

Green Infrastructure Statement

Context:

The proposed development is for the erection of two pitch roof steel frame buildings in parallel to each other which would serve an established dairy farm. (National Grid Reference: Easting: 213108 Northing: 220140), which comprises of 210 hectares. The buildings would be erected to the north of the existing agricultural operation. Each proposed building would cumulatively cover a footprint of 5082 square metres, as illustrated by the accompanying plans. P01, P02, P03 and P04.

The site and green infrastructure:

The site is not located within or adjoining any statutory designated sites as identified in *Figure 12: Designated Sites* of the updated PPW Chapter 6. As such the site falls to be considered under the Step-Wise approach.

It is considered that the development would accord with the replacement Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales and the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan, policies:

SP 1- Sustainable Development

SP 16-The Countryside

GN.1-General Development Policy

GN.2-Sustainable Design

GN.37-Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity

Baseline:

The development forms improved grassland and is located to the north of the existing farm complex. Based on these arrangements and the application site comprising of improved grassland, the base line for the application site has a low ecological value. Furthermore, the development would also have a separation distance in excess of 15 metres from sensitive receptors such as hedgerow boundaries.

Paragraph 6.4.21 of Chapter 6 of PPW discusses the *step-wise* approach to maintain and enhance biodiversity on site.

Step-wise:

Avoid- Bearing (paragraph 6.4.25 of Chapter 6 PPW) in mind the ecological value of the site, with the surrounding hedgerows, trees and its functions and routes to the wider woodland areas would be unaffected by the development.

Minimisation- Areas affected by the development form improved grassland and is immediately adjacent to the existing agricultural building.

Mitigation/ Restoration- Based on the proposal being located on an existing farm complex and having no impact on any existing ecological features, the proposed enhancement of a bird and bat box with the planting of a native trees/hedgerows mix to the north and west aspects of the buildings, are considered proportionate in achieving a biodiversity net gain.

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Compensation on site- The bird and bat box's will be erected upon the building and the hedge/ tres planting to the north and west aspects of the building would assist in visual screening while also form an appropriate compensatory environmental feature to comply with paragraph 6.4.25 of Chapter 6, PPW.

The tree/hedgerows would be of a mixed native species comprising of willow, silver birch, blackthorn and hawthorn mix. The planting would comprise of double staggered rows 80cm apart, plants 3 per linear metre along each row, randomly mixed. In line with the above, it is considered that impacts upon the existing habitat and biodiversity opportunities would be low.

DECCA:

Diversity- The established trees which exist on the farmstead will be unaffected by the development. This will be further enhanced by the erection of the bird box and the tree/hedgerow planting.

Extent- None of the wider landscape features would be affected by the development and such features will be retained.

Condition- No living trees are affected from the resulting development.

Connectivity- Connectivity of the key habitat areas, will be improved by the installation of the bird and bat box's and additional planting.

Adaptation- The existing woodland and hedgerows on the farmstead will continue to be annually maintained in a sustainable manner.

Maintenance:

Maintenance would include the management of existing hedgerows on the farmstead via annual flail hedgerow cutting every three years. Should any sections of the proposed trees fail they will also be replaced and replanted the following planting season.

Conclusion:

The valuable areas of the wider land holding are avoided and will continue to be maintained. The area directly affected by the development has a low ecological value to the habitat and biodiversity functions of the wider site. Nevertheless, mitigation and compensatory features from the biodiversity net gain via the bird and bat boxes to the building and proposed tree/hedgerow planting would be secured via the development. Considering the above, the development would accord with the Welsh Government's objective of achieving biodiversity net gain and updated Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales.