arrangements for retained and new GI assets; and
- Long-term funding mechanisms secured.

Example: Any trees or plants which, within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development, die, are removed, or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species.

Biodiversity Enhancements

Use the table below to describe biodiversity enhancements which will be included. Note that GI enhancements should also provide a net benefit for biodiversity, but additional measures that aren't strictly GI (such as bat and bird boxes) are also encouraged.

Biodiversity Enhancement	Yes, we will provide this	Location	Info (e.g. type of bird box)
Bat box			
Bird box			
Hedgehog hole			
Hedgehog nest box			
Area of wildflower planting			

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Wildlife pond			
Plant a new native hedgerow, or remove existing low value hedgerow and replace with a native hedgerow			
Insect box			
Bee mound			
New native planting			
Other (please state):			

Conclusion
Based on the information provided above, this development will result in a GI and biodiversity net benefit upon completion.

You should also provide sketched plans and any photographs you have. There is space for this on the following pages.

GI Context Plan
Please provide a sketch of the existing layout, which should be informed by your GI audit of your development site and its surroundings. You should include location of boundaries, buildings and planting.

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Existing:



Please provide a sketch of the proposed layout. You should include location of boundaries, buildings and planting and the proposed new features.

Proposed:



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Site Photos (if applicable)



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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council