

**From:** Harris, Matthew (Ecology Officer)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2026 17:50  
**To:** Burrows, Lydia (Planning Officer) <Lydia.Burrows@newport.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: 26/0134

Hello Lydia, I see that the garden is densely vegetated, but from the images provided the bushes and trees etc seems to be mostly ornamental species, so do not form what I would consider a semi-natural scrub or woodland habitat. The site is likely to support nesting birds, hedgehogs, invertebrates and perhaps reptiles and amphibians. However on a small scale such as this I would not normally ask for formal surveys of these species. I think there are unlikely to be any European protected species such as bats, dormice, otters or great crested newts on this site.

We can make the applicant aware that to damage or destroy a bird's nest while it is in use or being built is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, and that they should use reasonable avoidance measures to avoid harm to other wildlife such as hedgehogs during clearance, for example. However, compensation for loss of habitat and achieving net benefit for biodiversity could be demonstrated by the submission of a soft landscaping plan as part of a Green Infrastructure Statement. The planting schedule should use a range of species of known value for biodiversity, together with features to support wildlife such as bird nest boxes, bug hotels, bat roosting boxes and hedgehog houses. This approach is more likely to achieve a positive result than requiring the applicant to commission surveys for species which we know are likely to occur on the site.

The green infrastructure at this site is likely to have a range of benefits apart from for biodiversity, including sustainable drainage, visual amenity, and climate change mitigation & adaptation. Any GI statement should set out how all these elements, including application of the stepwise approach, have been integrated into a comprehensive strategy to enhance the green infrastructure of the site.

Matt