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# Planning Application

## Biodiversity Enhancement Plan

### August 2021

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Location: n/a

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For the attention of:  
Development Management Officer  
Cyngor Sir Fynwy / Monmouthshire County  
Council

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# Content:

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<b>Content:</b>
Bat and Roof Nesting Bird Survey
Other Habitats and Species
Proposed Plan
External Lighting Strategy
Precautions during Work

## 1.0 Bat Survey

A daytime survey; two bat emergence surveys and a desktop study were undertaken externally by a NRW bat licensed ecologist, Ava Ecology Ltd. A copy of the results and findings have been attached to this application for your information and review.

## 2.0 Other Habitats and Species

A large terrace currently surrounds the three buildings that are proposed to be replaced. This means that ~80% of the proposed new extension would stand on an existing concrete surface, limiting its impact on any habitats.

On the West side, a 4 metre-long garden retaining wall would have to be moved back by 2 metres. Four existing plants will be impacted by this proposal. One of them will be trimmed and the other three will be relocated in the garden:



Bay Laurel: will only be trimmed on one side slightly more than currently done biannually

Hypericum Calycinum: will be relocated

Michaelmas Daisies: will be relocated

Alchemilla Mollis: will be relocated

Most of the animals and insects feeding from these plants are birds, bees, moths, flies, wasps and spiders.

## 3.0 Proposed Plan

We propose to increase the number of possible habitats beyond what we already provide in our garden. Over the past 10 years, we have planted ~50 metres of now very large hedges and 10m<sup>2</sup> of flower beds. We also grow ~40m<sup>2</sup> of wild grass and flowers and welcome several honeybees' nests every year. Besides the relocation of the three plants mentioned above, we also propose the following:



- Deploy 4 bat boxes in our nearest trees along the bat flight path and in accordance with advice from a bat expert. Whilst several bats have been observed flying around our property during the survey, none seem to be living in close proximity. So, we hope this proposal can have a positive net effect.



- Install 2 hedgehog houses in suitable locations in the garden: hedgehogs have not been observed in our garden for quite some time now even though the many trees and hedges that have been planted are a great environment for them. Whilst we have

seen them in the early hours of the morning near the pond, we hope that this proposal would encourage and provide them with a safer place to live and hibernate.



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- Create a Butterfly Garden Plan: whilst we observe a great presence of bees, moths, wasps and bumblebees in our garden, there are not as many butterflies. Although the garden already contains butterfly friendly varieties such as buddleia, lilac, majoram and Michaelmas Daisies, our proposal is to increase the variety of pollinators



proposed extension area is already surrounded by an old pigsty exposed to the sun providing a warm, sunny and sheltered ideal for butterflies. We would select a mix of flowers that have than pollen, e.g. honeysuckle, milkweed, summer lilac, Valerian,

daisies, Yellow Sage, day lilies and lavender. We also understand that in the autumn, flowering Ivy may attract Red Admiral butterflies in particular. We are committing to growing ~5sqm of this mix across our garden.

- Plant a further 3-4 native trees in the grazing paddocks.

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## 4.0 External Lighting Strategy

A few lights using movement sensors are proposed to be fixed (~50cm high) in order to indicate the path going in and out of the extension at night. Several facade lights may also be used at low level (~170m high) around the main entrance door. All lights will be on low voltage, pointing downwards.

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## 5.0 Precaution During Work

As mentioned above, the proposed site is surrounded by a large terrace and garden retaining wall. This offers us an opportunity to close the site easily at terrace entrance and exit points during the extension work in order to prevent any wild animals from being trapped or injured. As advised, planks will also be placed in any lower dug areas to enable any animals falling in to exit easily.

The four plants affected would be trimmed and relocated in the Autumn or late winter.

Whist no nesting have been observed in the buildings that are proposed to be removed, extra care and attention will be applied during the period of work.