

From: Harris, Matthew (Ecology Officer) <Matthew.Harris@newport.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 November 2025 15:42
To: Hawkins, Grant (Principal Planning Officer) <Grant.Hawkins@newport.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 25/0375 - Whiteheads

Hello Grant,

I have noted the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and the bat and reptile survey report submitted in support of this application, and in general I agree with the methodology and conclusions set out in those reports.

I note that a Green Infrastructure Statement has not been provided. This would be useful explain how the ecology, sustainable drainage, soft landscaping and trees have been planned in an integrated way which benefits the development and its surrounding green infrastructure.

In terms of securing net benefit for biodiversity, as required by PPW12, I support the comment in section 6.1.1 of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal which states:-

'Bird and bat boxes to be fitted to the buildings on the development to benefit priority and local action plan species such as house sparrow, swift and soprano pipistrelle. Ideally, bird boxes should face between north and east while bat boxes should be placed facing south, south-east or south-west. Boxes should be placed above three metres from the ground to avoid disturbance but remain sheltered from strong wind.'

In this instance, the design of the building, with eaves above the second floor facing east, strongly lends itself to the integration of Universal Swift Bricks. The applicant's ecologist can advise on the make and model and suitable positioning of these features. Bat / bird boxes such as 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.

In my view, the building could easily accommodate 8 swift bricks, broadly in the location highlighted in red below, although the Applicant should take the advice of their Ecological Consultant as to exact locations.



These and other measures to achieve net benefit for biodiversity, for example the recommendations set out in Section 6 of the PEA, should be secured in a planning condition requiring submission and implementation of a biodiversity enhancement scheme.

Matt