

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

Site: 5 Tattersalls Road, Fontwell, Chichester, BN18 0ZA

Proposal: Rear extension

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement is submitted as a local validation requirement for Arun District Council. It is intended to explain how the proposal seeks to protect and improve the existing on-site natural environment.

Arun District Council's Householder Validation Requirements state that, for householder applications, a Biodiversity Enhancement Statement is required across all areas of the district and should, as a minimum, state how the applicant has sought to protect and improve the existing on-site natural environment.

The submitted drawing PL1 identifies the site as 5 Tattersalls Road, Fontwell, with a site area of approximately 393.4m². The proposal comprises a rear extension, new patio and associated alterations to the existing dwelling. The submitted plan and site photo show the existing rear garden area and the proposed rear extension footprint.

Existing Site Context

The application site is an existing residential property with a private rear garden. The existing on-site natural environment is mainly domestic garden land. No removal of trees, hedgerows, ponds or other significant habitat features is proposed as part of the application.

The works are limited to the rear of the dwelling and associated patio area. The proposal has been designed to keep the development within the existing residential curtilage and to avoid unnecessary disturbance to the wider garden area.

Protection of the Existing Natural Environment

The development will seek to protect the existing on-site natural environment through the following measures:

1. Retention of garden habitat where possible
Areas of existing garden outside the proposed extension and patio footprint will be retained as domestic garden space. This will help maintain permeable garden areas and opportunities for planting and wildlife use.
2. No unnecessary vegetation clearance
Any vegetation clearance required for construction access or working space will be kept to

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the minimum necessary. No clearance will take place during the main bird nesting season, generally March to August inclusive, unless a suitably competent person has checked the area and confirmed that no active nests are present.

3. Protection of boundary features

Existing boundary fences and garden margins will be retained where practicable, as these can provide shelter and movement corridors for small wildlife such as birds, insects and hedgehogs.

4. Careful construction practices

Construction materials will be stored within the existing residential curtilage and away from retained garden areas where possible. Trenches or excavations left open overnight will either be covered or include a means of escape for small mammals.

5. External lighting

Any new external lighting will be kept to a minimum and directed downward, away from boundary vegetation and neighbouring gardens. This will reduce potential disturbance to bats, birds and nocturnal wildlife.

Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

The proposal will improve the existing on-site natural environment through the following biodiversity enhancements:

1. Bird nesting provision

At least one integrated bird box, swift brick, sparrow terrace or similar nesting feature will be installed on the proposed extension or retained dwelling, positioned away from windows and areas of heavy disturbance where practicable.

2. Bat roosting provision

At least one bat box or integrated bat roosting feature will be installed on a suitable elevation, ideally in a sheltered position and away from direct artificial lighting if possible.

3. Pollinator-friendly planting

The retained garden will be enhanced with native or wildlife-friendly planting, including nectar-rich flowering species to support bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects.

4. Hedgehog access

Where boundary fencing allows, a small hedgehog access gap of approximately 13cm x 13cm will be retained or created at ground level to help maintain wildlife movement between gardens.

5. Reduced hardstanding where practicable

The new patio will be limited to the area reasonably required for domestic use. Remaining garden areas will be retained as soft landscaping where possible.

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Conclusion

The proposal is a small-scale householder development within an existing residential garden. It has been designed to avoid unnecessary loss of existing garden habitat and to protect retained natural features during construction. The proposed measures, including bird and bat provision, pollinator-friendly planting and retention of soft garden areas, will provide proportionate biodiversity enhancements suitable for the scale and nature of the development.

This statement demonstrates how the application seeks to protect and improve the existing on-site natural environment, in accordance with Arun District Council's local validation requirement for a Biodiversity Enhancement Statement.

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