

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT

The Gilberts, Rustington

1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement has been prepared in support of the above planning application at The Gilberts, Rustington with reference number PP-15136006. It is submitted as a standalone document and sets out the measures proposed to protect and enhance the natural environment of the site in relation to the proposed development.

The proposal seeks consent for five additional off-street parking spaces, to be delivered through a modest reconfiguration of areas of existing incidental soft landscaping within the site boundary.

2. Existing Site Conditions

Only areas of low-grade managed amenity grassland are affected by the proposals. These areas serve no meaningful recreational function and are of limited visual or ecological significance. The works are wholly contained within the established site curtilage, and no boundary vegetation, mature trees or habitats of ecological importance will be disturbed or removed as part of the development.

3. Biodiversity Protection & Enhancement Measures

The scheme has been carefully designed to minimise any impact upon the existing natural environment. The works are restricted solely to the areas of existing amenity grassland required to accommodate the proposed parking spaces. All established planting, boundary treatments and soft landscaping beyond the immediate works area will remain intact and are not affected by the proposals. The proposal incorporates measures designed to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the site. As the applicant holds the freehold interest in the wider site, it is intended that a new feature tree would be planted at a suitable location elsewhere within the wider site boundary. The tree species would be selected with preference given to native varieties known to provide ecological value to pollinators, nesting birds and other local fauna, thereby enhancing canopy coverage and contributing positively to the overall ecological value of the site.

4. Conclusion

The proposal is considered to cause no detriment to the existing natural environment and represent a clear benefit to residents. Through the introduction of new native feature tree planting within the wider site, the development would deliver a modest but meaningful improvement to the biodiversity value of the site.