



Biodiversity Enhancement Statement for the Proposed Development at 19 Maxwell Road, Littlehampton

Introduction:

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement has been prepared to support the planning application for the proposed single-story residential dwelling at 19 Maxwell Road, Littlehampton. The proposal aims to replace two existing flat-roofed garages with a modest residential unit, while adhering to local and national planning policies related to biodiversity. This document outlines how the development will protect and enhance the existing natural environment on the site, improve biodiversity, and contribute to the ecological quality of the area. The statement addresses the required biodiversity net gain measures, in accordance with Local Plan Policy ENV DM5 and other relevant guidelines.

1. Existing Habitat Conditions Assessment:

The site currently comprises two unused garages and a section of the rear garden of 19 Maxwell Road. The existing conditions are dominated by hardstanding and minimal vegetation, with the surrounding area primarily consisting of residential properties and gardens. The current biodiversity value of the site is low, given the site is made up of garages and low value garden habitat, but it provides an opportunity for ecological enhancement through the redevelopment of the site.

2. Avoiding and Minimising Impact to Biodiversity:

Given the low ecological value of the existing site, the primary impact of the development is the loss of hardstanding, the removal of two existing garages and a small area of garden habitat. However, this offers an opportunity to introduce more sustainable and ecologically beneficial landscaping elements. The design has been carefully planned to minimise disruption to the surrounding area while maintaining a low environmental footprint. The development will result in the addition of a small landscaped private garden and boundary planting, which will enhance the local biodiversity and provide shelter for wildlife.

3. Enhancing Biodiversity on Site:

The proposed development includes several measures to improve biodiversity, such as:

- **Native planting:** The private garden and boundary areas could feature native species of plants that are known to support local wildlife, including pollinators, birds, and insects.

- **Sustainable landscaping:** The planting could include low-maintenance, drought-resistant species, promoting sustainability while improving the site's ecological value.
- **Green boundary treatments:** The proposed 1.8-meter high close-boarded fencing could be accompanied by climbing plants and other greenery, improving the site's visual and ecological integration with the surrounding area.

These enhancements are designed to create a more biodiverse environment, supporting a range of species that are common in suburban areas.

4. Off-Site Biodiversity Enhancements:

At this stage, no off-site biodiversity enhancements are proposed. However, if future opportunities arise, such as in partnership with local environmental initiatives or neighboring properties, the applicant would be open to considering additional off-site measures to further enhance local biodiversity.

5. Suitability of the Site for Habitat Creation:

The site is well-suited to support habitat creation, particularly through the introduction of a small garden and boundary planting. The private garden and landscaped areas will provide opportunities for local flora and fauna to thrive. Additionally, the site's location within a suburban residential area, surrounded by gardens and green spaces, offers good potential for supporting a variety of species.

6. Draft Biodiversity Gain Plan:

The biodiversity gain plan (refer to layout plan) for this development includes:

- Native plant species will be incorporated into the landscaped areas surrounding the building and garden.
- Areas designated for planting will be clearly identified, and an annotated map will be provided showing the specific locations of these biodiversity enhancements.
- The design will ensure that the garden provides a habitat for local wildlife, with consideration for the inclusion of food sources for pollinators and other species.

7. Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan:

Given the nature of this scheme, it is not considered necessary to implement a monitoring plan. If one is deemed necessary, this plan could outline the following (to be secured by condition):

- Regular checks and maintenance of the planted areas to ensure the plants are thriving and establishing properly.
- Monitoring of the garden and boundary planting to assess how well they support local wildlife, particularly pollinators and birds.
- Recommendations for additional planting or modifications if required, to further enhance biodiversity.

Conclusion:

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement demonstrates the commitment to improving the ecological value of the site at 19 Maxwell Road, Littlehampton, through a series of targeted enhancements. The development will not only minimise the loss of existing habitats but will also introduce new green spaces that support local biodiversity. The proposal complies with local and national biodiversity policies and aims to create a sustainable and environmentally friendly living space that contributes positively to the natural environment.

The design of the development has carefully considered the ecological impact and aims to provide a biodiversity net gain, enhancing the site for future generations. This approach ensures that the development is both sustainable and sympathetic to the local environment.