

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT

Westerley, Ham Manor Way, Angmering, BN16 4JQ

Proposal: Replacement of existing rear conservatory with a single-storey rear orangery

1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement has been prepared in support of the proposed replacement of the existing rear conservatory with a single-storey orangery at Westerley, Ham Manor Way, Angmering, BN16 4JQ.

The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate how the proposal will protect the existing natural environment and provide opportunities for biodiversity enhancement within the site.

The proposal is modest in scale and is located immediately to the rear of the existing dwelling, replacing an existing conservatory. The proposed orangery will measure approximately 3.9m in width and 5m in projection, with an eaves height of approximately 2.75m and ridge height of approximately 3.3m.

The existing conservatory will be removed as part of the proposal.

The proposal has therefore been designed to make use of an area already occupied by development rather than extending into an otherwise undeveloped part of the garden.

2. Policy Context

The proposal has been considered against Policy ENV DM5 – Development and Biodiversity of the Arun Local Plan 2011–2031.

Policy ENV DM5 seeks to ensure that development protects existing habitats and incorporates opportunities for biodiversity within development schemes. The policy specifically identifies measures including bird and bat boxes and landscape features, as well as opportunities to establish links between habitat areas and open spaces.

The Council's current biodiversity guidance confirms that development should seek to protect existing habitats and incorporate biodiversity enhancement measures.

The proposed development responds to these requirements through the retention of existing garden features and the introduction of additional wildlife-friendly measures, as set out below.

3. Existing Site and Natural Environment

Westerley is a large detached dwelling situated within a generous residential garden.



The rear garden contains areas of lawn, garden planting and established boundary hedges.



The submitted block plan identifies existing boundary hedges, including hedges approximately 2m and 3m in height. The plan also confirms that the existing boundary treatments are to remain unchanged.

The existing conservatory occupies the area immediately to the rear of the dwelling. The proposed orangery will be located in substantially the same part of the garden, with the existing conservatory removed.

There is no proposal to remove established boundary hedges or significant areas of garden planting as part of the development.

4. Protection of Existing Biodiversity

The proposal has been designed to minimise disturbance to the existing garden and retain the principal features which provide potential habitat for wildlife.

Retention of existing hedges and planting

The existing boundary hedges will be retained.

No established boundary hedge is proposed to be removed to accommodate the orangery. The submitted block plan confirms that the existing boundary treatments will remain.

The retention of these established boundaries will maintain existing opportunities for nesting, foraging and movement of garden wildlife.

Limited area of disturbance

The development is confined to the area immediately adjacent to the existing dwelling and replaces an existing conservatory.

The proposal therefore avoids the unnecessary loss of additional garden habitat and does not introduce development into the wider garden.

Soil

Construction of the orangery will require foundations, with the precise construction method to be confirmed through Building Regulations.

Where suitable, excavated topsoil will be retained and reused elsewhere within the garden. This will retain the existing soil resource on site and provide material for areas of additional planting.

Construction

During construction, works will, as far as practicable, be confined to the immediate development area.

Care will be taken to avoid unnecessary disturbance to retained hedges, planting and other garden areas.

5. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

In addition to protecting the existing garden environment, the applicant proposes a number of straightforward measures to improve the biodiversity value of the site.

5.1 Bird nesting box

A bird nesting box will be installed within the garden towards the south-eastern part of the site. The proposed bird box will provide an additional nesting opportunity for common garden bird species.

A durable wood-concrete type nesting box is proposed, providing insulation and ventilation and offering a long-lasting feature within the garden.

The box will be positioned in a suitable location away from areas of regular disturbance, where practicable.

This measure directly responds to the type of biodiversity enhancement identified within Arun's Policy ENV DM5.

5.2 Wildlife access

Small openings will be provided at the base of appropriate sections of the garden fencing, where practicable.

These will allow small mammals and other wildlife to move between adjoining gardens and will improve the permeability of the garden boundaries.

The openings will be kept at ground level and will be of a size sufficient to facilitate wildlife movement while retaining the principal function of the boundary.

5.3 Native and wildlife-friendly planting

The applicant proposes to introduce additional native and wildlife-friendly planting within the garden.

Where invasive or unsuitable plants are identified, these will be removed and replaced with suitable native species or other plants which provide value to wildlife.

The additional planting will provide opportunities for:

- pollinating insects;
- butterflies and bees;
- other invertebrates;
- birds; and
- small garden mammals.

The planting will also increase the variety of vegetation within the garden and provide additional opportunities for foraging and shelter.

5.4 Reduced use of pesticides

The applicant will seek to minimise the use of pesticides, herbicides and preventative chemical spraying within the garden.

Where practicable, natural or non-chemical methods of pest control will be used.

This approach will help to maintain populations of insects and other invertebrates which provide an important food source for birds and other wildlife.

5.5 Wildlife-friendly garden area

A small area of the garden will be managed as a wildlife-friendly corner.

Rather than maintaining this area as closely cut lawn, grass, naturally occurring vegetation and suitable wildflowers will be permitted to grow with reduced maintenance.

This area will provide additional habitat and foraging opportunities for insects, butterflies, bees and other invertebrates and will potentially provide additional food sources for birds.

6. Biodiversity Enhancement Summary

The following measures will be incorporated as part of the proposal:

Existing feature / potential impact	Proposed protection or enhancement
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Existing boundary hedges	Retained
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Existing garden planting	Retained wherever practicable
Existing conservatory	Removed and replaced within the existing developed footprint
Soil resource	Suitable topsoil retained and reused within garden
Bird habitat	New bird nesting box
Wildlife movement	Small wildlife access gaps at base of suitable fencing
Garden planting	Additional native/wildlife-friendly planting
Invasive planting	Removed where identified
Use of pesticides	Minimise chemical spraying and use of pesticides
Invertebrate habitat	Small wildlife-friendly/wild garden area

7. Overall Assessment

The proposed development is a modest single-storey extension which replaces an existing conservatory immediately to the rear of the dwelling. The proposed orangery will occupy the existing developed area and will not require the removal of established boundary hedges.

The existing garden and its principal boundary features will therefore be retained.

The proposal also provides a number of practical biodiversity enhancements which are appropriate to the scale and domestic nature of the site. These include the installation of a bird nesting box, provision of wildlife access through suitable garden boundaries, additional native and wildlife-friendly planting, reduced use of pesticides and the creation of a small wildlife-friendly area.

These measures will provide additional opportunities for nesting, foraging, shelter and movement for garden wildlife.

The proposal therefore seeks to protect the existing natural environment while incorporating proportionate opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, consistent with the objectives of Arun Local Plan Policy ENV DM5 – Development and Biodiversity.

8. Conclusion

The proposed development will replace an existing conservatory with a modest single-storey orangery and will not require the removal of established boundary hedges or significant areas of existing garden vegetation.

The applicant will retain the existing garden features and introduce additional measures to improve its biodiversity value.

The proposed biodiversity enhancements are considered proportionate to the scale and nature of the development and will provide additional opportunities for birds, insects, pollinators and small mammals within the residential garden.

The proposal will therefore protect the existing natural environment and provide appropriate opportunities to enhance biodiversity within the application site.