
Green Infrastructure Statement

**Stonehouse Farm
Welshpool
Powys
SY21 9DB**

Construction of Livestock Building

A Evans & Sons

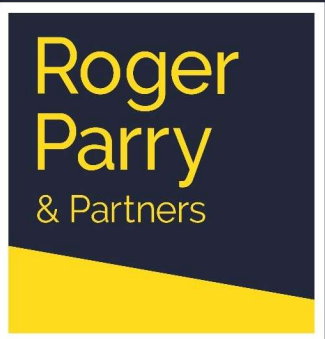
September 2026

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1. Policy Background

1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) supports a full planning application for the erection of a livestock building at Stonehouse Farm, Welshpool.

1.2 This GIS aims to respond to the requirements of Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, 2024). This states:

“6.2.11 The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate site selection and use of creative design. With careful planning and design, informed by an appropriate level of assessment, green infrastructure can embed the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services into new development and places, help to overcome the potential for conflicting objectives, and contribute to health and well-being outcomes.

6.2.12 A green infrastructure statement should be submitted with all planning applications. This will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed and will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. In the case of minor development this will be a short description and should not be an onerous requirement for applicants. The green infrastructure statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multi-functional outcomes which are appropriate to the site in question and must be used for demonstrating how the step-wise approach (Paragraph 6.4.15) has been applied.

6.2.13 There are multiple ways of incorporating green infrastructure, depending on the needs and opportunities a site presents, and the green infrastructure assessment should be referred to, as appropriate, in order to ascertain local priorities. Landscaping, green roofs, grass verges, sustainable drainage and gardens are examples of individual design measures that can have wider cumulative benefits, particularly in relation to biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems as well as in securing the other desired environmental qualities of places. Wider landscape measures, such as the creation of species rich meadows, woodlands and the improvement of linkages between areas of biodiversity value should be considered for larger scale development. In most cases the green infrastructure statement should highlight any baseline data considered and surveys and assessments undertaken, including but not limited to, habitats and species surveys, arboricultural surveys and assessments, sustainable drainage statements, landscape and ecological management plans, open space assessments and green space provision and active travel links”.

1.3 The ‘step-wise approach’, as outlined below, demonstrates the sequential approach that has been adopted as part of the proposed development to maintain and enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are

firstly avoided, then minimised, mitigated, and as a last resort compensated for. In addition, enhancement has been secured by delivering a net biodiversity benefit on-site, over and above that required to mitigate or compensate for any negative impact.

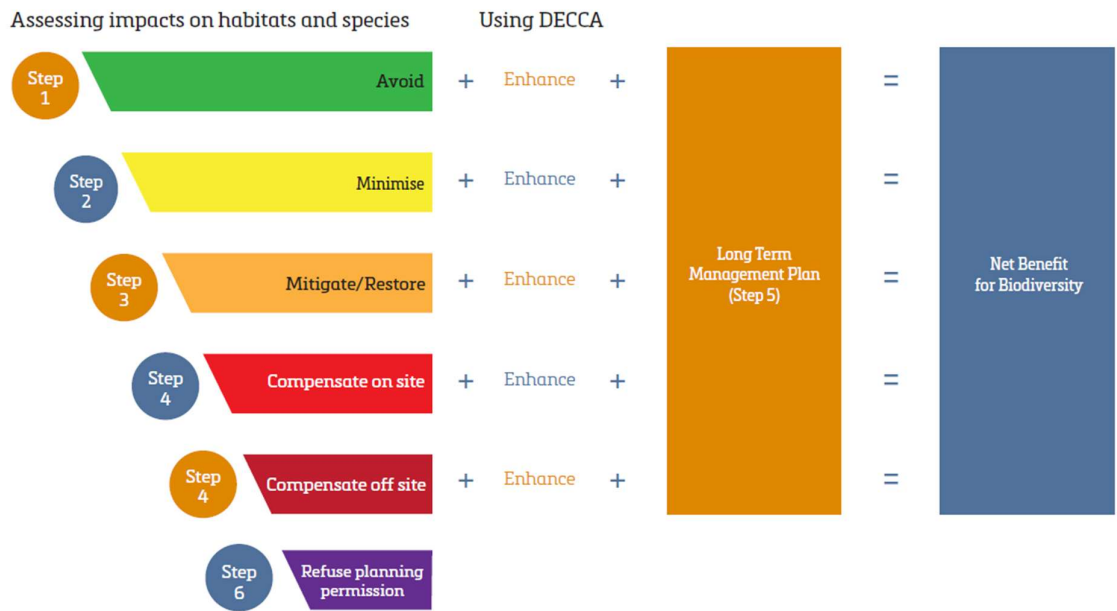


Figure 1: A summary of the step-wise approach taken from Chapter 6 of PPW (Ed. 12, 2024)

2. The Proposed Development

2.1 The proposed development comprises the erection of a steel portal framed livestock building at Stonehouse Farm, Welshpool. The site of the building is currently a combination of hardstanding and grassland which is used for traveling and storage of machinery, being located centrally to the existing farmyard at Stonehouse. The proposed building would have a floor area of approximately 2,612sq. metres, and would comprise a apex structure.

3. Green Infrastructure Baseline

3.1 As noted, the application site relates to an existing area of hardstanding and grassland located amongst the existing farmyard complex at Stonehouse. The site itself is therefore considered to be devoid of any green infrastructure at present.

3.2 The proposed building would be between the slurry lagoon and silage pits. Due to the layout of the existing farm, it is not considered suitable for use by roosting bats

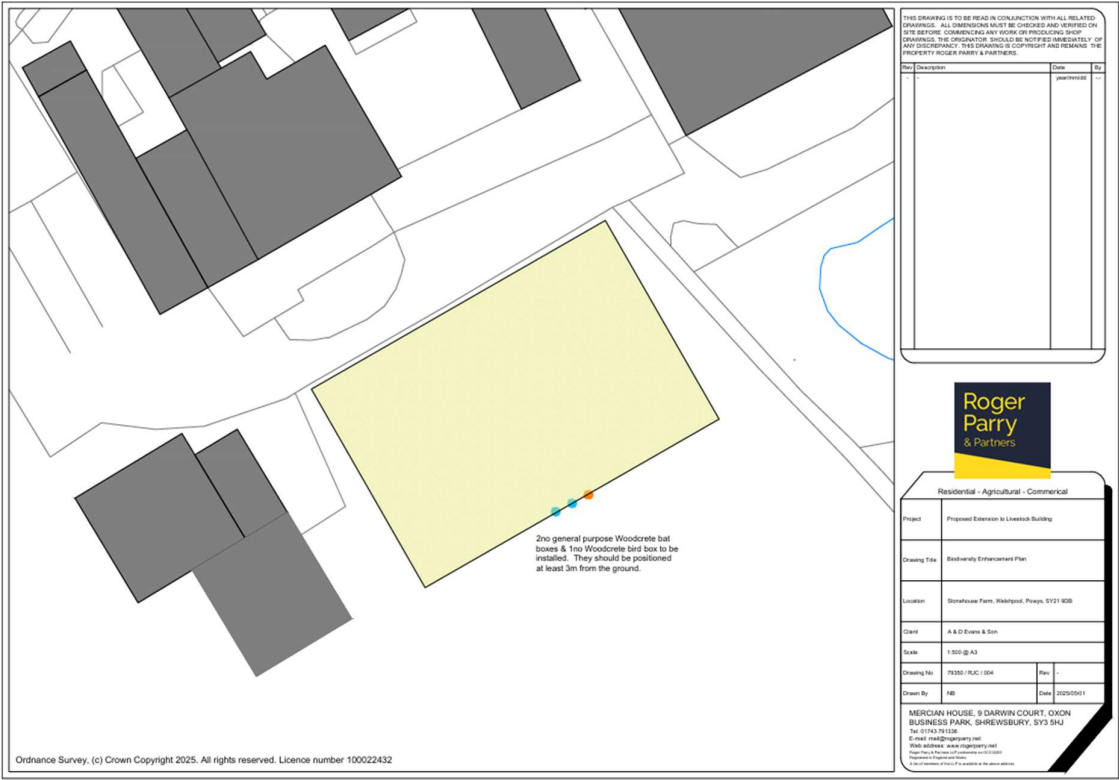
or nesting birds, and the structure is therefore considered unlikely to host any biodiversity of interest at present.

3.3 The application site is not located within or near to any statutory or non-statutory designated ecological sites, and therefore the proposed development does not have any potential to cause an impact upon protected sites.

4. The Green Infrastructure Strategy

4.1 The approach to the design of the proposed building is fully outlined within the accompanying Planning Statement. The submitted design has been arrived at following thought being given to the environmental effects of the proposed development.

4.2 It is proposed that two Woodcrete bat boxes and one Woodcrete bird box be erected on the south-eastern (side) elevation of the proposed building. The locations of the proposed Woodcrete bat and bird boxes are shown on the submitted Biodiversity Enhancement Plan, an extract of which is below:



- 4.3 The step-wise approach has been followed as impacts upon habitats and species would be avoided through the siting and design of the proposal. The development would also not prejudice connectivity between nearby habitat for protected species and wider biodiversity.
- 4.4 Off-site ecological mitigation will not be required as there will not be any impacts upon protected species on the site.
- 4.5 The Applicant will ensure the long-term management and maintenance of the proposed bird and bat boxes to ensure they are kept in a useable condition.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 It is clear the proposed development would not cause any impacts upon existing green infrastructure, biodiversity, ecosystem resilience or protected species. The proposal has fully followed the step-wise approach as prescribed by Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, and the development would provide a net benefit for biodiversity which is commensurate to the scale of the proposals.