

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

Planning Application FG/74/26/HH 160 Littlehampton Road, Ferring BN12 6PH

1. Introduction & Purpose of Statement

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement supports the householder planning application FG/74/26/HH for:

- Alterations to the front elevation including an extended porch and roof gable over the existing bay
- A two-storey side extension
- A rear/side single-storey extension

The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate that the proposed development will protect existing ecological value and deliver meaningful biodiversity enhancements, in accordance with:

- NPPF (2023) – Section 15: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment
- Arun Local Plan Policy ENV DM5
- Arun Biodiversity Action Plan
- Best-practice guidance for small-scale residential development

Although Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is not mandatory for householder applications, the applicant is committed to delivering proportionate ecological improvements.

2. Site Context & Existing Ecological Baseline

160 Littlehampton Road is a residential plot within an established suburban setting. The site comprises:

- A detached dwelling with front and rear gardens
- Managed lawn, ornamental shrubs, and boundary fencing
- No ponds, mature trees, or priority habitats
- No evidence of protected species or roosting features
- Low ecological sensitivity typical of domestic curtilage

The proposed extensions are located within the existing built footprint and managed garden areas. As such, the development results in no loss of habitat of ecological significance.

3. Ecological Impact Assessment

The works involve modest extensions and façade alterations. The ecological impacts are limited to:

- Minor disturbance during construction
- Temporary reduction of small areas of amenity planting
- No impact on mature trees or hedgerows

- No impact on bat roost potential (no loft conversion or roof removal beyond small localised areas)

Overall, the scheme results in negligible ecological harm, and provides opportunities for net biodiversity gain through targeted enhancements.

4. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

To ensure a positive ecological outcome, the following measures will be implemented as part of the development:

4.1 Bird Nesting Provision

- Installation of two integrated bird boxes (Schwegler or equivalent) on the side or rear elevation, suitable for:
 - House sparrow
 - Blue tit / great tit
- Positioned at 2.5–3.5m height, away from direct sun and prevailing winds.

4.2 Hedgehog Access & Shelter

- Creation of a hedgehog access gap (13cm × 13cm) in a rear boundary fence.
- Placement of a hedgehog habitat box or log pile in a quiet corner of the rear garden.

4.3 Pollinator-Friendly Planting

New planting will focus on native, nectar-rich species, including:

- Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)
- Hebe varieties
- Buddleia
- Rosemary
- Wildflower border mix (native species)

These will support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

4.4 Wildlife-Friendly Garden Management

- Avoidance of pesticides and herbicides where possible
- Allowing seasonal flowering of lawn areas
- Retention of leaf litter and natural materials in selected areas to support invertebrates

4.5 Permeable Surfaces & Drainage

Any replaced hardstanding will use permeable surfacing to:

- Reduce surface water runoff
- Maintain soil health
- Support micro-habitats for invertebrates

4.6 External Lighting Controls

- Warm-white, low-lux lighting
- Downward-facing fittings
- No illumination of bird boxes or boundary vegetation This reduces disturbance to bats and nocturnal wildlife.

5. Compliance with Policy

The proposed enhancements ensure compliance with:

- NPPF Section 15 – delivering measurable biodiversity improvements
- Arun Local Plan ENV DM5 – protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- Arun Biodiversity Action Plan – supporting local species such as hedgehogs, sparrows, and pollinators

The measures are proportionate, deliverable, and appropriate for a suburban residential plot.

6. Conclusion

The proposed development at 160 Littlehampton Road results in no significant ecological harm and incorporates a robust package of biodiversity enhancements that will:

- Increase habitat opportunities
- Support local wildlife populations
- Improve ecological resilience within the residential environment

The scheme therefore represents a policy-compliant and environmentally responsible householder development.