

**REFURBISHMENT AND REPAIR OF VESTRY COTTAGE,
ANGMERING.**

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT



Job Ref: 9482 / BES / 01 / JMR

October 2025

Proposals to enhance biodiversity

The application is for planning permission for a small extension for an Air Source Heat Pump at Vestry Cottage, Angmering, and accompanies an application for Listed Building Consent for a general refurbishment including insulated dry lining and minor alterations to joinery.

The alterations to the exterior of the building take the form of an air source heat pump installation, located against an existing low masonry retaining wall with a fence on top, adjoining the adjacent church yard. A further, higher, retaining wall adjoins the neighbouring community playing field. The proposals also include a small timber extension with a slate roof, containing the pressure vessels and cylinder and other plant associated with the air source heat pump. The proposals are all as shown on the drawings which accompany the Planning and Listed Building applications.

The site for the proposed air source heat pump and plant enclosure is as shown in the photo below. Currently this is an area of terrace, quite shaded and lacking in much visible biodiversity, being shaded and of hard, man-made surfaces, although probably home to insect life.



The site for the air source heat pump is indicated in red.

The approximate outline of the enclosure for ancillary equipment is indicated in blue.

The proposals will introduce machinery that will produce an element of noise, but this will be at or, more probably below, the 42dB permissible sound level (when measured at the nearest window or door) and, being located at low level behind fences and walls, will be largely inaudible from any public place.

The impact of the proposals, we feel, is likely to be minimal. In fact, the structures will almost certainly continue to provide a home for spiders and insect life. However, as part of the proposals we do wish to encourage further biodiversity.

We looked at the possibility of installing swift boxes as these birds are in the most desperate decline in the UK - but none of the walls or roofs lend themselves to this, being either unsheltered or with eaves too low to enable the un-restricted 5 metre height above ground level for safe flying approach- the only wall that is high enough is directly south-facing, which would cause swift fledglings to overheat. We therefore propose to install some bat boxes as the building lends itself far more readily to the needs of bats.

We propose to install two Schwegler summer / maternity bat boxes on the eastern elevation, where they will receive morning sunlight but hopefully will not be troubled by security lighting. The boxes will be suspended from wire hangings from the projecting rafter feet under the eaves above.

Here are two illustrations taken from the manufacturer's web page, showing the general appearance and a typical installation:



1. Schwegler 1FF Bat Box

- Made from: Woodcrete and wood
- Dimensions: 43 x 27 x 14cm; 9.5kg
- Box type: Cavity; summer, maternity



The location of the proposed bat boxes is shown on the updated drawing extract above. The entire drawing accompanies the Planning Application.

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