

**From:** Harris, Matthew (Ecology Officer) <Matthew.Harris@newport.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 June 2026 14:34  
**To:** Quinn, Vicky (Senior Planning Officer) <Vicky.Quinn@newport.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: 25/1056 - Bramley, Catsash Road

Hello Vicky, the concerns raised in my previous response of 27<sup>th</sup> January have largely been addressed by these new details, specifically in relation to the Landscape Proposals. The planting on the southern bund seems more appropriate, however some of the proposed trees are labelled 'Bp' but this code does not appear in the Soft Landscape Key. I assume 'Bp' refers to *Betula pendula* – the Silver Birch – but the native tree planting key refers to *Crataegus laevigata*, the Midland Hawthorn, although the code 'Cl' does not appear on the planting plan. Therefore I think it likely that the plan has been mislabelled with 'Bp' instead of the 'Cl' referred to in the key. In ecological terms I do not have an issue with either of these species being planted on the southern bund, but our landscape advisors may query whether it is appropriate for a tall tree species such as Silver Birch to be placed on top of a bund adjacent to a neighbour's garden.

I welcome the proposed changes to the planting of the pond. The GI Statement is adequate, but it would have been useful to include detail on how any SuDS at this site, including the pond and soakaway, have been integrated into the overall green infrastructure strategy. The bird / bat boxes are appropriate as biodiversity enhancement measures.

The location of the proposed reptile hibernaculum is inappropriate as it is underneath the retained trees and sheltered to the south by further trees. A key feature of hibernacula is that they receive direct sunlight at all times of year. However as this is an additional feature to take account of the potential but unrecorded presence of reptiles in the grassland on site, I would not object on the basis that it is included.

I see that the draft CEMP has not been amended since my previous comments, so my advice on the CEMP remains as provided on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Matt