

13.0 Further Information and Advice



Copies of this guidance and other relevant documents can be downloaded from the Council's website at www.merthyr.gov.uk

Further information is available from:

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Appendix 1 – Glossary of Terms

Advanced thermal processes: Typically relates to gasification and pyrolysis. These processes chemically transform feedstock into a gas or oil which can subsequently be combusted to generate electricity.

Cross ventilation: A natural ventilation system which relies on the pressure generated on a building by the wind, to drive air through it. When wind meets a building, it generally creates a positive pressure on the windward side and a negative pressure over the roof and leeward side. Ventilation air will flow along this pressure gradient provided there are openings on each side of the building. This system can be adopted whenever a building is exposed to the prevailing wind.

Evapotranspiration: The process by which water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere by evaporation from the soil and other surfaces and transpiration from plants.

Legible layout: A layout that is easy to understand and traverse.

Microclimate: The climate of a very small or restricted area, especially when it differs from the climate of the surrounding area.

Passive stack ventilation: A natural ventilation system which relies on air being driven through a building by vertical pressure differences developed by thermal buoyancy. The warm air inside the building is less dense than cooler air outside, and will therefore seek to escape from openings in the building fabric at the top of the house. At the same time cooler air is drawn into the building through low level openings.

Permeable layout: A layout that has a variety of pleasant, convenient and safe routes through it.
Modular Geocellular Storage: Plastic structures, containing modular boxes or honeycomb blocks, which control and manage runoff either as a soakaway or as a storage tank.

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Appendix 2 – List of References

One Wales: One Planet – The Sustainability Development Scheme of the Welsh Assembly Government (May 2009)

Local Development Plans Wales: Policy on Preparation of LDPs (December 2005)

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 5, November 2012)

Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (September 2009)

Technical Advice Note 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (July 2005)

Technical Advice Note 12: Design (June 2009)

Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk (July 2004)

Technical Advice Note 18: Transport (March 2007)

Technical Advice Note (Wales) 21: Waste (November 2001)

Technical Advice Note 22: Sustainable Buildings (June 2010)

Welsh Government. July 2012. *Consultation Document: 2012 Consultation on Changes to the Building Regulations in Wales Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Power)* (Merthyr Tydfil, WG).

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Llewelyn Davies Yeang/Homes and Communities Agency. 2000. *The Urban Design Compendium* (London, English Partnerships and Housing Corporation).

Welsh Assembly Government. 2010. *Practice Guidance – Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy* (Cardiff, WAG).

Cadw/Welsh Assembly Government. 2010. *Renewable Energy and Your Historic Building. Installing Micro-Generation Systems: A Guide to Best Practice*. (Cardiff, Cadw/WAG).

Welsh Government. 2012. *Practice Guidance – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in Buildings* (Cardiff, WG).

County Surveyors Society Wales. 2008. *Wales Parking Standards* (CSS Wales).

Environment Agency. 2010. *Harvesting Rainwater for Domestic Uses: An Information Guide* (Bristol, EA).

Environment Agency. 2011. *Greywater for Domestic Users: An Information Guide* (Bristol, EA).

Dickie, S., McKay, G., Ions, L. and Shaffer, P. 2010. *Planning for SUDS – Making It Happen, C687*, (London, CIRIA).

Woods-Ballard, B., Kellagher, R., Martin, P., Jeffries, C., Bray, R. and Shaffer, P. 2007. *The SUDS Manual*, C697 (London, CIRIA).

Environment Agency Wales. *Building the Future 2005-2006: A Survey on the Arising and Management of Construction and Demolition Waste in Wales 2005-2006* (Cardiff, EAW).

Towards Zero Waste – The Overarching Waste Strategy Document for Wales (June 2010).

Welsh Government. 2011. *Statistical Bulletin SB105/2011*. (Cardiff, WG).

Davis Langdon LLP. *Designing Out Waste: A Design Team Guide for Buildings. Less Waste, Sharper Design* (Banbury, Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP)).

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister/Home Office. 2004. *Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention* (Tonbridge, Thomas Telford Publishing).

<http://www.securedbydesign.com>

<http://www.lifetimehomes.org.uk>

<http://www.ukcip.org.uk>

Greater London Authority. 2005. *Adapting to Climate Change: A Checklist for Development. Guidance on Designing Developments in a Changing Climate* (London, GLA).

Appendix 3 – Summary of Comments Received to Draft SPG Consultation with Council Response in Each Case

Representor: The Coal Authority

Issue: No specific comments to make on the document.

Council response: The Council welcomes The Coal Authority's consideration of the SPG.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: South Wales Police

Issue: A request is made for the inclusion of additional text within Chapter 11 Designing out Crime, encouraging developers to seek pre-application advice from the Police Crime Prevention Design Advisors on specific applications.

Council response: It is considered that the additional text would be of benefit to users of the SPG in terms of raising awareness of the service provided by South Wales Police. As such, it is recommended that an amendment is made to section 11.1 as set out below.

Recommended changes: Add sentence at the end of paragraph 11.1.1 to read: *In addition, pre-application advice should be sought from South Wales Police Crime Prevention Design Advisors.*

Add related footnote at the bottom of the page to read: *Relevant planning applications include: residential developments comprising of 10 or more dwellings; commercial, office, industrial, retail or leisure developments with a floor space of 1000 square metres or more; development involving new neighbourhood or district community facilities; car parking schemes with more than 50 spaces, or built to achieve the Park Mark Award; and any other development that could have a significant impact on future crime and general community safety.*

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW highlight the need for a Design and Access Statement (DAS) to clearly identify how the landscape context of the site has been taken into consideration in the design of the development, and the way in which the development has been designed to fit into that landscape context.

Council response: Whilst *Chapter 3 Design and Access Statements* does not refer specifically to the landscape context of site, it does refer to the need for the DAS to demonstrate how the physical context (which includes landscape) of the development has been appraised, and how the choice of design principles takes that context into account. The reader is also advised to refer to Technical Advice Note 12: Design (June 2009) for more detailed guidance, which includes consideration of the local landscape context.

The Council is satisfied that the SPG provides an appropriate amount of guidance on the use of a DAS when considering sustainable design matters without going into the level of detail adequately covered by other existing documents. As such, it is not considered necessary to amend the SPG in respect of this matter.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW suggest an amendment to paragraph 3.4 in order to make it clear that in a sensitive location even a small development can have significant impacts, and as such, may require more detailed consideration in a DAS.

Council response: The Council accepts that paragraph 3.4 would benefit from further clarification and recommend that this paragraph is amended as set out below.

Recommended changes: Amend third and fourth sentence of paragraph 3.4 to read: Major new developments and developments in sensitive locations are likely to require greater levels of detail with illustrative material and cross references to additional information contained within supporting documents submitted with the application. Smaller, less complex developments, and those in less sensitive locations, may be much shorter and only require concise written explanations.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW welcomes the recognition in paragraph 4.2.1 of the need for site layout to be informed by natural features, and the important contribution of landscape features to maintain and improve the energy conservation performance of buildings. They also welcome the recognition of the numerous benefits provided by trees.

Council response: Noted.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW welcome the cross-reference in paragraph 5.1.2 to the Welsh Government's *Practice Guidance – Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2010)*, which highlights the ecological and landscape considerations which should be taken into account for each low and zero carbon technology.

Council response: Noted.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW welcome the acknowledgement in paragraph 5.4.5 that an abstraction licence is likely to be required for water source heat pumps (WSHPs). They also highlight the need to change the reference from the Environment Agency Wales to Natural Resources Wales and the existence of an additional constraint to WSHPs relating to variations in the amount of water available for abstraction.

Council response: The Council accepts that paragraph 5.4.5 should be updated to reflect the organisational change at the Environment Agency Wales, and that the inclusion of text highlighting the additional constraint

to WSHPs would be of benefit to users of the SPG. As such, it is recommended that Section 5.4 be amended as set out below.

Recommended changes: Amend final sentence of paragraph 5.4.5 to read: An abstraction licence from ~~the Environment Agency~~ Natural Resources Wales is normally required.

Add paragraph at the end of section 5.4 to read:

5.4.9 WSHPs can be constrained by variations in the amount of water available for abstraction. This could be due to differing groundwater levels or river flows. Any abstraction licence issued is likely to include certain conditions/restrictions which will also affect the water available for these schemes.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW highlight the potential need for hydropower schemes to obtain an abstraction and/or impoundment licence from NRW. They also indicate that any abstraction and/or impoundment licence issued is likely to affect the amount of water available for such schemes.

Council response: The Council accepts that additional information on the potential need for an abstraction and/or impoundment licence and the related implications for the amount of water available for such schemes would benefit users of the SPG. As such, it is recommended that Section 5.5 be amended as set out below.

Recommended changes: Add sentence at the end of paragraph 5.5.1 to read: *An abstraction and/or impoundment licence is likely to be required from Natural Resources Wales.*

Add sentence at the end of paragraph 5.5.3 to read: *Any abstraction and/or impoundment licence issued is likely to include certain conditions/restrictions which will also affect the water available for these schemes.*

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW highlight that hydropower schemes should be assessed on a case by case basis as some schemes may be detrimental to the ecology of a watercourse. As a consequence, they advise that potential applicants and/or developers undertake pre-application discussions with NRW.

Council response: Whilst the Council acknowledges that hydropower schemes can impact on the ecology of a watercourse, consideration of the potential impacts of renewable technologies within the SPG is considered undesirable given the number of issues that would need to be covered. The approach taken has been to cross-reference other existing documents which adequately address these issues in detail, such as the Welsh Government's *Practice Guidance – Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2010)*. A reference to this document is provided in the introduction of Chapter 5 Energy – Low and Zero Carbon Technologies.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW welcome the acknowledgement that we are facing challenges to our water supply resulting from reduced water abstraction from the Wye and Usk rivers.

Council response: Noted.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW request the inclusion of an informative within Section 7.3 relating to the potential requirement for an Environment Permit to Discharge if a SuDS discharges to a surface water body.

Council response: The Council accepts that the informative would provide useful information to users of the SPG, and as such, it is recommended that an amendment is made to Section 7.3 as set out below.

Recommended changes: Amend first sentence of paragraph 7.3.17 to read: *Early consultation with the Environment Agency Wales Natural Resources Wales and the Council's Drainage Engineer is recommended in order to identify local surface water issues and establish design standards and performance parameters.*

Add related footnote at the bottom of the page to read: *It should be noted that an Environment Permit to Discharge may be required from Natural Resources Wales for a SuDS to discharge to a surface water body.*

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW request the inclusion of an informative within Section 9.2 relating to the potential requirement for an exemption or Environment Permit to carry out waste activities such as the re-use of waste in construction.

Council response: The Council accepts that the informative would provide useful information to users of the SPG, and as such, it is recommended that an amendment is made to Section 9.2 as set out below.

Recommended changes: Add footnote, which relates to the final sentence of paragraph 9.2.3, at the bottom of the page to read: *It should be noted that an exemption or Environment Permit may be required from Natural Resources Wales to carry out waste activities such as the reuse of waste in construction.*

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW welcome the recognition in Section 10 of the multiple benefits of integrating green infrastructure into the design of development.

Council response: Noted.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW welcome the recognition of the role of green infrastructure in supporting biodiversity enhancement, and that such provision is an important consideration in achieving sustainability through good design.

Council response: Noted.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW requests that the SPG clarifies the need for developers to understand local habitats and species, and suggests that they contact the Local Planning Authority and the local environmental records centre to obtain local biodiversity data. They also indicate that the information should be used to inform how measures to protect and enhance biodiversity could be integrated into the design and layout of proposal. NRW can provide advice to developers on biodiversity considerations.

Council response: The Council initially considered including more detailed information on biodiversity issues within *Chapter 10 Green Infrastructure*, but felt that this would shift the focus away from the broader consideration of green infrastructure. Moreover, the Council intends to produce an SPG on biodiversity in the future, which will contain detailed information on the biodiversity issues raised by NRW. Notwithstanding this, in order to prevent these issues being overlooked by developers while the forthcoming SPG on biodiversity is being prepared, the Council recommends that amendments are made to Section 10.3 as set out below.

Recommended changes: Add footnote, which relates to the first sentence of paragraph 10.3.1, at the bottom of the page to read: *This is particularly important for understanding local biodiversity and developers should contact the local planning authority and/or local environmental records centre to obtain data on known habitats and species located within, or close to, the application site. Natural Resources Wales can also provide advice to developers on biodiversity considerations which should inform the design and layout of development proposals.*

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW indicate that it is important to plant native species of local provenance as they will protect and enhance the natural features and character of an area. They also indicate that species of local provenance will be best suited to the microclimate and of most benefit to wildlife.

Council response: The Council accepts these statements and recommends an amendment to Section 10.3 as set out below.

Recommended changes: Add sentence at the end of Paragraph 10.3.2 to read: *In general, native species are best suited to the local environment, sustaining biodiversity while protecting and enhancing natural features and the character of the area.*

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW welcome the clarification in paragraph 10.3.1 that developers should seek to understand the nature and function of existing green infrastructure at the beginning of the design process, but suggest that the SPG should seek to protect, and where appropriate, enhance existing green infrastructure functions.

Council response: The Council accepts the approach suggested by NRW and it is recommended that an amendment is made to Section 10.3 as set out below.

Recommended changes: Amend second sentence of paragraph 10.3.1 to read: *This knowledge can then be used to design new developments in ways ~~that provide opportunities to add to, or enhance~~ protect, and where appropriate enhance, the function of existing green infrastructure.*

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW welcome the advice in paragraph 10.3.9 on measures that should be put in place to protect trees and hedgerows. Additionally, they also request that the SPG recommends that developers seek advice from their local authority as to whether a species survey should be undertaken prior to commencing works which would involve the felling or lopping of trees and hedgerow works.

Council response: The Council initially considered including more detailed information on biodiversity issues within *Chapter 10 Green Infrastructure*, but felt that this would shift the focus away from the broader consideration of green infrastructure. Whilst the Council agrees with the sentiment of the additional information suggested by NRW, it is considered more appropriate to address these biodiversity issues within an SPG on Biodiversity. The Council intends to produce the latter in the future and will give further consideration to the matter raised at that time.

Recommended changes: None.

Representor: Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Issue: NRW highlight the potential impact of artificial lighting on wildlife using and inhabiting watercourses, ponds and wetlands, and assert that lighting levels should be maintained at background levels in these locations. They also recommend that advice is sought from a suitably qualified ecologist when planning a lighting scheme in areas where protected species are known to be present and in the countryside.

Council response: Whilst the Council recognises the potential impact of insensitive lighting schemes on biodiversity interests, it is felt that these matters would be more appropriately addressed within an SPG on Biodiversity. The Council intends to produce the latter in the future and will give further consideration to the matter raised at that time.

Recommended changes: None.