

Burt, Boulton & Haywood Ltd

Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme – Air Cleaning Project

Planning Reference: 24/0865

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1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme is submitted in compliance with the planning condition for the Air Cleaning Project. This relates to the installation of a new emission filtration system as part of an environmental investment project within an existing industrial site. The system is designed to significantly reduce harmful airborne emissions, including [e.g. VOCs, particulates], thereby directly improving environmental quality.

The scheme aims to enhance the biodiversity value of the site, aligned with that of the surrounding area through the implementation of specific measures, including planting pollinator-friendly plants, installing bird boxes, and creating a bug / bee habitat. Following consultation with stakeholders, these measures align with the broader environmental goals of ABP Newport and relevant planning policies.

2. Environmental Context

BBH Ltd has a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, demonstrated through various remediation and enhancement projects. The site has undertaken significant efforts in groundwater treatment, stormwater infrastructure improvements, and soil stabilization trials. These initiatives reflect our dedication to maintaining and enhancing the ecological value of the port area, and its ongoing green development plans. The installation is not a new site development, or industrial expansion, but a proactive environmental measure within an existing commercial area. By removing pollutants at source, the project offers a regional environmental gain—contributing to cleaner air, healthier ecosystems, and more resilient ecological conditions. We fully acknowledge the planning conditions appointed by Newport City Council, while considering the true nature of the project, which includes R&D into emission cleaning technology, which has a net positive environmental impact to the existing operation & its sustainability. There are also industrial compliance elements in place for the site which enforce separate constraints, such as COMAH under the HSE, including fire & insurance regulations & potential pest control concerns, which are also within the consideration of these plans.

3. Alignment with ABP Newport Masterplan

The ABP Newport Masterplan envisions the transformation of the port into a clean-manufacturing and logistics hub, with a focus on green growth and renewable energy. This Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme supports the Masterplan's objectives by integrating nature-based solutions that contribute to the well-being of future generations.

4. Proposed Enhancements

The following proportional biodiversity enhancement measures are proposed for the site:

1. Planting pollinator-friendly plants, using a professional gardener to install & maintain the area around our office building to support local pollinator populations.
2. Installing bird boxes to provide nesting and roosting habitats.
3. Installation of a bug house to support a variety of bee & invertebrate species.

We plan to implement these changes mostly around our office building which is detached from the heavier industrial area, due to the implications of vibration from heavy site machinery, general traffic, and associated risk to the potential wildlife.

5. Policy Compliance

This Biodiversity Enhancement Scheme is designed to comply with the following policies and regulations:

1. Future Wales: Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure.
2. Newport LDP Policies SP10 and GP5.
3. Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

Future Wales: Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure

The proposed biodiversity enhancement scheme complies with Future Wales Policy 9 by contributing to resilient ecological networks and green infrastructure. Specifically, the planting of pollinator-friendly plants supports the creation of habitats for pollinators, which are essential for ecosystem resilience. The installation of bird boxes provides nesting sites for avian species, enhancing biodiversity and supporting species conservation. The bug house offers a habitat for insects, promoting invertebrate diversity and contributing to the overall health of the ecosystem.

Newport LDP Policies SP10 and GP5

The scheme aligns with Newport LDP Policies SP10 and GP5 by promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing green infrastructure. Policy SP10 emphasizes the importance of protecting and enhancing biodiversity, which is addressed through the proposed planting, bird boxes, and bug house. Policy GP5 focuses on the provision of green infrastructure and the enhancement of ecological networks. The scheme contributes to these goals by creating habitats for pollinators, birds, and insects, thereby supporting ecological connectivity and resilience.

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

The biodiversity enhancement scheme complies with Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which requires public authorities to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity. The proposed measures directly contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity at ABP Alexandra Dock. These enhancements support the conservation of species and habitats, aligning with the Act's objectives to promote biodiversity and ecosystem health.

6. Maintenance Plan

The proposed biodiversity enhancements will form part of our general maintenance programs through which regular inspections and maintenance activities will be carried out to ensure the continued effectiveness of the measures.

7. Request for Consideration

We request that the planning authority:

- Recognises this project as an inherently environmental investment, not a new industrial emission source.
- Accepts the existing environmental contribution as fulfilling biodiversity duties in substance.
- Considers appropriate, and practical biodiversity measures sufficient for compliance, to avoid burdening a project designed to benefit the environment.

Yours sincerely,

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