

Cooke, Jacob (Senior Planning Officer)

From: Harris, Matthew (Ecology Officer)
Sent: 31 July 2025 12:47
To: Cooke, Jacob (Senior Planning Officer)
Subject: RE: Planning Consultation Request for case ref: 25/0556

Hello Jacob, I have considered the Site Assessment Survey Report V1 dated 16th April 2025, and in general I support the methodology and conclusions of that assessment.

A series of precautionary mitigation measures, and biodiversity enhancement measures, are set out in the Conclusions and Recommendations section starting on page 13 of the report. In general I support these proposals, and advise that their implementation is secured by planning condition.

I agree with the approach of assuming presence of reptiles on site, and of using a phased vegetation cut to allow them to disperse to retained habitats nearby. Measures to allow free movement of hedgehogs throughout the site are welcomed, as are those to avoid otters etc getting trapped in excavations on site. In relation to bat and bird boxes, these are readily available commercially, are inexpensive, and can be tailored to the style and colour of the finish of the buildings. Features which are integrated into the buildings rather than attached to the outside are preferable as they are more secure in the long-term and less prone to interference by the public. Therefore the proposal to attach external bat/bird boxes should be amended to internal or integrated roost / nest boxes.

The trees along the southern boundary of the site are an important ecological feature, and while trimming of smaller branches during construction would not be a concern in biodiversity terms, I would look to the Trees & Woodlands consultees to ensure that measures to protect trees and their root protection areas are implemented. It is a concern that the houses and gardens of residents who move into these houses will be permanently shaded by the tall trees to the south. This may lead to attempts by those residents to manage or reduce these trees, which would compromise their biodiversity value. We need to be certain that these trees are protected, and that the future residents are aware of this.

Matt

-----Original Message-----

From: planning@newport.gov.uk <planning@newport.gov.uk>
Sent: 31 July 2025 09:07
To: Harris, Matthew (Ecology Officer) <Matthew.Harris@newport.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning Consultation Request for case ref: 25/0556

Dear Head Of City Services

Please find attached correspondence from Newport Council with regards to the above planning application submitted on 14 July 2025.

Your sincerely
Development Management