

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

No.1 Sark Gardens, Ferring, BN12 5QB

Side Extension, Internal Alterations, Material Change, New Permeable Driveway & Boundary Fence

1. Purpose of Statement

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement accompanies the planning application for works at No.1 Sark Gardens, demonstrating how the development will deliver proportionate biodiversity improvements in accordance with:

- Arun Local Plan Policy ENV DM5
- Arun Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Best-practice guidance for minor residential development

Although householder applications are exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under the Environment Act 2021, Arun District Council expects small-scale enhancements to be incorporated wherever possible. This statement sets out a clear package of measures appropriate to the scale and nature of the works.

2. Site Context

The site comprises a detached dwelling on a corner plot within a quiet residential cul-de-sac. The garden contains typical suburban planting of low ecological distinctiveness, with no known protected species or priority habitats.

The works take place entirely within the residential curtilage and do not involve removal of trees, hedgerows, or medium-distinctiveness habitat. The new permeable driveway and boundary fence do not encroach onto any ecologically sensitive land.

3. Summary of Proposed Development

The application includes:

- A modest single-storey side extension
- Internal alterations including a new en-suite and utility room
- Change of external materials from brickwork to smooth white render
- New permeable resin driveway (Vubamac St Ives)
- Relocation of rear boundary wall and installation of a 1.8m close-boarded fence, positioned 1500mm forward of the existing dwarf brick wall
- Works adjacent to Sark Gardens, a minor non-classified road

None of these works result in loss of meaningful habitat. Enhancements therefore focus on creating new ecological features and improving existing garden biodiversity.

4. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

4.1 Native & Pollinator-Friendly Planting

To strengthen ecological value within the garden, the applicant will introduce new native and pollinator-friendly planting, including:

- Native flowering shrubs (e.g., dogwood, hawthorn, viburnum)
- Pollinator-rich perennials (e.g., lavender, sedum, echinacea)
- Seasonal nectar sources to support bees, butterflies, and hoverflies
- Small wildflower pockets or planters where appropriate

This aligns with Arun BAP objectives to support pollinator networks and increase nectar availability.

4.2 Bird Nesting Provision

Two bird nesting boxes will be installed on the dwelling, positioned:

- Minimum 3 metres above ground
- Facing north or east to avoid overheating
- Suitable for common garden species such as blue tits, great tits, sparrows

This provides new nesting opportunities in an area with limited natural cavities.

4.3 Hedgehog Access & Habitat

To support hedgehog movement through suburban gardens:

- A 13cm x 13cm hedgehog access gap will be created in one boundary fence panel
- A small log pile or refuge area will be placed in a shaded part of the garden

These measures support a species of conservation concern frequently found in Arun District.

4.4 Permeable Driveway – SuDS & Soil Biodiversity

The new driveway will be constructed using a fully permeable resin system (Vubamac Colour St Ives), providing:

- Natural infiltration of rainwater
- Reduced surface water run-off
- Improved soil moisture and micro-habitat conditions
- Compliance with SuDS best practice

Permeable surfacing supports soil invertebrates and reduces pressure on local drainage systems.

4.5 Habitat-Friendly Garden Management

The applicant will adopt the following ongoing practices:

- Avoidance of pesticides and herbicides
- Allowing small lawn areas to grow longer during summer months
- Retention of existing shrubs and planting where possible
- Use of peat-free composts and soil conditioners

These measures cumulatively improve habitat quality and support invertebrate diversity.

5. Expected Biodiversity Outcomes

The enhancements will deliver measurable ecological benefits, including:

- Increased nectar and pollen availability
- New nesting opportunities for small garden birds
- Improved connectivity for hedgehogs and small mammals
- Enhanced micro-habitats through log piles and varied planting
- Improved water infiltration and soil biodiversity via permeable surfacing
- Overall uplift in ecological value consistent with Arun's expectations for minor development

6. Compliance with Local & 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
- NPPF Section 15 – conserving and enhancing the natural environment
- Arun's guidance on proportionate enhancements for householder applications

7. Conclusion

The development at No.1 Sark Gardens incorporates a robust and proportionate package of biodiversity enhancements that will improve ecological value on site, support local wildlife, and align with Arun District Council's expectations for domestic development.

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