Leith ECOLOGY CONSULTING

Reference: BAF180426
Version: R.01
Date: 18/04/2026
Report for: Angling4Education

Biodiversity Enhancement Layout Plan

Back Arun Fishery, Arundel

Introduction

This report has been prepared to support the discharge of a planning condition relating to biodiversity enhancement at Back Arun Fishery, Arundel.

The relevant planning condition states:

"Prior to any occupation, a Biodiversity Enhancement Layout, providing the finalised details and locations of the enhancement measures contained within the 'Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Report R.01, 08/12/2025', shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The enhancement measures shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and all features shall be retained in that manner thereafter."

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- Biodiversity Enhancement Layout Plan (Drawing Ref: BELP-01, Rev P01)
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Report (R.01, dated 08/12/2025)

Purpose of this submission

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide a clear summary of the proposed biodiversity enhancement measures
- Confirm that the submitted Biodiversity Enhancement Layout Plan presents the finalised locations and details of these measures
- Demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the planning condition

Summary of Biodiversity Enhancements

The proposed development incorporates a range of biodiversity enhancement measures which provide ecological benefits beyond baseline conditions. These measures increase habitat availability, structural diversity, and opportunities for protected and priority species.

Native Tree Planting (T1-T11)

A total of eleven native trees (T1–T11) will be planted across the site, comprising a mix of locally appropriate species including pedunculate oak (Quercus robur), wild cherry (Prunus avium), and field maple (Acer campestre).

Trees will be planted as standard stock (approximately 10–12 cm girth) and will be sourced from UK nurseries to ensure suitability to local conditions. Planting will be undertaken in accordance with good arboricultural practice, including the use of tree stakes, guards where necessary, and appropriate soil amelioration.

The planting has been positioned to:

- Reinforce existing vegetation structure
- Enhance habitat connectivity across the site
- Provide increased opportunities for foraging, nesting and shelter for birds and invertebrates

Establishment maintenance will include watering during dry periods, weed control around the base of trees, and replacement of any failed specimens within the first five years.

Grassland Enhancement (G1)

The grassland enhancement area (G1) will be managed to increase botanical diversity and structural variation.

Management will comprise:

- Reduction in mowing frequency to approximately 1–2 cuts per year
- Removal of arisings following cutting to reduce nutrient enrichment
- Optional overseeding with an appropriate native wildflower seed mix of local provenance, where required

This approach will encourage the establishment of a more diverse sward, supporting pollinators and other invertebrates, and enhancing foraging opportunities for birds and small mammals.

Scrub Enhancement (S1)

Existing scrub areas (S1) will be enhanced through underplanting with native shrub species, including hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna), blackthorn (Prunus spinosa), and hazel (Corylus avellana).

Enhancement will focus on increasing structural diversity by introducing a varied age structure and species composition.

Long-term management will include:

- Periodic rotational cutting to prevent over-maturation
- Retention of dense cover in parts to maintain suitability for nesting birds

These measures will improve habitat quality for nesting birds, invertebrates, and small mammals.

Bird Nesting Boxes (B1-B2)

Bird nesting boxes (B1–B2) will be installed on suitable retained trees or structures at heights of approximately 2–4 m.

Boxes will be of a durable design (e.g. woodcrete or similar) suitable for common cavity-nesting species such as tits (Paridae spp.) and sparrows (Passeridae spp.).

Installation will consider:

- Orientation away from prevailing weather (generally north-east to south-east)
- Avoidance of direct strong sunlight

Boxes will be subject to periodic inspection and maintenance as required.

Example bird boxes are provided in Appendix 2, ref. 2.1.

Bat Roosting Boxes (BB1)

Bat roosting boxes (BB1) will be installed on suitable mature trees within the site at heights of approximately 3–5 m.

Boxes will be of a suitable design (e.g. woodcrete Schwegler-type or equivalent), providing crevice roosting opportunities for local bat species.

A range of aspects may be used where feasible to provide varied microclimatic conditions.

Installation will follow best practice guidance to maximise uptake.

Example bat boxes are provided in Appendix 2, ref. 2.2.

Log Piles / refugia (L1-L3)

Log piles and deadwood refugia (L1–L3) will be created using timber sourced on-site where possible.

Features will comprise:

- A mix of log sizes
- Loosely stacked material with void spaces
- Placement in partially shaded locations to retain moisture

These features will provide habitat for invertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles, and contribute to overall habitat complexity and ecological functioning.

Example log piles are provided in Appendix 2, ref 2.3.

Biodiversity Enhancement Layout Plan

The Biodiversity Enhancement Layout Plan (Drawing Ref: BELP-01) provides the finalised locations and specifications of all enhancement measures described above. This is provided in Appendix 1.

All features are clearly identified using reference codes (T1–T11, G1, S1, B1–B2, BB1, L1–L3), which correspond directly to the measures outlined in this report.

The plan demonstrates:

- The precise spatial distribution of enhancement features
- Integration of enhancements within the site layout
- Retention and enhancement of existing habitats where appropriate
- A minimum of two bird boxes and one bat box will be installed as shown on Drawing BELP-01.

Implementation and Management

All biodiversity enhancement measures will be:

- Implemented prior to occupation of the development, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority
- Installed in accordance with good practice guidance and manufacturer specifications (where applicable)
- Retained and maintained thereafter for the lifetime of the development

Minor adjustments to the exact positioning of features (e.g. bird and bat boxes) may be made at the time of installation to account for site conditions and to ensure optimal placement on suitable structures or vegetation. Any such adjustments will not materially alter the intent or distribution of the approved layout. The enhancement measures will be implemented under ecological supervision where necessary to ensure compliance with the approved details.

Compliance with Planning Policy

The proposed biodiversity enhancements accord with:

- Arun Local Plan policies ENV SP1 and ENV DM5
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which seeks to minimise impacts on biodiversity and provide net gains where possible
- Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, which places a duty on public authorities to conserve biodiversity

Conclusion

This submission provides a Biodiversity Enhancement Layout Plan and supporting information that clearly define the finalised details and locations of all biodiversity enhancement measures associated with the development.

The information provided is considered sufficient to discharge the relevant planning condition.

Appendix 1 – Biodiversity Enhancement Layout Plan

Biodiversity Enhancement Layout Plan

Back Arun Fishery
Drawing No: BELP-01
Rev: P01
Date: 18/04/2026

Drawing Notes

- This drawing shows the finalised locations of biodiversity enhancement measures proposed for the site.
- The enhancement measures accord with the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Report R.01 dated 08/12/2025.
- All enhancement measures shall be implemented prior to occupation unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- All features shall be retained thereafter.

Appendix 2 – Indicative examples of enhancement features

Reference	Example of enhancement feature	Source
2.1		1B Schwegler Nest Box | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment
2.2		2F Schwegler Bat Box (General Purpose) | NHBS Practical Conservation Equipment

2.3	 	Dead Wood and Compost Heap Habitats | RHS Advice The importance of deadwood - Stag Beetles