

From: Harris, Matthew (Ecology Officer) <Matthew.Harris@newport.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 November 2025 11:40
To: Hawkins, Grant (Principal Planning Officer) <Grant.Hawkins@newport.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 25/0924 - Buchanan Way

Hello Grant,

I have considered the Site Assessment Survey (effectively a Preliminary Ecological Assessment) V.1 dated 6th August 2025, and I support the methodology and conclusions set out in that document.

The 'Conclusions & Recommendations' section of the report includes a series of precautionary mitigation measures together with biodiversity enhancements, which I support. Many of these features are reflected in the Green Infrastructure Statement. The implementation of these should be secured by planning condition.

The value for biodiversity of green infrastructure created at this site as part of the soft landscaping scheme will depend upon the ongoing management. There are some aspects of the proposed management that are not clear:

- For example the GI Statement and the Landscaping Proposals plans show existing vegetation to the north of the site along Hazell Drive to be retained and managed, but the PEA describes this as continuous approximately 2m high Bramble scrub strip along the whole boundary and overhanging the roadside pedestrian path. Whilst bramble scrub is of value for wildlife, I would question whether it is feasible to retail this habitat in a formal business-park setting.
- A native species hedge is proposed for the western boundary, and if this is allowed to develop naturally then its flowers and fruit will be of benefit for biodiversity. However if it is regularly trimmed and maintained as a formal box-cut hedge, the this will reduce its wildlife value.
- The GerminaL WFG18 seed mix proposed is a mixture of native and non-native flowering and grass species. In a formal peri-urban setting such as this, non-native ornamental species are acceptable, and still of value for pollinating insects. However a native grassland seed mix would be of greater wildlife value and would respond better to the cut and collect regime proposed.
- According to the soft landscape proposals, in terms of weed control it is stated that shrub beds and areas around trees will be kept free from annual and perennial weeds by hand weeding. However in the same section it is also proposed to apply translocated herbicide to shrub beds using weed wiper. This appears to be contradictory, but in ecological terms the preference would be to use hand weeding to control weeds rather than use herbicides.

We should use a planning condition to secure the submission and implementation of a Landscape Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) to ensure that the landscape plans actually work, and deliver the most benefit for biodiversity, within the context of the development.

Matt