

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Statement has been prepared in support of the planning application for the proposed change of use at The Mill Studio, Ford Lane, Ford, BN18 0EF. The application seeks to extend the current use of part of the building from commercial to residential, and this statement outlines the existing biodiversity features on site, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation measures.

2. Site Description

The site is located at The Mill Studio, Ford Lane, Ford, BN18 0EF, within a complex of converted farm buildings, in a rural area close to the town of Arundle. It currently consists of a courtyard with buildings surrounding most of the perimeter, hedges and two small gardens laid to lawn. There is a mix of shrubs and potted plants located within the courtyard. The site is just over 1 hectare in area and is bordered by a road, fields and other converted farm buildings.

3. Existing Biodiversity

The site supports a pond, hedges, grass, and a variety of flowers, plants, shrubs and trees.

The site is not located within any statutory or non-statutory protected areas

4. Potential Impacts

There are no potential impacts to affect the biodiversity of the site.

Direct habitat loss: the proposal does not change or alter the footprint of the current building. The application seeks to add a porch of nine square meters to the existing residential building. This addition is proposed on an area of the courtyard which is already hard standing so there will be no loss of green space.

Disturbance to wildlife: there will be no disturbance to wildlife as most of the works will be internal and minimal in terms of noise pollution. The site currently has commercial use so there will likely be a reduction in human activity.

Fragmentation of habitats: the existing biodiversity including the pond and shrubs will remain unchanged so preserving the current local wildlife and habitat connectivity.

5. Mitigation Measures

To minimize potential adverse impacts on biodiversity, the following mitigation measures are proposed:

- **Retention of key habitats:** Existing habitats such as trees, shrubs, flowers, grass and the pond will be preserved and remain unchanged by the proposal.
- **Enhancement of biodiversity:** Two new bird boxes and an insect hotel will be incorporated into the design and will be built and set up in the courtyard.
- **Wildlife-friendly design:** More hedgerow planting around the garden area will be incorporated into the design to improve habitat connectivity.

6. Conclusion

The proposed change of use at Mill Studio is not expected to result in any adverse impacts on biodiversity, particularly given the scale of the development and the proposed mitigation measures. The application incorporates steps to preserve and enhance the site's ecological value, ensuring that it contributes positively to local biodiversity in both the short and long term.