

Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

****Application Site:**** 8 Griffin Crescent, Littlehampton, BN17 7LJ

****Local Planning Authority:**** Arun District Council

****Proposal:**** Single storey side/front extension

1. Site Context

The property is a residential dwelling located within an established suburban area of Littlehampton. The existing plot comprises a dwelling with a front driveway and modest rear garden area containing lawn, paving, and boundary planting. The site has limited existing biodiversity interest typical of residential gardens within urban environments, with potential for nesting birds, invertebrates, and small mammals such as hedgehogs.

2. Potential Impacts of Development

The proposed single storey side/front extension (as per submitted plans SD1117-01) will be constructed on existing hardstanding and managed garden area. As such:

- There will be no loss of trees, hedgerows, or significant vegetation.
- The proposal will not impact local habitats of principal ecological importance.
- Construction works will be temporary and of low ecological risk.

3. Protection of Existing Natural Features

To ensure existing biodiversity is protected during development:

- Any vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (March–August), unless a qualified ecologist confirms no nesting activity is present.
- Dust and pollution control measures will be implemented during works to protect nearby vegetation.
- Existing garden areas and boundary fences will be retained to preserve wildlife connectivity.

4. Proposed Biodiversity Enhancements

In line with Arun District Council's Local Plan Policy ENV DM5 (Development and Biodiversity) and national planning guidance (NPPF para. 180), the following measures will be implemented to achieve a net gain in biodiversity:

1. a. Bird and Bat Boxes

Installation of one integrated swift brick or universal bird nesting brick in the new external wall of the extension (north or east elevation).

Installation of one integrated bat box (e.g., Ibstock Enclosed Bat Box) in a suitable sheltered elevation.

2. b. Hedgehog Connectivity

Inclusion of hedgehog-friendly access holes (13cm x 13cm) in any new or replaced fencing to allow safe movement between gardens.

3. c. Pollinator-Friendly Planting

Introduction of native and nectar-rich planting (such as lavender, salvia, and buddleia) in the front garden and retained soft landscaping to provide year-round forage for pollinators.

4. d. Sustainable Drainage and Soil Health

Any new paving associated with the extension will use permeable surfacing to support groundwater recharge and reduce surface runoff.

Topsoil and planting areas will be enhanced with organic matter to support soil biodiversity.

5. Monitoring and Maintenance

The installed biodiversity features (boxes and planting) will be retained and maintained by the homeowner for the lifetime of the development. Bird/bat boxes will be inspected annually for damage and replaced as needed.

6. Conclusion

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement demonstrates that the proposed development at 8 Griffin Crescent:

- Will not adversely impact existing ecological features.
- Incorporates proportionate and deliverable biodiversity enhancements.
- Aligns with Arun District Council's environmental policies and contributes positively to urban wildlife corridors in Littlehampton.