

Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme

Mansion House Garden

Site Context

The Mansion House garden is a mature, well-established green space within Newport City Council's estate. It already supports biodiversity through existing features such as unlandscaped areas, leaf litter zones, and natural branch piles, which provide habitats for insects, small mammals, and birds.

Purpose of the Scheme

The scheme is proposed to meet additional condition no. 2 imposed by the Council in respect of Planning Application No. 25/0722 under S73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary the opening hours of Newport Register Office, The Mansion House, 4 Stow Park Circle, Newport NP20 4HE.

This proposal outlines additional biodiversity measures implemented to enhance the ecological value of the garden, in line with recommendations from the NCC Biodiversity Officer following a site visit in January 2026.

Enhancement Measures Implemented

Bird Boxes

- **Quantity & Type:** 2 boxes suitable for blue tits and great tits; 2 boxes suitable for robins.
- **Material:** made from woodcrete, which offers increased durability, thermal insulation, and is breathable/porous to help maintain a stable environment inside.
- **Placement:** Installed in appropriate locations within the garden by the NCC gardener, ensuring optimal positioning for nesting and safety. In line with advice from the Biodiversity Officer the boxes have been mounted approximately 6-7 feet high on the North to North-East elevation of the tree.
- **Rationale:** These species are native and already present in the garden, supporting local bird populations and encouraging breeding.



Visual Evidence: Bird Boxes mounted on trees in the garden.

Hedgehog Boxes

- Quantity: 2 hedgehog nesting boxes
- Material: woodcrete
- Placement: Installed in sheltered areas of the garden by the NCC gardener, providing safe habitats for hedgehogs.
- Rationale: Hedgehogs are a priority species under UK biodiversity action plans, and these boxes will offer secure nesting and hibernation sites.



Visual Evidence: Two hedgehog boxes have been positioned among branches & leaf litter in sheltered areas of the garden.

Existing Biodiversity Features

- Mature garden with leafy areas and branch piles that provide natural habitats for insects and small mammals.
- Areas of the garden remain unlandscaped, promoting ecological diversity.
- Moss-covered lawn supporting waxy fungi species, which contribute to soil health and provide microhabitats for invertebrates.

Maintenance & Monitoring

- The NCC gardener will monitor the condition of the boxes during routine garden maintenance.
- No chemicals or pesticides will be used in proximity to the boxes to ensure a safe environment for wildlife.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased nesting opportunities for native bird species.
- Improved shelter and breeding conditions for hedgehogs.
- Enhanced overall biodiversity within the Mansion House garden, contributing to Newport's ecological network.