

Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

Regarding: Planning Application 24/0727

Site Address: 633 Chepstow Road, Newport, NP19 9BN

Proposal: NEW VEHICULAR ACCESS OFF CHEPSTOW ROAD AND ASSOCIATED OFF ROAD PARKING AREA TO FRONT OF PROPERTY (PART RETROSPECTIVE)

Date: 22 July 2025

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared to inform an application to satisfy and discharge Condition 2 of the planning permission 24/0727, granted on 13th February 2025. Condition 2 requires the submission and approval of a biodiversity enhancement scheme prior to the commencement of any further development.

1.2 The scheme detailed below has been designed in accordance with Policy GP5 of the Newport Local Development Plan and the principles outlined in the Newport City Council "Guidance note: biodiversity enhancements", provided to me upon request in the form of a PDF.

1.3 As the application is part-retrospective, the enhancement measures detailed in this report have already been implemented. This report provides the necessary details of these enhancements, supported by site plans and photographic evidence submitted alongside this document. A significant portion of the planting scheme consists of spring-flowering bulbs. As these were planted in the autumn and have not yet bloomed, they are not visible in the photographic evidence contained in Appendix A.

2.0 Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme Details

2.1 Planting Scheme

2.1.1 A significant planting scheme has been implemented to provide a "net benefit" for biodiversity, creating new habitat and food sources for wildlife. The scheme consists of a total of 61 plants across 10 distinct genera, chosen for their specific ecological attributes.

2.1.2 The following plants have been installed:

- **Twenty-five (25) Muscari armeniacum (Grape Hyacinth)** (planted as bulbs): These provide a vital, nectar-rich food source in early spring for emerging pollinators, particularly queen bumblebees and solitary bees. Their dense, low-growing clusters of flowers create a carpet of resources that extends the operational season of the habitat.

- **Ten (10) Tulip 'White Elegance'** (planted as bulbs): While primarily providing aesthetic value, the simple, open-cup shape of this lily-flowered tulip variety allows early foraging insects to access its pollen. They provide strong vertical interest in the spring.
- **Three (3) Giant Allium** (planted as bulbs) **and two (2) Allium plants**: The large, spherical flower heads are compound umbels, consisting of hundreds of individual florets. This structure acts as a large, stable landing platform for pollinators, making foraging highly efficient. Their architectural, leafless stems add a distinct vertical layer to the habitat structure.
- **Four (4) Campanula (Bellflower)**: The tubular, bell-shaped flowers of this genus are morphologically adapted for pollination by specific native pollinators, particularly long-tongued bees such as bumblebees (*Bombus* spp.), making it an exemplary choice for 'Gardening for Wildlife'.
- **Three (3) Hydrangea paniculata (as 1m standard trees) & Three (3) Hydrangea paniculata (as potted plants)**: This species offers high ecological value. Its large conical flower heads (panicles) contain numerous small, fertile florets rich in nectar, providing a crucial food source for bees, butterflies, and hoverflies. Crucially, it flowers from mid-summer into autumn, offering sustenance when other floral resources are diminishing, thereby promoting ecosystem resilience. Their woody stems also provide habitat for a "wide variety of insects".
- **Three (3) Lavender (*Lavandula*)**: A valuable evergreen species whose dense flowers provide a rich, long-lasting nectar source that helps to "encourage bees and butterflies". Beyond its flowers, its evergreen foliage provides important year-round, low-level shelter for beneficial invertebrates. Its drought tolerance also makes it a resilient enhancement, contributing to the "capacity to adapt to change".
- **Two (2) Delphinium**: The tall, dense flower spikes (racemes) provide a concentrated vertical food source, allowing pollinators like bumblebees to forage efficiently. The complex flower shape, with its nectar-containing spur, makes it particularly valuable for these specialist bee species.
- **Two (2) Heuchera (Coral Bells)**: This plant provides a dual biodiversity benefit. Its dense clumps of semi-evergreen foliage create a humid microclimate at ground level, offering excellent shelter for invertebrates and potentially amphibians. The delicate flower spikes are highly accessible to smaller, often overlooked, native pollinators.
- **Two (2) Agapanthus (African Lily)**: The flower heads are large umbels composed of many individual trumpet-shaped flowers, providing a rich and easily accessible nectar source for a wide range of pollinating insects. The strong, tall stems (scapes) provide a different kind of vertical structure within the planting scheme.
- **Two (2) Potted Olive Trees (*Olea europaea*)**: As evergreens, these trees provide year-round structure. At approximately 1.5m in height, their primary habitat value is that their bark provides a distinct texture which can "encourage a wide variety of

insects". Furthermore, their placement in pots allows for a biodiversity feature to be added to a hard-surfaced area where in-ground planting is not possible, mitigating the loss of soft landscaping.

2.2 Species-Specific Measures

2.2.1 Hedgehogs: The guidance regarding hedgehog highways in new fences has been reviewed. This is not applicable to this development as no new fences are being installed. The existing boundaries are pre-existing short walls, which are not being altered, as well as one short wall of 59cm / 0.59m, which will be removed upon the discharge of both conditions pertaining to planning permission 24/0727.

2.2.2 Birds and Bats: The guidance recommending the inclusion of bird and bat boxes has been considered. As this development pertains solely to the creation of vehicular access and a hardstanding area, and does not involve the alteration of any buildings, dedicated boxes have not been installed. However, the implemented planting scheme will increase the number of insects on site, thereby providing an enhanced food source for local bird and bat populations.

2.3 Sustainable Drainage (SuDS)

2.3.1 The driveway has been constructed using permeable block paving over a sub-base of natural soakaway chippings. This construction method functions as a sustainable drainage system. It prevents surface water runoff and eliminates the need for gully pots, where amphibians or small mammals could otherwise become trapped. This represents a "wildlife-friendly SuDS" approach.

2.4 Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

2.4.1 A check of the site has been undertaken. No Invasive Non-Native Species (such as Japanese knotweed or Himalayan balsam) were identified on or near the application site.

3.0 Implementation and Management Plan

3.1 Implementation Timetable

3.1.1 Due to the part-retrospective nature of the planning application, all biodiversity enhancements detailed in this report have already been fully implemented as of July 2025. Photographic evidence is provided with this submission. This fulfils the requirement that the scheme "be implemented... prior to the first beneficial use of the development".

3.2 Lifetime Maintenance and Management

3.2.1 In accordance with the guidance, all enhancements will be "retained for the lifetime of the development". There is a "duty to maintain the enhancement so that it continues to benefit biodiversity in the future".

3.2.2 Responsibility for this maintenance will be held by the resident of the property, Vittoria Rimola, or by a nominated third party on their behalf.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 The implemented scheme, encompassing a diverse and numerous planting selection, the use of sustainable drainage, and a clear commitment to long-term management, provides a significant net benefit for local biodiversity.

4.2 It is considered that the details within this report fully satisfy the requirements of Condition 2 of planning permission 24/0727.

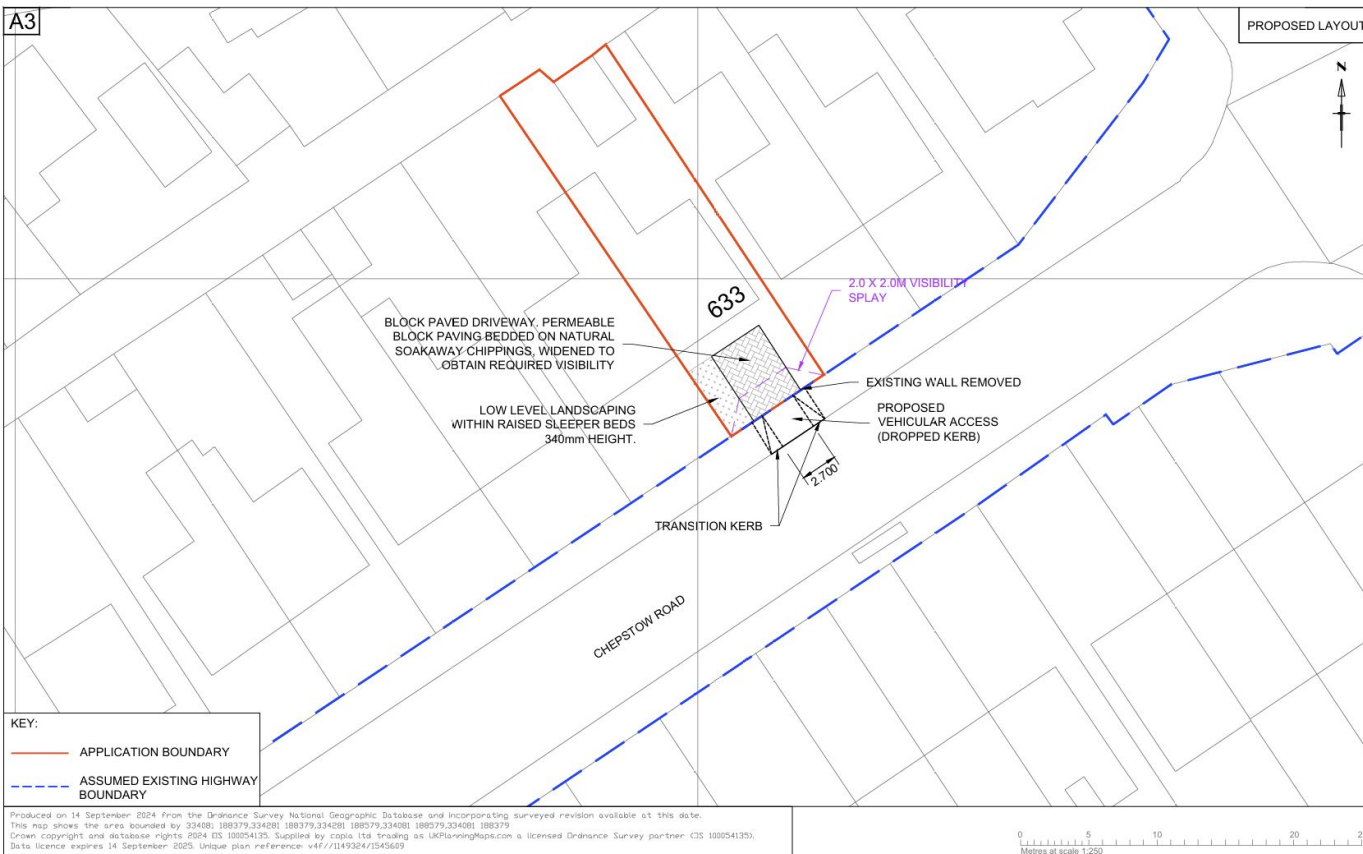
Appendix A: Supporting Documents

Please see the following pages for:

- An area plan of the development, drawn to a recognised scale.
- Specification of the locations of all planters and planted areas.
- Photographs of all plants mentioned in this report in situ, excluding any specified to have been "planted as bulbs".

A3

PROPOSED LAYOUT



Area plan, to scale

client
GILES ARMSTRONGproject
PROPOSED VEHICLE DROPPED KERB
633 CHEPSTOW ROAD, NEWPORTtitle
PROPOSED LAYOUTdate
OCTOBER 2024drawn by
FNchecked by
-scale
1:250status
PLANNINGdrawing number
CR-03rev.
C

Area plan - closer view

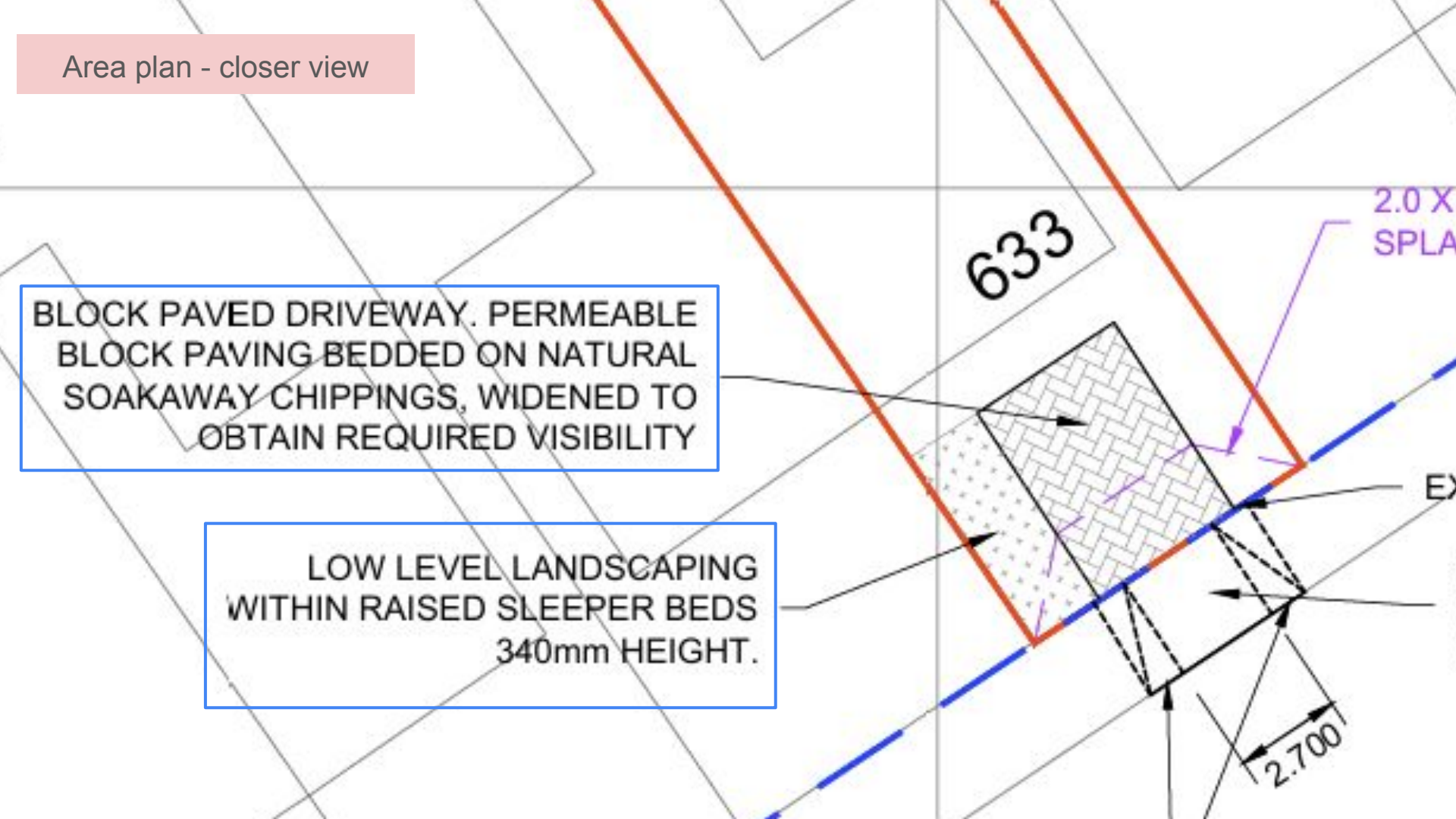
BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY. PERMEABLE
BLOCK PAVING BEDDED ON NATURAL
SOAKAWAY CHIPPINGS, WIDENED TO
OBTAIN REQUIRED VISIBILITY

LOW LEVEL LANDSCAPING
WITHIN RAISED SLEEPER BEDS
340mm HEIGHT.

633

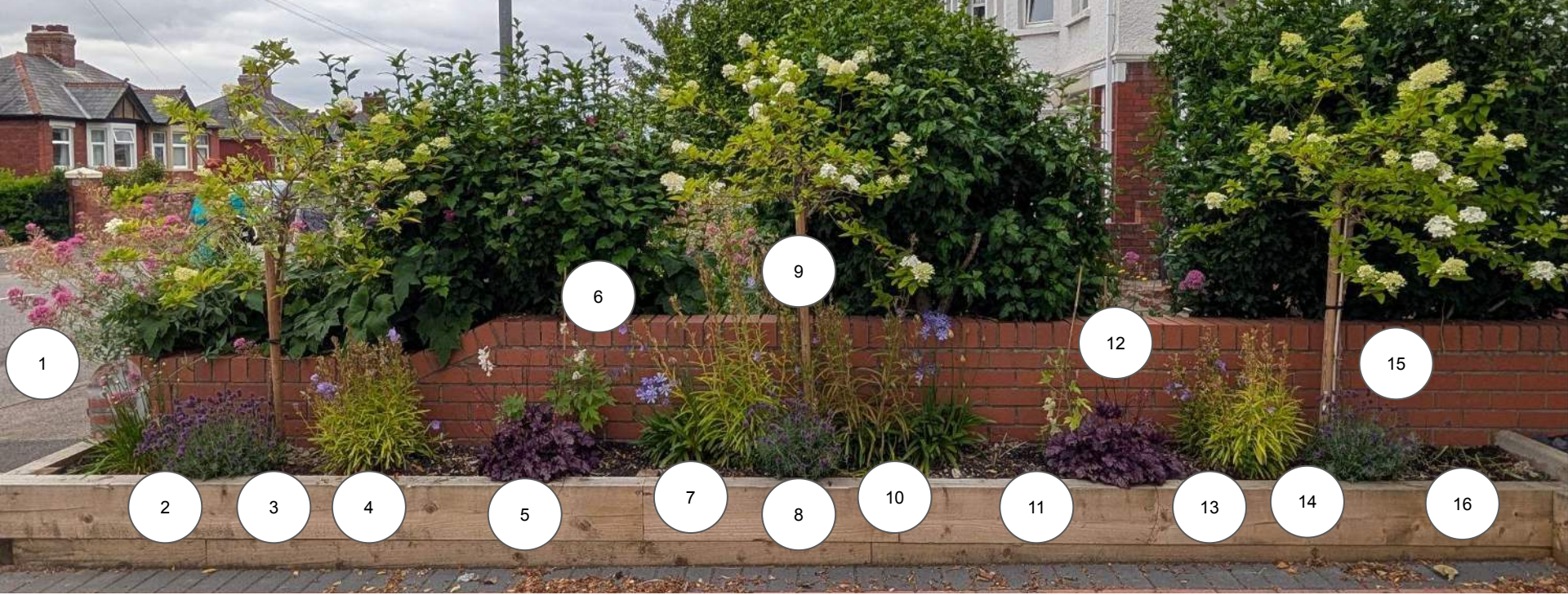
2.0 X
SPLA

2.700



Low level landscaping within raised sleeper beds, 340mm height





1. Allium
2. Lavender
3. Hydrangea paniculata
4. Campanula
5. Delphinium

6. Heuchera
7. Agapanthus
8. Lavender
9. Hydrangea paniculata
10. Agapanthus

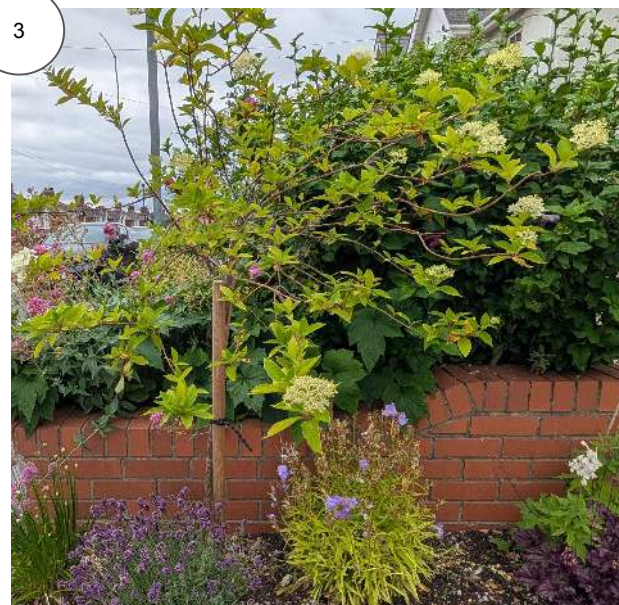
11. Delphinium
12. Heuchera
13. Campanula
14. Lavender
15. Hydrangea paniculata
16. Allium (planted; has not bloomed)



1



2



3



4



6

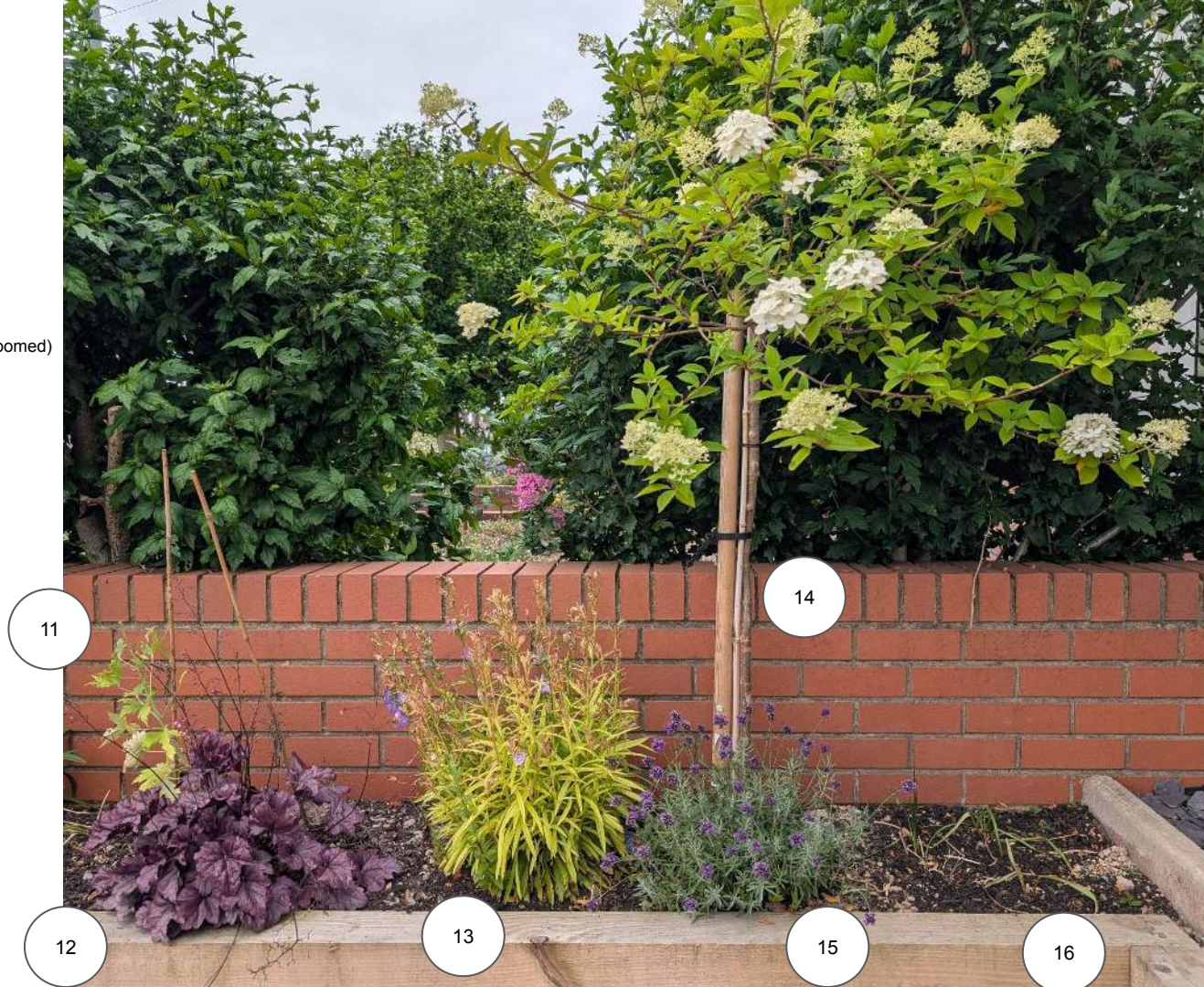
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1. Allium
2. Lavender
3. Hydrangea
4. Campanula
5. Delphinium
6. Heuchera

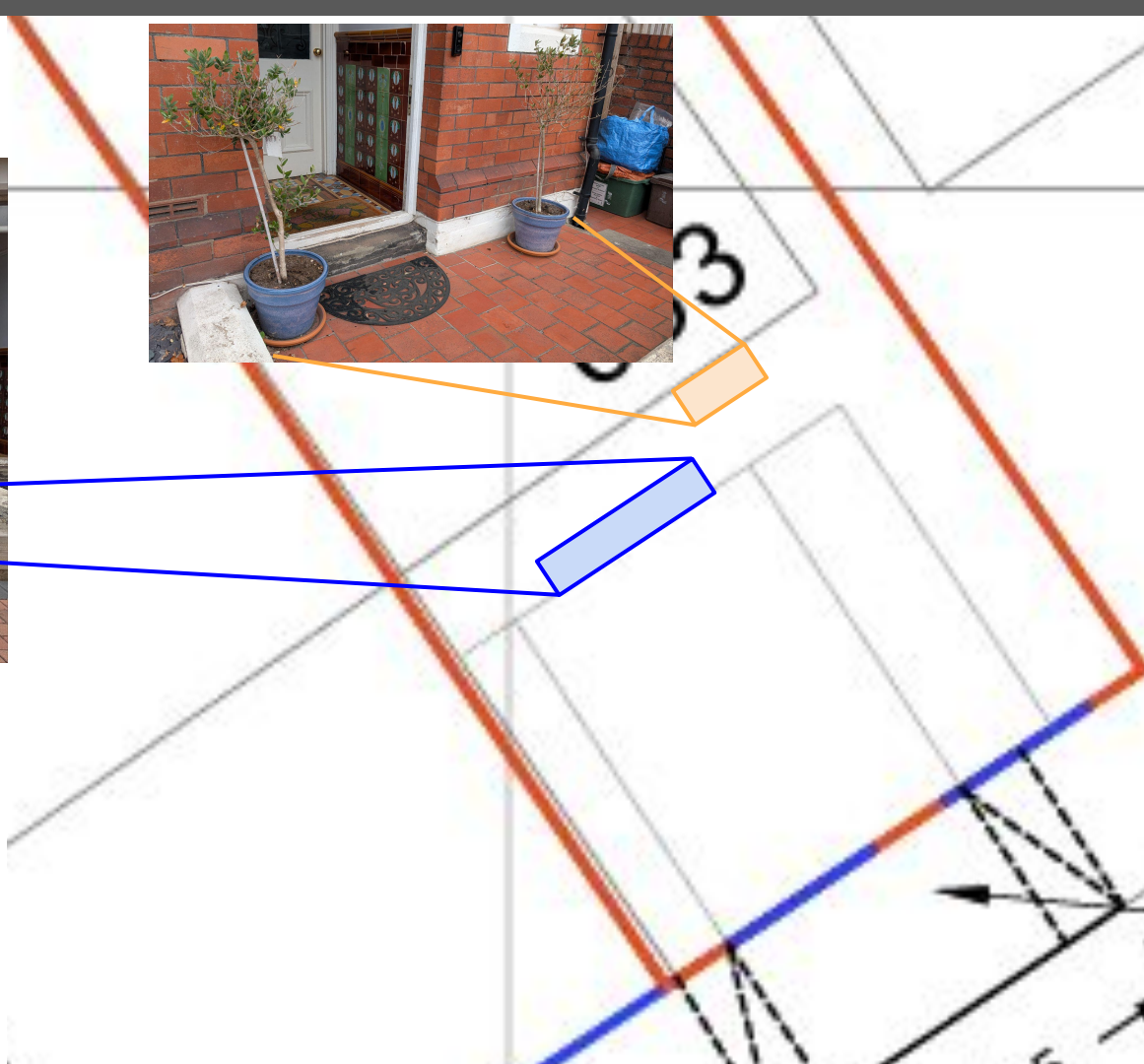


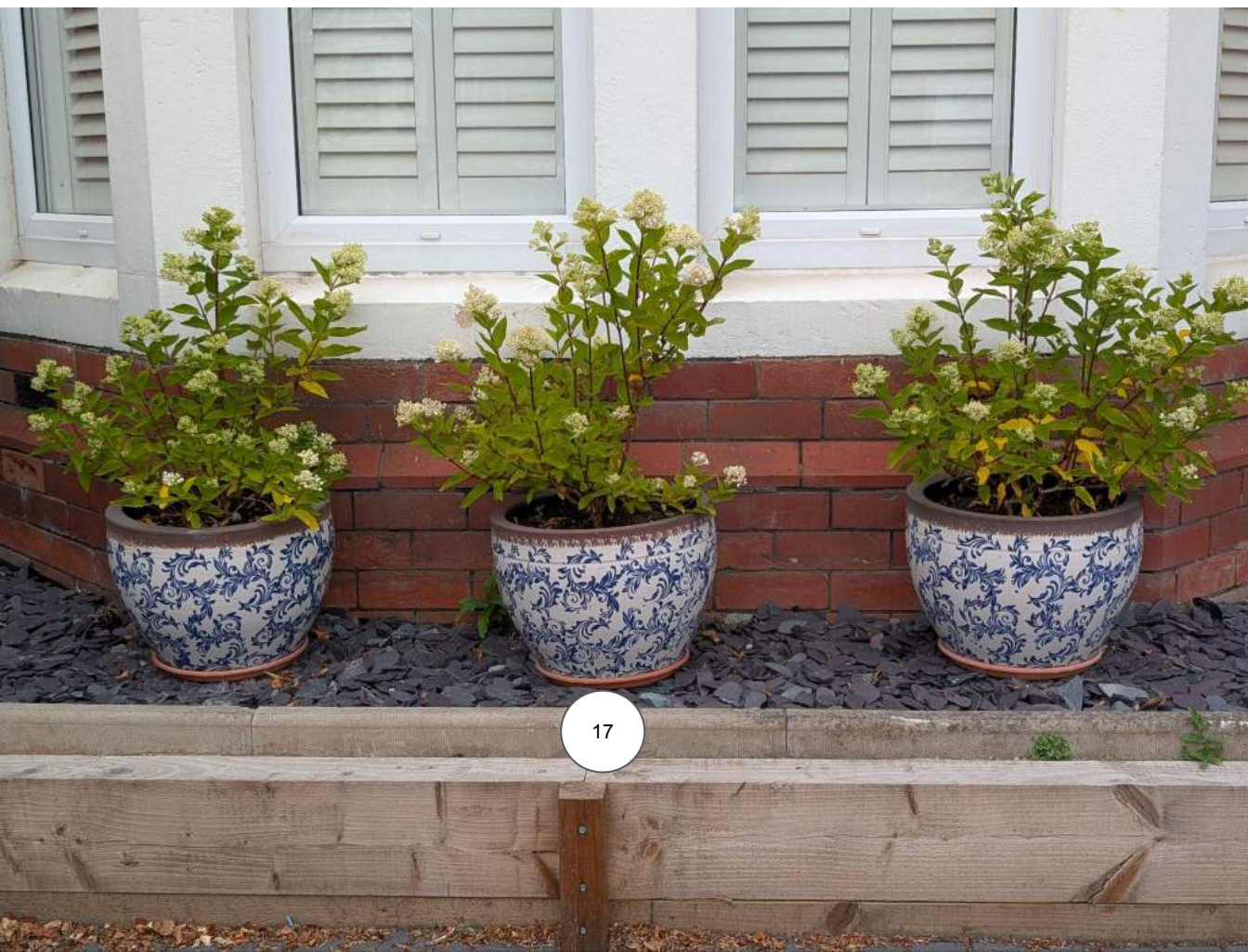
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6. Heuchera
7. Agapanthus
8. Lavender
9. Hydrangea
10. Agapanthus

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- 15. Hydrangea
- 16. Allium
(planted; has not bloomed)

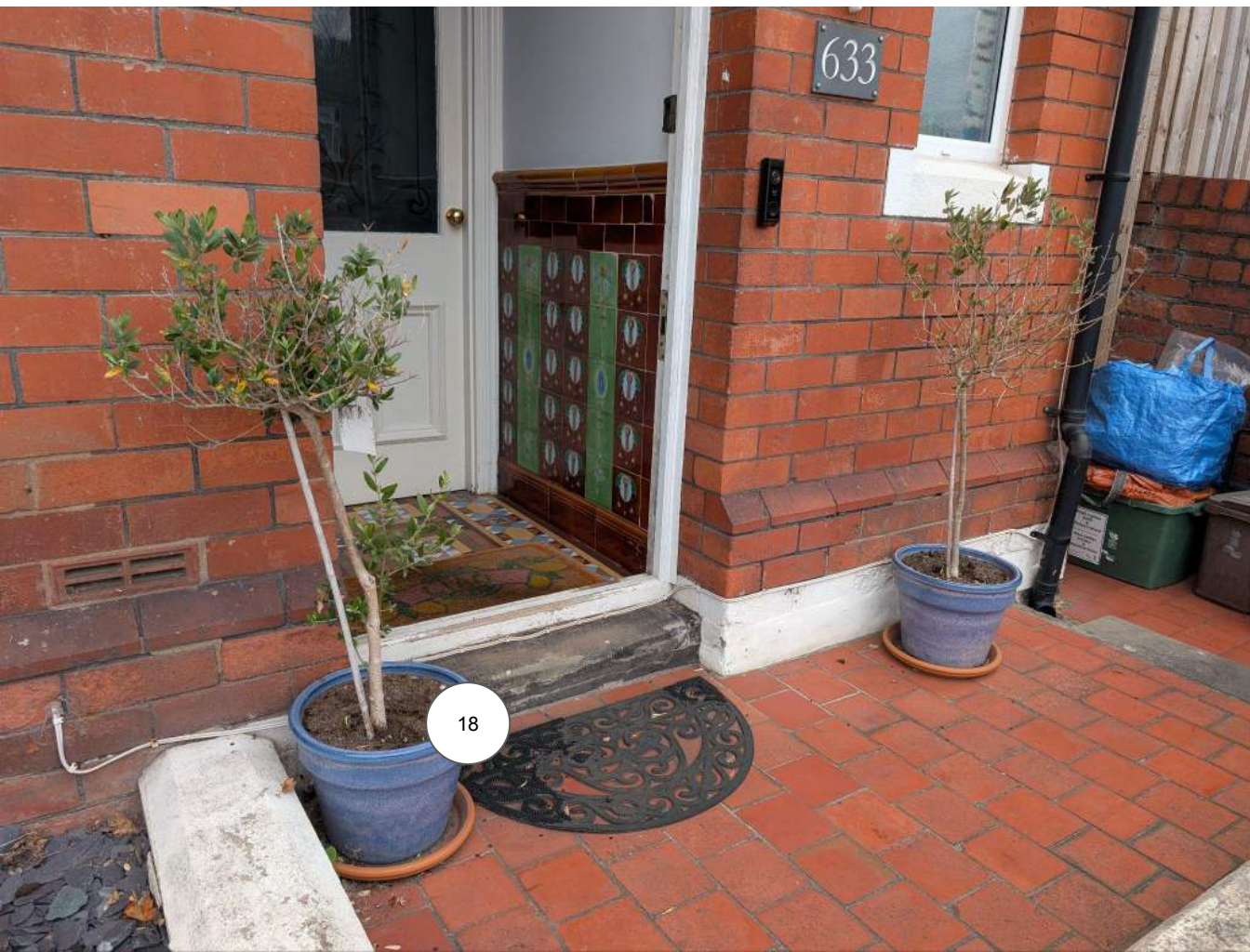


Other potted plants





17. *Hydrangea paniculata*



18. Olive Trees (*Olea europaea*)