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Established 1978

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BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT
STATEMENT

ON BEHALF OF MR & MRS BUSCHHAUS

142 BARNHAM ROAD
BARNHAM
WEST SUSSEX

1. Introduction

The site comprises a large, detached family house.

The proposed development is to construct a garage with a small office or child's playroom on the first floor.

2. Relevant Legislation and Policy

Natural environment and rural communities act (2006)

Section 40 of the above act requires that due regard is paid to the consideration of biodiversity with particular regard to species and habitats considered to be of greatest conservation importance.

Section 41 of the act lists species and habitats found in England which are considered to be priority species identified as requiring action under the UK Biodiversity action plan. The latest update includes 56 listed habitats including arable field margins, traditional orchards and hedgerows. The latest list of section 41 (May 2014) now includes 943 species covering vertebrates, terrestrial and marine invertebrates, plants and fungi.

National planning policy framework 2021

Section 15 of the above 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' states that planning policies and decisions should contribute and enhance the natural environment. This should be done by protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity and minimising the impact on same.

When determining planning applications, the local authority should apply the following principles: -

- If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, be compensated for, the planning permission should be refused.
- Developments resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons.

3. Local planning policy

Arun Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted July 2018)

Arun District Council will encourage and promote the preservation, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and the natural environment through the development process and particularly through policies for the protection of designated and non-designated sites in the Arun Council area.

4. Biodiversity enhancements

The following address the relevant enhancements required to ensure the site will result in biodiversity net gain.

Bats

No bats have been noted or seen by applicants in their time at the site. 1no bat box could be fixed to the tree in the garden set min 3m above ground level.

Mammals

To avoid entrapment of mammals, during the construction phase, any open excavation over 1m deep to be covered to prevent mammals from falling in, or escape ladders provided to enable them to escape.

Hedgehogs

1no. hedgehog house of suitable size/design could be provided in a suitable location suggested to the rear of site. The house to be of a solid timber construction to provide a place to shelter or hibernate for the hedgehogs.

Breeding or nesting birds

There are sufficient trees and hedging on site to provide nesting positions for all types of birds found in the local area. The hedge would be affected by these proposals, but the aim is to complete the project before the nesting season starts. A bird box could be affixed to east wall of garage if suitable height can be achieved or the existing tree.

Invertebrates

1no 'bug hotel' or solitary bee home on a southern facing elevation of the garage or existing tree on site could be provided if required.

5. Conclusion

It is hoped that the above mitigations satisfactorily enhance the biodiversity of the site, as the new development will be constructed on the existing gravel drive (photo 1) This minimises the disturbance to habitats as the National planning policy framework, (ENV DM3) and preserves the natural environment as the LPP and does not affect the status of the site due to the size of the additional building works required.

6. Site photographs

The existing gravelled drive/parking area is to be retained with a decrease in size due to the proposed garage, and the entrance gate will be re-sited eastwards.

1. Front drive and parking area from above.

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2. Existing access showing hedge to boundary

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