

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Proposed side extension at
178 Claremont,
Malpas, Newport, NP20 6PQ

Prepared by Siemens Architecture for

Mr + Mrs Finch

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3 Morden Road, Newport, NP19 7ET
t:07757 271099 e:info@siemensarchitecture.co.uk

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT SCHEME STATEMENT

Proposed Development: Double storey side extension and new front porch at 178 Claremont, Malpas, Newport, NP20 6PQ.

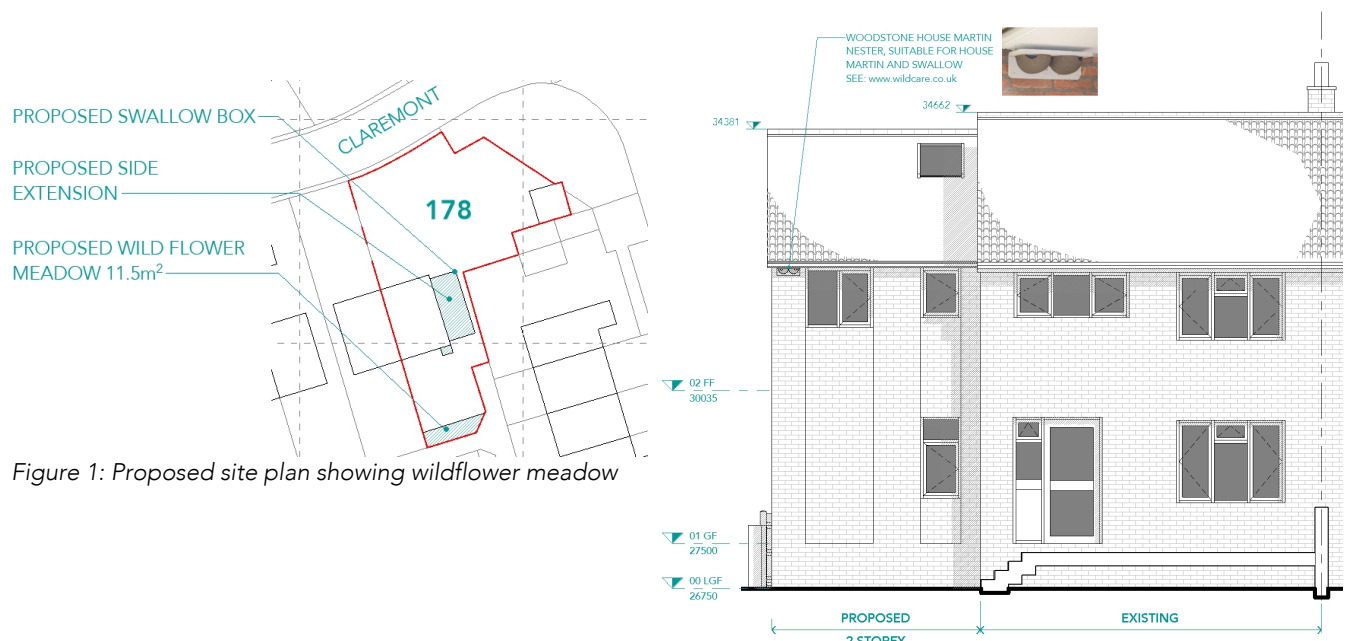
In support of the application for a double storey side extension, the following biodiversity enhancement measures are proposed:

- Creation of a small wildflower meadow in the rear garden, sown with a native UK wildflower seed mix suitable for local soil conditions in South Wales. The mix will include species such as:
 - ➔ Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) — Purple flowers, excellent for bees and butterflies, long flowering season.
 - ➔ Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) — Yellow flowers, vital for common blue butterflies and many bees.
 - ➔ Ox-eye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) — Classic white daisy, great for pollinators and visual impact.
 - ➔ Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) — Bright yellow, supports a wide range of insects.
 - ➔ Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) — Semi-parasitic; helps reduce vigorous grasses so other flowers thrive.
 - ➔ Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense*) — Pink/red flowers, highly attractive to bumblebees.
 - ➔ Selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*) — Purple, low-growing, good for bees and ground-dwelling insects.
 - ➔ Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) — White/pink flat heads, very hardy and beneficial for insects.
 - ➔ Betony (*Betonica officinalis*) — Pink-purple spikes, attractive to long-tongued bees.
 - ➔ Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil (*Lotus pedunculatus*) — Taller version, good for damper spots.

This will provide habitat and foraging resources for pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects.

- Installation of one WoodStone House Martin nester (artificial nest cup) on the north elevation of the proposed extension, positioned under the eaves at a suitable height (minimum 2m from ground level) with a clear flight path. This durable WoodStone design is suitable for both House Martins and Swallows, helping to support these declining aerial insectivores by providing secure nesting opportunities.

These simple, low-maintenance features will deliver a measurable net gain in biodiversity on the site while integrating sensitively with the existing garden and building setting. We confirm that the proposal complies with relevant local and national planning policy on biodiversity enhancement (including the Environment Act 2021 and Newport Local Development Plan policies). Prepared for submission to Newport Council.



APPENDIX A - CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity Enhancement Measures are designed to fulfill the Section 6 duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which mandates public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. The scheme integrates biodiversity considerations into planning, development, and community initiatives, ensuring measurable improvements in Newport's natural environment. It aligns with the Newport Local Nature Partnership's goals to protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, support locally important species, and engage communities in conservation efforts.

OBJECTIVES

- Protect and enhance existing semi-natural habitats across Newport.
- Create new habitats where suitable to increase biodiversity value.
- Identify and protect locally important species through targeted actions.
- Ensure developments achieve a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), where applicable, using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric or equivalent tools.
- Promote community involvement in biodiversity projects to enhance education and access to nature.
- Support ecological connectivity through nature networks, linking habitats within and beyond Newport.

SCOPE

This scheme applies to

- All planning applications (pre, outline, and full) for residential, commercial, and infrastructure developments.
- Council-managed land, including parks, schools, and nature reserves (e.g., Allt-yr-yn and St Julian's Local Nature Reserves).
- Community-led initiatives, such as community orchards and school biodiversity programs.
- Partnerships with developers, schools, and local organizations to deliver biodiversity enhancements.

KEY BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

The following measures are proportionate to the scale, location, and nature of developments or initiatives. Developers and council projects must incorporate as many measures as viable, supported by ecological surveys and reports.

A. Habitat Creation and Enhancement

- On-Site Habitat Creation: Prioritize on-site enhancements, such as:
 - Planting native wildflower meadows, hedgerows, or woodland areas to support pollinators and wildlife.
 - Creating wetlands, ponds, or sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to enhance aquatic biodiversity.
 - Incorporating green roofs or walls on buildings to provide habitats for birds, insects, and plants.
- Off-Site Compensation: Where on-site measures are insufficient, developers must secure off-site biodiversity units through habitat banks or council-approved sites, ensuring a minimum 10% BNG for major developments (mandatory from February 2024) and small sites (from April 2024).
- Ecological Connectivity: Design developments to maintain or create wildlife corridors, linking to existing sites like Allt-yr-yn Nature Reserve or St Julian's Park, to strengthen Newport's nature network.

B. Species-Specific Enhancements

- Bird Nesting Features: Install integrated swift bricks, bat boxes, or bird boxes (e.g., for house sparrows or kingfishers) on new buildings, with specifications detailed in architectural drawings. An average of one nesting feature per dwelling is recommended for major developments.
- Bat Roosts: Incorporate bat bricks or roost spaces in new builds, guided by Bat Conservation Trust recommendations, especially near known bat habitats like Allt-yr-yn ponds.
- Pollinator Support: Use nectar-rich and larval food plants in landscaping to support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators, avoiding invasive non-native species (see NatureScot Annex B).
- Hedgehog Highways: Include 13cm x 13cm gaps in fences to allow hedgehog movement, mandatory for all developments.

C. Community and Educational Initiatives

- School Biodiversity Programs: Expand the Schools Biodiversity Service Level Agreement (SLA) to support habitat creation (e.g., ponds, meadows) on school grounds and provide free environmental education sessions at Allt-yr-yn and St Julian's reserves.
- Community Orchards: Continue developing community orchards as natural spaces for biodiversity and public engagement, funded by Welsh Government grants. Promote public consultation to identify suitable sites.

- Citizen Science and Volunteering: Encourage community involvement in monitoring and managing biodiversity projects, such as through the Newport Local Nature Partnership or partnerships with groups like Gwent Wildlife Trust.
- D. Green Infrastructure
 - Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): Integrate SuDS with biodiversity benefits, such as rain gardens or vegetated swales, to manage water and support wetland species.
 - Urban Tree Planting: Plant native trees (e.g., ash, oak) to enhance canopy cover and support species like birds and bats, ensuring soil health to sustain planting.
 - Public Greenspaces: Enhance existing parks and open spaces (e.g., St Julian's Park) with biodiverse planting and features like log piles or insect hotels.

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Planning Applications: Developers must submit:
 - Ecological surveys identifying baseline biodiversity and potential impacts.
 - Architectural drawings showing the location and specification of enhancement measures (e.g., swift bricks on building elevations).
 - A Biodiversity Gain Plan for major developments, demonstrating a 10% BNG using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric, including pre- and post-development habitat plans.
- Management and Monitoring:
 - Habitats created or enhanced must be maintained for a minimum of 30 years, secured through legal agreements (e.g., Section 106 or conservation covenants).
 - Submit monitoring reports every 5 years to Newport City Council to assess the success of enhancements, with a feedback mechanism to adjust management if needed.
- Council-Led Projects: The council will lead by example, implementing enhancements on its land (e.g., schools, reserves) and integrating biodiversity into asset management plans.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

- Biodiversity Duty Reporting: Newport City Council will report on biodiversity actions every three years, as per the 2023-2025 Biodiversity Duty Report, detailing progress on habitat creation, species protection, and community engagement.
- Planning Conditions: Non-compliance with BNG requirements or enhancement measures will result in refusal of planning permission, in line with the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate, enhance).
- Ecological Expertise: Employ a full-time ecologist or partner with organizations like Gwent Wildlife Trust to assess proposals and monitor outcomes.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

- Public Awareness: Increase awareness of local wildlife through events, signage, and digital campaigns, highlighting sites like Allt-yr-yn and Fourteen Locks.
- School Programs: Expand free environmental education sessions and support schools in achieving Eco-Schools status.
- Volunteer Networks: Establish or support "Friends of" groups for reserves and greenspaces to involve residents in habitat management.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Use the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric or a Welsh equivalent to measure biodiversity value before and after interventions.
- Conduct annual reviews of council-led projects (e.g., orchards, school grounds) to assess biodiversity uplift and community benefits.
- Publish progress in the Biodiversity Duty Report, ensuring transparency and accountability.

ALIGNMENT WITH POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS

- National Policy: Comply with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and emerging Welsh biodiversity metrics, ensuring enhancements align with national priorities.
- Local Nature Recovery Action Plan: Integrate the scheme with the Newport Local Nature Partnership's plan to prioritize habitats and species of local importance.
- Partnerships: Collaborate with Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, and community groups to share knowledge and maximize biodiversity outcomes.