

# **Biodiversity Enhancement Statement**

25 Kingsmead, Felphem, PO22 7BD



## **Policy Context**

This statement supports a householder planning application for a single-storey rear extension. It is provided in accordance with Arun Local Plan Policy ENV DM5 – Development and Biodiversity, which requires all development to seek a net gain in biodiversity.

Although mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) applies only to major development, householder applications must still demonstrate proportionate net gains under Arun District Council's local policy.

## **Site Status**

A MAGIC map search confirms that the site is not located within or adjacent to any of the following statutory ecological designations:

- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Ramsar Site

No non-statutory designations were identified within or adjoining the site.

## **Existing Site Conditions**

The application site comprises of an existing residential dwelling with a private rear garden containing lawn and a small number of shrubs. The proposal is for the demolition of an existing single-storey rear extension and the construction of a new single-storey extension.

The eaves of the existing extension are well sealed, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, providing no potential access for nesting birds or roosting bats. The footprint of the proposed extension lies entirely over an existing hard-surfaced patio, which provides negligible habitat for protected species.

To the rear of the new extension, an area of decking and porous paving is proposed, replacing a small section of lawn and two small shrub borders. A site inspection identified no evidence of wildlife, including reptiles, within or adjacent to these areas. No trees are to be removed, and no features suitable for bat roosting or other protected species are present on the construction site. A photograph of the garden is provided in Figure 3.

## **Potential Impacts on Biodiversity**

Given the small scale and domestic nature of the works, the development is not anticipated to result in any significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.

- No designated ecological sites occur in the vicinity of the property.
- No protected species or habitats will be affected.
- The limited footprint of the works and retention of existing garden areas further minimise ecological impact.

## **Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements**

To deliver proportionate biodiversity gain consistent with Policy ENV DM5, the following measures are proposed:

### 1. Bat Box Installation

As the Aldingbourne Rife lies approximately 50 m northwest of the site, an environment commonly used by foraging bats, a bat box mounted on a pole will be installed within the rear garden. The proposed location is indicated on the submitted site block plan.

The proposed specification for the bat box is as follows:

A woodcrete or high-durability composite bat roost box, suitable for long-term outdoor conditions and supporting a range of small crevice-dwelling bat species.  
Recommended models (any equivalent is acceptable):

- *Schwegler 2F Bat Box*
- *Schwegler 1FF Bat Box*
- *Habibat Integrated Bat Box (external mounted version)*
- *CJ Wildlife Large Colony Bat Box*

Minimum requirements:

- Internal crevice-style roosting space
- Roughened interior to allow bats to grip
- Minimum internal height: 300 mm
- Minimum chamber depth: 20–25 mm
- Non-treated, breathable materials (woodcrete or FSC timber)

### 2. Native Planting

To enrich the garden's ecological value, native species will be introduced into the shrub borders, including:

- Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*)
- Guelder Rose (*Viburnum Opulus*)

These will enhance habitat structure, provide nectar and berries for wildlife, and contribute to overall garden biodiversity. Planting locations are shown on the site block plan.

## **Summary**

The proposed development is modest in scale and domestic in character, with no anticipated adverse effects on local biodiversity or protected species. The installation of a bat box and the introduction of native planting will provide a proportionate and meaningful biodiversity enhancement, satisfying the requirements of Arun District Council's planning policy for householder development.



Figure 1 (Well sealed eaves to existing extension)



Figure 2 (Well sealed verge to existing extension)



Figure 3 (Rear Garden)