

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

17 The Poplars, Ferring, West Sussex, BN12 5QL

Proposed Single-Storey Side Extension and Single-Storey Rear Extension

1. Purpose of Statement

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement accompanies a householder planning application for a single-storey side extension (dual-pitch roof) and single-storey rear extension (flat roof) at 17 The Poplars, Ferring. Although householder developments are exempt from mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) under the Environment Act 2021, Arun District Council requires proportionate on-site biodiversity enhancements in accordance with:

- Arun Local Plan Policy ENV DM5
- Arun Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
- National guidance on small-scale ecological improvements.

This statement demonstrates how the development will deliver meaningful ecological uplift.

2. Site Context

17 The Poplars is a detached dwelling within a residential cul-de-sac characterised by private gardens, ornamental planting, and intermittent tree cover. The site contains low-distinctiveness garden habitats, typical of suburban Ferring. No priority habitats or protected species are recorded on the site, and the proposed works do not involve removal of mature trees or significant vegetation.

The plot provides opportunities for small-scale biodiversity enhancements that support pollinators, birds, and small mammals.

3. Summary of Proposed Development

The proposal includes:

- A single-storey side extension with dual-pitch roof.
- A single-storey rear extension with flat roof and aluminium sliding doors.
- External finishes in smooth white render and white PVCu windows.
- Internal reconfiguration to provide an additional bedroom, open-plan living/kitchen/dining area, and utility room.

The works are confined to the footprint of the existing garden and do not impact medium- or high-distinctiveness habitats.

4. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

The following enhancements will be incorporated as part of the development. These measures are proportionate, locally beneficial, and fully compliant with Arun District Council's expectations for householder schemes.

4.1 Native and Pollinator-Friendly Planting

- Introduction of native flowering species such as lavender, buddleia, dogwood, and wildflower borders.
- Planting designed to provide nectar across multiple seasons, supporting bees, butterflies, and hoverflies.
- Use of drought-resistant species to improve climate resilience.

Benefit: Increased nectar availability and improved pollinator habitat connectivity.

4.2 Bird Nesting Provision

- Installation of two bird nesting boxes on the side or rear elevation, positioned at least 3m above ground.
- Boxes suitable for blue tits, great tits, sparrows, and other common garden species.
- North or east-facing orientation to avoid overheating.

Benefit: New nesting opportunities for small birds, supporting local BAP species.

4.3 Hedgehog Access and Habitat Creation

- Creation of a 13cm x 13cm hedgehog access gap in one boundary fence.
- Placement of a log pile or small refuge area in a shaded part of the garden.

Benefit: Improved movement corridors and shelter for hedgehogs, a species of conservation concern.

4.4 Permeable Hardstanding and Water Management

- Any new or replaced hardstanding will use permeable materials to reduce surface water run-off.
- Opportunity to incorporate water-butt collection to support garden irrigation.

Benefit: Enhanced soil health, reduced run-off, and improved micro-habitats.

4.5 Habitat-Friendly Garden Management

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

Benefit: Improved invertebrate diversity and healthier garden ecosystems.

5. Expected Biodiversity Outcomes

The enhancements will deliver:

- Increased nectar and pollen sources for pollinators.
- New nesting and shelter opportunities for birds and hedgehogs.
- Improved garden habitat structure through varied planting and refuge areas.
- Enhanced water infiltration and soil biodiversity.
- Strengthened local ecological networks within Ferring's residential environment.

These outcomes represent a meaningful ecological uplift proportionate to the scale of development.

6. Policy Compliance

The proposed measures demonstrate full compliance with:

- Arun Local Plan ENV DM5 – biodiversity protection and enhancement.
- Arun Biodiversity Action Plan – supporting priority species and habitats.
- NPPF (2023) – promoting ecological enhancement in development.
- Local guidance for small-scale residential improvements.

7. Conclusion

The development at 17 The Poplars incorporates a robust package of biodiversity enhancements that will improve ecological value on site, support local wildlife, and align with Arun District Council's expectations for householder applications. The Local Planning Authority is invited to support the application on biodiversity grounds.