Green Infrastructure Statement

Land at Henfryn Farm
Groes
Denbigh
LL16 5RU

Erection of a free-range egg production unit including silos and associated works.

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1. Policy Background

1.1 This Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS) supports a full planning application for a free range egg production unit at Henfryn Farm, Groes, Denbigh.

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.

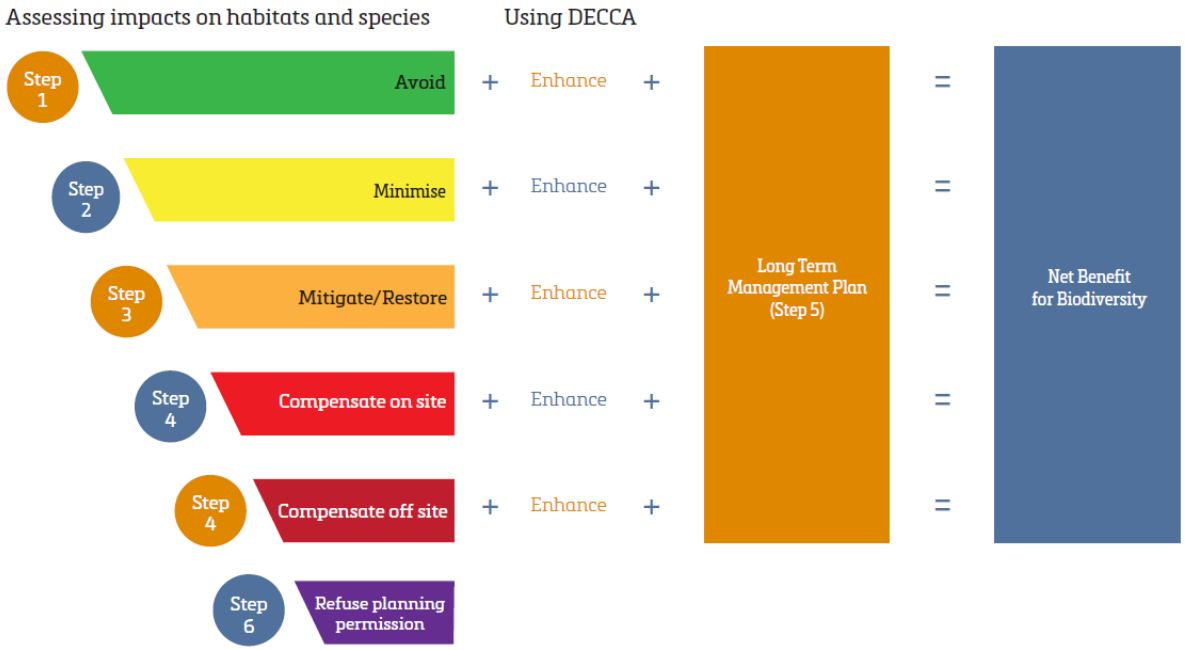

Figure 1: A summary of the step-wise approach taken from Chapter 6 of PPW (Ed. 12, 2024)

2. The Proposed Development

2.1 The application seeks full planning permission for a new free-range poultry building to provide a 32,000 free range bird egg laying production unit

2.2 The development will consist of the proposed poultry unit, feed silos, hard standing, hardcore access track, and soft landscaping.

2.3 All existing mature trees and hedgerows along the site's boundaries and within the boundary would be retained in-situ as part of the development; ensuring the proposals would be well-screened within the surrounding landscape.

2.4 Further to this, to achieve enhanced landscape screening and a net benefit for biodiversity (NBB), additional native species tree planting is proposed within the site boundary.

3. Green Infrastructure Baseline

3.1 The application site comprises an area of intensive pasture land which is, considering its use, deemed to be of overall low ecological value. It is also noted there are no ponds in existence within the application site's vicinity.

3.2 Along the application site's frontage with the public highway, there is an existing corridor of native species mature trees and hedgerow, which will be retained in-full as part of the development of the site.

3.3 In addition, native trees will be planted within the site boundary to increase site biodiversity, to provide immediate landscape effect.

3.4 Furthermore, 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.

3.5 Therefore, the application site is currently considered to be of relatively low ecological value given its current use and the extent to which the land is managed and maintained.

4. The Green Infrastructure Strategy

4.1 The approach to the design/layout of the proposed site has fully taken into account potential environmental and green infrastructure impacts. Every effort has been taken during the design process to minimise and avoid impacts upon existing green infrastructure on the site.

4.2 Native trees and shrub that will be planted within the site boundary to the East & South of the development, this will include a range of species such as Sycamore and Hazle. This will increase site biodiversity and improve existing habitats.

4.3 The above measures would provide a substantial net benefit for biodiversity (NBB) effect over and above the baseline.

4.4 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.

4.5 Off-site ecological mitigation will not be required as there will not be any impact upon protected species on the site.

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.