

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT STATEMENT

Application Reference: **Y/26/26/HH**

Development: **Proposed front and side extensions, loft conversion to provide three additional bedrooms, increase in existing roof ridge height by 2.4 metres and formation of a recessed balcony.**

Site Address: **Frogs Lodge, Drove Lane, Yapton, BN18 0EB**

Introduction.

This Biodiversity Enhancement Statement has been prepared in support of the above planning application.

The proposal relates to the alteration and extension of an existing dwellinghouse situated within a residential curtilage of approximately 741 square metres. The site is enclosed by established mature boundary hedgerows and contains approximately three to four mature trees which contribute positively to local biodiversity.

The proposed development seeks to retain existing ecological features and provide biodiversity enhancements appropriate to the scale and nature of the development.

Existing Ecological Features.

The site currently benefits from a number of biodiversity features including:

- Mature boundary hedgerows surrounding the site.
- Approximately three to four mature trees within the residential curtilage.
- Existing garden areas comprising grassed and planted areas.
- Existing habitat opportunities for birds, pollinating insects and other wildlife associated with the hedgerows, trees and garden environment.

The proposed development has been designed to retain these important existing features wherever possible.

Biodiversity Protection Measures.

The following measures will be implemented during construction:

- Existing mature trees and boundary hedgerows will be retained and protected throughout the construction process.
- Any necessary vegetation maintenance will, where practicable, be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season.
- Construction materials and waste will be appropriately stored and managed to avoid unnecessary impacts on wildlife.
- External lighting associated with the development will be designed to minimise unnecessary light spill onto retained vegetation and surrounding habitats.

Biodiversity Enhancement Measures.

The development will provide biodiversity enhancements through the following measures:

- Installation of one integrated bird nesting box within the completed development to provide additional nesting opportunities for local bird species.
- Retention and ongoing management of the mature boundary hedgerows and mature trees which provide valuable habitat, shelter and foraging opportunities for wildlife.
- Introduction of additional native and pollinator-friendly planting within the garden to support bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects.
- Maintenance of soft landscaped and permeable garden areas to support local biodiversity and ecological connectivity.
- Continued management of the site in a wildlife-friendly manner to encourage biodiversity enhancement over the long term.

Conclusion.

The proposal will retain the site's existing biodiversity assets, including mature hedgerows and mature trees, whilst introducing additional biodiversity enhancements through the provision of an integrated bird nesting box and wildlife-friendly planting.

The development is therefore considered to provide a positive contribution towards biodiversity enhancement appropriate to the scale and nature of the proposal.