

Biodiversity Net Gain Statement

Site: 87 Lavinia Way

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Applicant: Mr & Mrs George

1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Net Gain Statement has been prepared in support of the above planning application. It considers the existing natural environment within the application site and explains how the proposed development has sought to protect and enhance biodiversity in accordance with **Policy ENV DM5 – Development and Biodiversity of the Arun Local Plan 2011–2031**, together with any applicable neighbourhood plan policies.

The proposal has been designed having regard to the existing ecological features of the site and seeks to follow the principles of avoiding and minimising harm to existing habitats before considering enhancement and, where necessary, compensation.

2. Existing Natural Environment

The application site currently comprises a residential garden, mixed with hard landscaping and a small lawn area and planted shrubs, surrounded by close boarded fencing

The principal existing natural features of the site are:

- Small tree
- Lawn area
- Perimeter shrubs
- Patio area.

The site has been inspected as part of the preparation of this application. No significant ecological constraints have been identified.

3. Protection of Existing Biodiversity

The layout and design of the development have sought to retain and protect existing natural features wherever reasonably practicable.

In particular:

- Existing trees and shrubs will be retained.
- The development footprint has been positioned to minimise encroachment into existing vegetated areas and replaces existing conservatory footprint.
- Construction activities will be controlled to prevent unnecessary damage to retained vegetation and habitats.
- Protective fencing will be provided around retained trees and/or other sensitive ecological features where necessary.
- Vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season where practicable, or appropriate checks will be undertaken by a suitably competent person before clearance.
- Lighting will be designed to avoid unnecessary illumination of retained vegetation, boundaries and potential wildlife corridors.
- Any retained trees, hedgerows or other ecological features will be incorporated into the long-term landscape design.

These measures seek to ensure that the existing natural environment is protected during both construction and the subsequent occupation of the development.

4. Biodiversity Enhancement

In accordance with Policy ENV DM5, the proposal also incorporates opportunities to improve biodiversity.

The proposed enhancements include:

- new native and/or wildlife-friendly planting;
- creation/enhancement of areas of species-rich grassland where appropriate;
- use of nectar-rich and berry-producing species to provide resources for pollinators and birds;
- creation or enhancement of habitat connections between existing vegetated areas.

Any new landscaping scheme will use predominantly native or wildlife-beneficial species appropriate to the local area and will avoid species recognised as invasive or unsuitable for the location. It is not proposed to alter the existing mature garden layout.

Where feasible, the proposed planting and habitat areas will provide a connected network rather than isolated areas, thereby supporting the movement of wildlife through and around the site.

5. Biodiversity Net Gain N/A

6. Protected and Priority Species

The development has also had regard to the potential presence of protected and priority species if found on site.

No evidence of protected species was identified during the site assessment. Nevertheless, precautionary measures will be implemented during construction to avoid harm to nesting birds and other wildlife.

Where a protected or priority species is identified, appropriate mitigation will be implemented and, where necessary, further ecological survey work or licensing will be undertaken before relevant works commence.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Policies

The proposal has also been considered against the applicable policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The proposed retention, protection and enhancement of vegetation and habitat, together with the proposed biodiversity enhancements, are considered to accord with these requirements.

8. Conclusion

The development has sought to protect and improve the existing natural environment from the outset, and by removing the conservatory roof the light pollution element has been reduced.

Existing ecological features of value will be retained wherever reasonably practicable, with appropriate measures taken to protect them during construction. The proposal also incorporates new habitat, wildlife-friendly planting and other ecological enhancements to improve the site's biodiversity value and strengthen connections between habitats.