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TITLE : **Archives Green Infrastructure Statement**

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Green Infrastructure Statement



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Site Address: Land adjacent to Theatr Clwyd, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1YA

Proposal: Creation of a purpose-built joint archive facility with associated access, parking, landscaping on land adjacent to Theatr Clwyd, Mold.

Description of Works: Construction of a new building including pedestrian pathway access, parking areas, sustainable drainage features, appropriate site clearance and groundworks to accommodate construction

1.1 fenton+reece ltd have been asked to prepare a Green Infrastructure Statement for the proposed Joint Archive Facility in Mold, Flintshire. This document is to read in conjunction with the General Arrangement Plan (JAF-FRL-XX-XX-DR-L-1500) and Detailed Planting Plan (JAF-FRL-XX-XX-DR-L-1030).

1.2 Following recent updates to Planning Policy Wales 12 there is now a requirement for all planning applications in Wales to be supported by a Green Infrastructure Statement. Section 6.2.12 has been updated to include the following statement:

“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.”

1.3 Refer to Consultant Ecologist from Marches Ecology for PEA titled *Proposed Joint Archive Building for Denbighshire & Flintshire County Councils, Land Adjacent to Theatr Clwyd, off Raikes Lane, Mold, Flintshire – Preliminary Ecologist Appraisal* for full ecological information.

1.4 The table below has been drawn up using the Annex Document to the Updated National Planning Policy for Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales. A summary of the existing Green Infrastructure has been identified as the baseline condition and assessed against The DECCA Framework to establish any impact on the sites Green Infrastructure.

Landscape + Ecological Designations: <i>(this statement does not replace an LVIA or Ecology Survey)</i>			
Designations: <i>either covering or within effective distance of the site</i>	Location	Approx. Proximity to Site	Impact
Ancient Semi Natural Woodland	Northwest of site	352m	No impact on existing GI due to proximity and scale of proposal
Restored Ancient Woodland Site	Southeast of site	248m	No impact on existing GI due to proximity and scale of proposal
Orchards (Historic & Traditional)	South of site	297m	No impact on existing GI due to proximity and scale of proposal

Existing Green Infrastructure Baseline + Condition:

The site is located on land adjacent to the existing Theatr Clwyd, the proposed development is to be located on a relatively flat, plateau which shelves down via steeply sloping grass banks to the adjoining roads and footpaths. The existing green infrastructure on site comprises of amenity grassland, disturbed grassland, ruderal tall-herb vegetation and some young and semi-mature trees, which sit on the flatter parts of the raised plateau.

Although the site is not within any designations itself, the desktop study identified some landscape and ecological designations within the study area. Located over 200m from the site there will be no adverse effect on any identified designations due to this proposal. Contextually, the site is located in a rural setting, with pastoral land to the north, east and west of the site. The site itself has little connectivity to existing wider GI features due to the adjacent built infrastructure to the northeast, southeast and southwest of the site, cut off physically by roads and pavements and Theatr Clwyd that abuts the northwest boundary of the site, which all separate the plot from wider green infrastructure features

Habitat Classifications:

Habitats present within the site include:

- Scattered trees
- Neutral grassland
- Complex ruderal vegetation

There are trees scattered across the amenity grassland. Within the amenity grassland there are areas with unmanaged swards of grass. Due to the regularity of management of the existing grasses on site, these are not suitable habitats for the Great Crested Newt and reptiles. Refer to Marches Ecology PEA report for more information on habitat suitability, descriptions, survey, design and mitigation measures recommended.

Fauna Considerations:

There are some potential bird nesting habitats on site that will be removed however proposed landscape enhancements will be provided such as the proposed tree and shrub planting and build-in Swift Box to two of the building elevations. Refer to Marches Ecology PEA for more information on how habitats support specific species ranges within geographical area of site.

Existing Green Infrastructure Affected:

The proposed development will result in the permanent loss or modification of a significant portion of the existing vegetated habitats present however the extent of works have been minimised, where possible to retain higher value areas, such as the neutral grassland embankment which will be enhanced and retained in the most part. 11 of the scattered trees will be removed and 4 trees will be retained.

Green Infrastructure Enhancements Proposed:

In line with the objectives of **Planning Policy Wales** and the **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**, the proposed development presents opportunities to contribute positively to the local green infrastructure network.

The following habitat features are to be incorporated on site to target priority species likely to be present on site:

- Native tree and shrub planting and pole mounted bat box for foraging / commuting bats
- Sympathetic lighting to be used to avoid any significant adverse impacts on bats
- In-built swift box on building
- Habitat piles on north of site using materials cleared from site to provide habitat for hedgehogs and other invertebrate species
- Pollinator friendly perennial planting 'bee bar' on southern edge of building along plaza area

To mitigate the green infrastructure lost, the following landscape features are to be incorporated on site:

- Native tree and shrub planting
- Ornamental and native groundcover
- Swathes of crocus and daffodils within neutral grassland areas
- Low mow grass ecotone strip to promote wildlife species movement
- Wildflower meadow
- Native fruit trees such as Denbigh Plum, Bardsey Island Apple and Snowdon Queen Pear trees to be planted along entrance pathway

All proposed planting and habitat features are designed to target notes within the Marches Ecology report.

The DECCA Framework: <i>establishes any impact [beneficial or adverse] on the sites Green Infrastructure.</i>	Step-Wise Approach			
	Avoid	Minimise	Mitigate	Compensate
Diversity: <i>Individual development proposals should avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, by considering how biodiversity assets, can be maintained and enhanced.</i>	Avoided negative impacts by planting additional landscape typologies with additional native species			
Extent: <i>Individual development proposals must avoid loss in the extent of biodiversity and incorporate measures to appropriately maintain and enlarge existing habitats, especially where extent is small or declining, through habitat restoration and creation with adjoining and nearby areas, green infrastructure features and networks</i>		Retained neutral grassland along embankment of site will minimise loss of the more valuable habitat		
Condition: <i>Individual development proposals must not compromise the condition of ecosystems. consideration to both direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and benefits. securing the long-term management of retained habitats is key to maintaining condition</i>	No adverse impact by enhancing and improving planting typologies with long term management regimes			
Connectivity: <i>Individual development proposals should identify and incorporate measures which enable appropriate links to be made between the site and its surroundings so as to improve connectivity</i>	No adverse impact on connectivity. This is enhanced through new planting typologies	Minimise impact of artificial lighting		
Adaptation: <i>Individual development proposals should identify impacts to the ecosystem resilience attributes of biodiversity</i>	Proposed positive impacts through a mosaic of native habitat typologies, permeable paving and habitat features			

Summary:

Existing Condition

- The site supports limited existing green infrastructure features, which include neutral grassland and a cluster of semi-mature trees, which will be unavoidable lost and effected by the proposed development.
- The site provides limited connectivity to wider green infrastructure features due to having roads adjacent to 3 sides of site and Theatr Clwyd to northwest of development

Avoidance & Mitigation

- The lost parts of the neutral grassland are unavoidable and is compensated via proposed habitat creation and planting strategy
- Areas of existing vegetation retained will be enhanced through plug planting and additional native tree and shrub planting
- Reasonable avoidance measures are recommended, please refer to PEA report from Marches Ecology for additional information

Enhancements

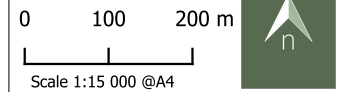
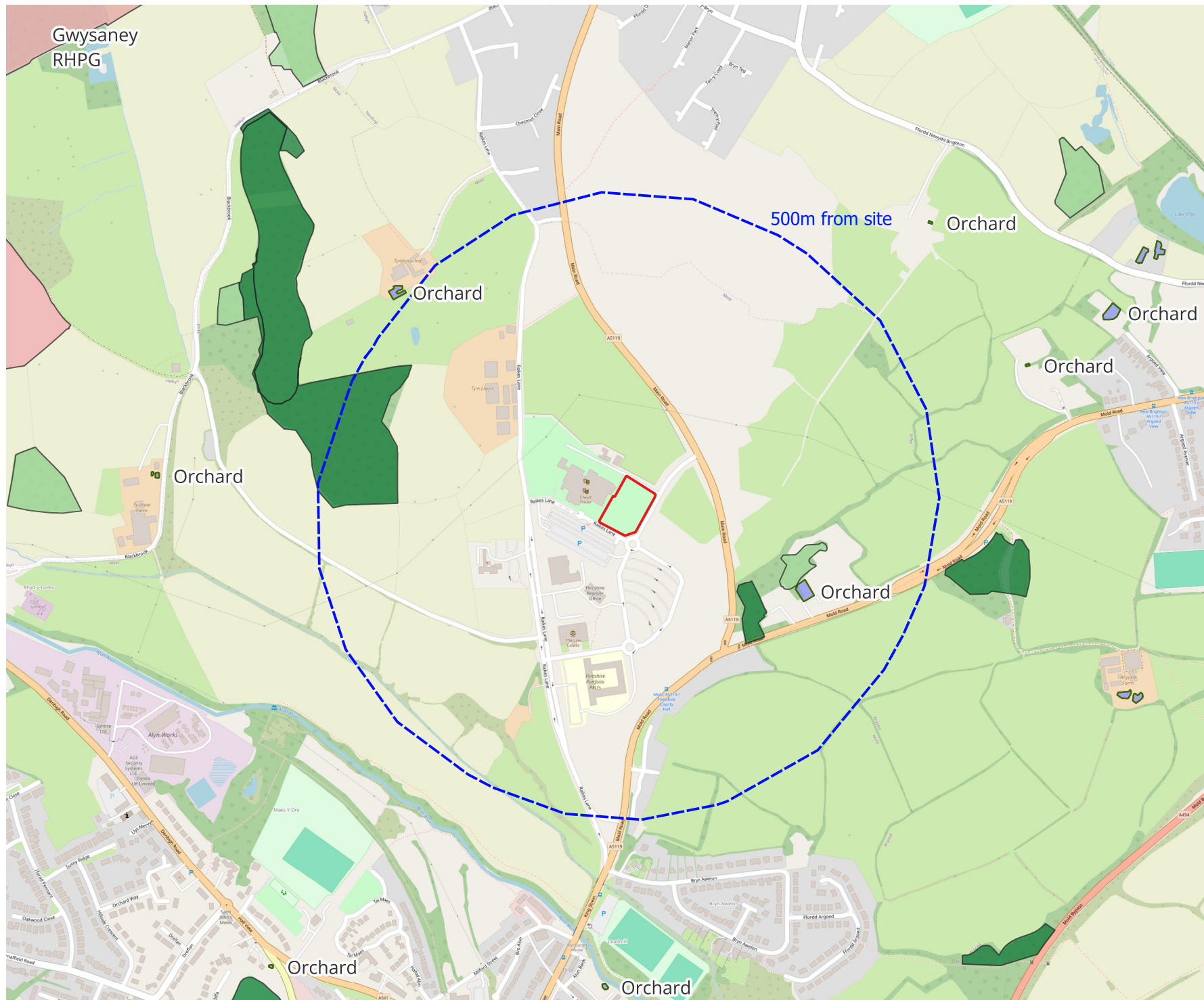
- Improved connectivity and habitat condition through native planting strategy
- Habitat creation / compensation: Enhanced neutral grassland with improved interplanting of native species mix, swathes of crocus and daffodils, additional ground cover perennial mix, proposed native trees and shrubs, flowering lawn meadow mix, low mow grass ecotone
- Wildlife Habitat features:
 - In built Swift box
 - Pole mounted bat box
 - Habitat felled timber log piles
 - Pollinator perennial planting (Bee Bar)

It is concluded that the proposed development on site will provide an overall improvement to the green infrastructure through a new native mosaic of planting typologies and landscape management strategies, in keeping with the local character and existing green infrastructure of the area.

Appendix

The following designations have been reviewed against the development; the mapping datasets were accessed using DataMapWales. If there is a designation present, either within the site boundaries or within effective distance (500m) of the development, these will be noted in the statement above.

	Within Site?	Within 500m?
Ancient Woodland (<i>Ancient Semi Natural Woodland</i>)	No	Yes
Ancient Woodland (<i>Restored Ancient Woodland</i>)	No	Yes
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	No	No
Historic Landscape Areas (HLA)	No	No
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	No	No
Marine Conservation Zones	No	No
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	No	No
National Parks	No	No
Orchards (Historic & Traditional)	No	Yes
Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS)	No	No
Registered Historic Parks & Gardens (RHPG)	No	No
Registered Landscapes of Outstanding & Special Interest	No	No
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	No	No
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	No	No
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	No	No
Special Landscape Area	No	No



- Legend**
- Buffered
 - Site Boundary
- Designations**
- Ancient Woodland**
- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland
 - Restored Ancient Woodland Site
 - Orchards (Historic & Traditional)
 - Registered Historic Parks & Gardens (RHPG)

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Project
**Joint Archive Facility
 Mold, Flintshire**

Title
Landscape Designations