

**M464 Evendons Lane, Wokingham  
Ecology Response / Clarifications**

Ref:

PLANNING APPLICATION NO: 252179

**LOCATION: Unit 1, 171 Evendons Lane, Wokingham, RG41 4EH. / Boutique Care Homes**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

***Hedgerow***

*Although more than half of the hedgerow species are pollinator-friendly, the following species do not meet the Ecological Appraisal criteria and should be replaced with suitable alternatives listed on recognised pollinator databases:*

*Euonymus 'Green Spire'*

*Griselinia littoralis*

*Lonicera pileata 'Maigrun'*

Many of the Euonymus Green Spire are changed to Berberis darwinii 'Compacta'. The remainder is used for a very specific ornamental clipped edging requirement.

Lonicera pileata 'Maigreen' is changed to Berberis darwinii 'Compacta'

Griselinia littoralis is changed to Osmanthus x burkwoodii

***Shrubs and Climbers***

*A number of proposed ornamental shrubs offer limited pollinator value and should be substituted with species drawn from recognised pollinator databases.*

*Of the 37 climber species proposed, only 13 are pollinator-friendly; the remaining ornamental climbers should be reconsidered.*

The climbing plants have been amended so that 23 of the 37 are known pollinators. The roses on pergolas are purely for the residents enjoyment and are thornless. The climbers selected for the secure ornamental garden are selected for being non toxic.

*Overall, the planting schedule places disproportionate emphasis on ornamental, non-pollinator-friendly species, contrary to the biodiversity objectives secured at outline stage. While some appropriate species are included, the schedule should be revised to prioritise pollinator-friendly planting and ensure compliance with the approved Ecological Appraisal and outline permission.*

Choisya x dewitteana White Dazzler and Choisya Sundance have been changed to the known pollinator species Choisya Aztec Pearl

Hebe 'Bowles Variety' is changed to the known pollinator species Hebe 'Heartbreaker'

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Skimmia × confusa 'Kew Green' changed to the known pollinator species Skimmia japonica 'Fragrans'

Weigela 'All Summer Red' changed to the known pollinator species Weigela Foliis Purpureis

The shrubs chosen for the secure ornamental garden have been selected for a number of reasons. This is a care home environment which requires particular consideration of plant species. First and foremost the plants should be non toxic which significantly reduces the potential for many plants including many of our known pollinators. It is also important to consider the suitability of plants for particular soils and orientation.

Other considerations for care home plant selection includes a mix of textures, colours, and fragrances to create a stimulating environment. Spaces for reminiscence, such as a memory garden with plants that evoke past experiences. Plants that are non-toxic, low-maintenance, and appropriate for the local climate. Plants with strong scents, interesting textures, and vibrant colours. Avoiding plants with thorns or poisonous berries. Overall a variety of sensory experiences, including fragrant plants, textured surfaces, and water features, to engage residents and evoke positive memories.

Native plants have been used extensively on the majority of the proposed site. Whilst numbers of ornamental plants may appear large, they are planted at a closer density which may appear disproportionate.

### **Biodiversity enhancements**

Figure 3 (Ecological Permeability Scheme) represents the biodiversity enhancements put forward within the landscape proposals including the hibernaculas and hedgehog holes within any closeboard fences. The legend clearly identifies that the 1.8m close board fencing is to have hedgehog holes and the hibernaculas are clearly identified.

Figure 3 (Ecological Permeability Scheme) includes bird and bat boxes which are now transposed on to the landscape plans. The full information regarding these is contained within the ecology document.

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