

Ecology Addendum - Traston Road, Newport

PROJECT TITLE: Proposed Residential Development

SITE ADDRESS: Traston Road, Newport

DATE: 7th May 2026

A suite of ecological survey work has been completed to inform development proposals within a parcel of land off Traction Road, Newport. The development site is centred at ST3371686342 and sits to the south west of the residential area of Traston. As part of the planning process comments from the Local Planning Authority ecologist on the proposals have been received. The comments from the Local Planning Authority ecologist cover a range of matter and are dated 18th February 2026 and provided via email.

The aim of this addendum is to provide additional information and discussion on some of the topics raised via the Local Planning Authority ecologist comments. Extracts from the Local Planning Authority ecologist comments are provided in each subsection for reference.

NVC Survey

Some species are listed in the botanical survey, but an NVC Phase 2 survey would have been useful to assess the value of the marshy grassland habitats. This would enable a better understanding of the impact of the proposed scheme and the mitigation / compensation required.

We appreciate the consideration of the level of detail that an NVC survey can provide. However, the species assemblages noted within each habitat type were not considered diverse enough to warrant additional survey work. The initial habitat assessment was undertaken on the 9th September 2024 which is within the optimal survey period for botanical assessments. Whilst a range of species were noted within the site boundary a range of indicator species for good quality marshy grassland habitat was not noted. As such the grassland was not considered to be of sufficient quality to warrant an NVC survey.

The vegetation on site was also in a stage of succession and it was clear during the habitat survey, that tall ruderal species and scrub are starting to encroach into the grassland habitat across the site. It is noted that some vegetation clearance was

undertaken prior to the site visit to allow surveyor access, but a sufficient amount of habitat was retained within the site boundary for the surveyor to observe habitat structure and consider floral diversity. The encroachment of more ranker floral species was considered to reduce the potential diversity and significance of the marshy grassland habitat at site.

Dormouse

I do not agree that the presence of dormice on this site is unlikely. However, as I stated in my previous comments of 22/05/25, I do agree that a full Dormouse survey is not justified on this occasion, but instead their presence should be assumed and precautionary mitigation measures put in place to avoid harm to individuals during site clearance, and to result a net increase in the extent and/or quality of remaining habitat.

The design team welcome that the Local Planning Authority ecologist agrees that dormouse surveys are not required to inform the development proposals in this instance. The design team is willing to consider precautionary mitigation measures for dormouse but request additional information on what level of detail the Local Planning Authority ecologist is looking for. A method statement covering a two stage vegetation cut of suitable habitat at an appropriate time of year under the supervision of a Natural Resources Wales (NRW) ecologist would seem reasonable. This is something which we would be happy to be secured through the imposition of a suitably worded conditions on any permission which may be granted.

However, we are unclear on what the Local Planning Authority ecologist would expect as a 'net increase in the extent or quality of remaining habitat'. The proposed site layout and urban nature of the development site is unlikely to be able to accommodate scrub habitat. The provision of sufficient grassland habitat within the site boundary is required to provide sufficient habitat for further reptile populations. The design team consider the development to have limited opportunity to provide and increase in the extent of remaining dormouse suitable habitat.

Delivery of Compensation and a Biodiversity Enhancement

Since 2005 the Environment (Wales) Act has been introduced in 2016 and new guidance on the application of this legislation to the planning system has been set out in PPW 12, For example paragraph 6.2.12 of PPW12 advises that a Green Infrastructure Statement should be used to demonstrate how the stepwise approach in paragraph 6.4.15. That stepwise approach should be used to secure net benefit to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. A net benefit for biodiversity is the concept that development should leave biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in a significantly better state than before, through securing immediate and long-term, measurable and demonstrable benefit, primarily on or immediately adjacent to the site.

The design team recognises the change in planning policy and legislation since the previous consent granted for development within the site boundary. Based on the comments received regarding being able to demonstrate the provision of an overall biodiversity enhancement, the proposed site layout has been amended in an effort to address concerns.

The number of units to be provided within the scheme has been reduced from 26 to 22. Properties to the south east of the site, along the access road into the interior of the site, have been omitted from the scheme. This will provide additional space within the site boundary for soft landscaping and help to retain/ provide habitat connectivity along the south west boundary of the site.

A comprise must be met between tree planting and the provision of grassland habitat to provide sufficient suitable habitat for reptiles to use once the development works are completed. A mixture of wetland and meadow wildflower grassland creation is proposed and detailed within the landscape plan. Two reptile hibernacula are proposed for creation along the north western boundary and two along the eastern boundary of the site as well. Providing suitable long term management of the site to benefit wildlife is secured, the tree spaces proposed will be suitable for a range of wildlife including reptile species.

The detailed soft landscape proposals plan drawing number TDA.3113.01 by TDA details a mixture of native and ornamental tree planting across the site. Species suitability is based on the soil conditions and growth patterns of tree species, native tree planting is not always suitable in close proximity to houses and roads.

Best Wishes

Ash Harris
Director
Ecological Services Ltd

Signed: *Ash Harris* Date: May 2026

Reference List

- Ecological Services Ltd '*Preliminary Ecological Assessment; Traston Road, Newport*' V2 dated October 2025
- Ecological Services Ltd '*Reptile Survey Report; Traston Road, Newport*' V1 dated October 2025
- Ecological Services Ltd '*Bat Survey Report; Traston Road, Newport*' V1 dated October 2025
- Ecological Services Ltd '*Bats & Trees Survey Report; Traston Road, Newport*' V1 dated 17th December 2025
- The South Wales Wildlife Sites Partnership 'Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales' dated August 2004