

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

160 Littlehampton Road, Ferring, BN12 6PH Planning Ref: FG/72/26/HH

Proposal: Triple Detached Garage at Front Boundary with Extended Permeable Driveway

1. Purpose of Statement

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement accompanies the planning application for a **triple** detached garage and associated works at 160 Littlehampton Road, Ferring. It demonstrates how the development will deliver proportionate biodiversity improvements in accordance with:

- Arun Local Plan Policy ENV DM5
- Arun District Council Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
- National guidance on biodiversity enhancement for small-scale residential development.

Householder applications are exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under the Environment Act 2021, but Arun District Council requires meaningful on-site enhancements. This statement sets out a clear package of measures to achieve that.

2. Site Context

The property is a detached dwelling within a residential area of Ferring characterised by private gardens, ornamental planting, and intermittent tree cover. The site contains typical suburban garden habitats of low distinctiveness, which nonetheless provide opportunities for pollinators, birds, and small mammals.

No priority habitats or protected species are known to be present on the site.

3. Summary of Proposed Development

The proposal comprises:

- Construction of a triple detached garage positioned along the front boundary of the property.
- Extension of the existing driveway using permeable surfacing to match the existing material.
- A slight loss of existing lawn within the front garden to accommodate the extended driveway.

The works are modest in ecological impact and do not remove any medium- or high-distinctiveness habitat. Enhancements therefore focus on creating new ecological features and strengthening remaining garden habitats.

4. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

The following measures will be implemented as part of the development:

4.1 Native Planting for Pollinators

- Introduction of native flowering shrubs (e.g., hawthorn, dogwood, buddleia) and wildflower borders to increase nectar availability.
- Use of pollen-rich species flowering across multiple seasons to support bees, butterflies, and hoverflies.

This aligns with Arun BAP objectives to strengthen local biodiversity networks and support pollinator species.

4.2 Bird Nesting Provision

- Installation of two bird nesting boxes on the side or rear elevation, positioned at least 3 metres above ground and facing east or north to avoid overheating.
- Boxes suitable for blue tits, great tits, and sparrows, which are common garden species in Arun.

These contribute to small-scale habitat creation consistent with Arun's expectations for householder developments.

4.3 Hedgehog Access and Habitat

- Creation of a hedgehog access gap (13cm x 13cm) in one boundary fence to support movement through suburban gardens.
- Placement of a log pile or small refuge area in a shaded part of the garden to provide shelter and foraging opportunities.

4.4 Permeable Driveway and Sustainable Drainage

The extended driveway will use **permeable surfacing**, which:

- Reduces surface water run-off
- Supports soil health and micro-invertebrate communities
- Contributes to wider ecosystem services such as infiltration and groundwater recharge

This is a positive ecological measure compared with impermeable surfacing.

4.5 Wildlife-Friendly Garden Management

Ongoing management will include:

- Avoidance of pesticides and herbicides
- Retention of existing shrubs and small trees
- Allowing small lawn areas to grow longer during summer months to support invertebrates

These actions enhance habitat quality across the site.

5. Expected Biodiversity Outcomes

The enhancements will deliver the following measurable ecological benefits:

- Increased nectar and pollen availability for pollinators.
- New nesting opportunities for small garden birds.
- Improved connectivity for hedgehogs and other small mammals.
- Enhanced micro-habitats through log piles and varied planting.
- Improved water infiltration and soil biodiversity through permeable surfaces.

These outcomes align with Arun District Council's biodiversity hierarchy, which prioritises on-site enhancement and habitat creation for minor developments.

6. Compliance with Local and National Policy

The proposed biodiversity measures demonstrate full compliance with:

- Arun Local Plan ENV DM5 – delivering net biodiversity gain.
- Arun Biodiversity Action Plan – supporting priority species and habitats.
- Arun's guidance on on-site enhancements for small-scale development.

Although BNG is not mandatory for householder applications, the measures provide a proportionate and meaningful ecological uplift.

7. Conclusion

Although the proposal introduces a triple detached garage and extended permeable driveway with a minor loss of lawn, the development incorporates a robust package of biodiversity enhancements that will improve ecological value on site and support local wildlife.

The Local Planning Authority is invited to support the application on biodiversity grounds.