

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

Property: 4 Gatehouse Mews, Sudley Road, Bognor Regis, PO12 1FJ

Proposal: New entrance porch. Single storey rear extension. Conversion of existing storage room into habitable room.

Introduction

This statement sets out the measures proposed to enhance biodiversity in connection with the planning application for a modest rear extension at 4 Gatehouse Mews. Although the site comprises a small enclosed gravel courtyard with limited existing planting, the applicant is committed to incorporating proportionate biodiversity improvements in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local policy objectives.

Existing Site Context

- The property is located within a built-up residential area.
- The outdoor space consists of a small gravel-surfaced courtyard with no existing soft landscaping.
- No protected habitats or trees are present on site, and no adverse ecological impacts are anticipated from the proposed extension.

Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements

Given the spatial constraints, enhancements will be designed to provide habitat value within the courtyard and on the property itself. Measures include:

1. Container and Planter Planting

- Introduction of large pots and planters with nectar- and pollen-rich native species (e.g. lavender, rosemary, verbena, cornflower, and thyme).
- Seasonal variation in planting to extend flowering periods and support pollinators throughout the year.

2. Climbing Plants / Vertical Greening

- Installation of a trellis with climbing species (such as honeysuckle, clematis, or ivy) along one courtyard wall to provide additional foraging and nesting opportunities.

3. Habitat Features

- Placement of a small insect hotel within the courtyard.

- Provision of a bird nesting box (sparrow or swift type) on an external wall of the dwelling, sited in accordance with best practice.

4. Rainwater Conservation

- Installation of a compact water butt connected to the new extension roof downpipe, reducing reliance on mains water for planting and creating microhabitat opportunities.

Monitoring & Maintenance

- Enhancements will be installed within 12 months of completion of the extension.
- The applicant will maintain planting and habitat features to ensure they remain effective and beneficial for wildlife.

Conclusion

Although the site has limited natural features at present, the proposed enhancements — including new container planting, vertical greening, bird and insect habitat provision, and sustainable water management — will significantly improve the ecological value of the property. These measures will ensure a net biodiversity gain proportionate to the scale of development, in line with local and national policy.