

## **Biodiversity Enhancement Statement**

### **Proposed Replacement Single Storey Dwelling**

**Site Location:** Rookery Farm, PO22 6EP

#### **1. Introduction**

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement has been prepared to accompany the planning application for the proposed construction of a single storey dwelling replacing an existing barn structure located within a working poultry farm at PO22 6EP.

The statement has been prepared to satisfy the Local Planning Authority's validation requirements and outlines how the development will protect existing ecological features and deliver biodiversity enhancements within the site.

The proposal involves the replacement of an existing agricultural barn within its existing footprint, with materials from the existing structure reused where possible. The development is located within an established farm setting where land management activities are ongoing.

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#### **2. Existing Site Conditions**

The application site forms part of a working farm and currently contains an agricultural barn structure surrounded by hardstanding and managed agricultural land.

The surrounding landscape primarily consists of:

- Agricultural pasture and poultry farming infrastructure
- Managed grassland and farm tracks
- Occasional hedgerows and boundary vegetation typical of the local rural landscape

The site itself is previously developed agricultural land with limited ecological value due to the presence of buildings, hardstanding and regular farm activity.

However, the wider farm environment may support common farmland species, including birds, invertebrates and small mammals that utilise surrounding vegetation and hedgerows.

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#### **3. Protection of Existing Biodiversity**

The proposed development will seek to retain and protect existing ecological features where possible.

Measures will include:

- Retention of any existing boundary vegetation or hedgerows where present.
- Construction activities limited largely to the existing barn footprint, reducing disturbance to surrounding land.
- Avoidance of unnecessary vegetation clearance during the bird nesting season (March–August) where practicable, unless first checked by a suitably qualified person.
- Responsible construction practices to minimise disturbance to wildlife during works.

The reuse of materials from the existing barn will also reduce construction waste and minimise the environmental impact of the development.

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#### **4. Biodiversity Enhancement Measures**

Although the site has a relatively low baseline ecological value, the development will incorporate simple biodiversity enhancements appropriate to the rural setting.

These measures will include:

##### **Wildlife Boxes**

- Installation of bird nesting boxes suitable for common farmland species such as house sparrows or swallows.
- Installation of at least one bat roosting box on a suitable external elevation or nearby tree.

##### **Native and Pollinator-Friendly Planting**

- Introduction of native shrub planting within the immediate residential curtilage where appropriate.
- Planting of nectar-rich flowering species to support pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

##### **Habitat Opportunities**

- Retention of areas of soft landscaping around the dwelling to provide habitat for invertebrates.
  - Potential creation of a small log or stone habitat pile using natural materials to support insects and small wildlife.
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#### **5. Conclusion**

The proposed development replaces an existing agricultural barn within its current footprint and therefore results in minimal change to the overall land use or disturbance to the surrounding environment.

Through the retention of existing vegetation, reuse of building materials and the introduction of biodiversity enhancement measures, the development will provide a modest improvement in biodiversity opportunities within the site, consistent with local planning validation requirements.

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## **6. Additional Ecological Enhancements**

In addition to the measures outlined above, the development will incorporate further biodiversity features appropriate to the rural setting of the site.

These may include:

- Integrated bird nesting features within the new dwelling (such as sparrow terraces or swift bricks where feasible).
- Bat roosting provision, such as a bat box or integrated bat brick installed at a suitable height on the building.
- Use of native planting species within any landscaped areas to support local wildlife and pollinating insects.
- The use of permeable boundary treatments (e.g. hedging or fencing with wildlife gaps) where appropriate to allow small mammals such as hedgehogs to move through the site.

These measures will help ensure that the development provides enhanced habitat opportunities compared to the existing barn structure, which currently offers limited biodiversity value.

*Overall, the proposal provides an opportunity to enhance biodiversity within the site through the introduction of wildlife features and native planting, delivering ecological improvements over the existing agricultural building currently occupying the site.*