

BIODIVERSITY STATEMENT

Location: 19 Corhampton Crescent, Havant PO9 3BX

Proposal: The construction of a new two-storey dwellinghouse to accommodate a 1-bedroom (2p) house.

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1. Introduction

As part of a proposed submission for the new build at 19 Corhampton Crescent, Havant PO9 3BX, a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment is required. This assessment follows the advice given by the local authority within its Biodiversity Action Plan.

2. Site description and BNG assessment

2.1. Small-Scale Self-Build or Custom-Build Development

- The proposed development qualifies as a small site under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. The small scale of the development (under 10 residential units or less than 0.5 hectares) implies that BNG requirements may not be enforceable under these guidelines and does not impact a priority habitat or irreplaceable habitat.
- The proposal is a privately owned development surveyed and drawn up by Maplin Studio on behalf of the client, who is also the owner and occupant.
- The proposed development falls within the small sites exemption, as it involves the construction of a single dwelling (Use Class C3).

2.2. Site with Limited Ecological Value

- The proposed dwelling will replace a single storey addition which comes level with the shared side boundary, with negligible biodiversity value.
- No designated habitats, protected species, or significant ecological features will be affected by the development.

2.3. Location with No Significant Habitat Loss

- The proposed landscaping and planting as part of the development will provide an enhancement to local biodiversity.

3. Proposed Sustainability Enhancements

3.1. Paragraph 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) states, "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity...".

3.2. To enhance Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and overall sustainability for the new dwelling, we propose a combination of landscaping, ecological features, and sustainable design elements. Here are some practical sustainability enhancements:

- An increase in green space by replacing the paving slabs in the rear garden. Hedgehog gaps in fencing
- Birds nest boxes
- Incorporate additional native trees, shrubs, and wildflower meadows to attract pollinators.
- Retain all possible traditional fences with hedgerows to provide natural habitats for birds and insects.
- Rainwater Harvesting & Permeable Surfaces: Install a rainwater collection system for garden irrigation and permeable paving within the site, which will reduce surface water runoff, improve water infiltration, and support the growth of vegetation, further contributing to the site's biodiversity.
- Sustainable Drainage & Water Management: Use permeable paving to reduce surface water runoff.
- Create a small pond or wetland area to support amphibians and water-loving plants.
- Position windows for natural lighting & heating, reducing energy use.
- Use low-carbon materials like sustainably sourced timber, recycled bricks, and insulation with a high thermal rating for a energy-efficient building materials.
- Install triple glazing and ensure high airtightness to reduce energy demand.
- Proposed Secure bike storage to encourage cycling.

3.3. Birds and Hedgehogs

The primary reason for the decline in hedgehogs is recognised to be the division of land, in urban areas typically being the division of gardens with fencing and the use of gravel boards. The proposed development will incorporate hedgehog gaps, 10cmx10cm in size, in every other gravel board (or a 10cmx10cm gap every three meters where a brick wall is proposed).

3.4. The proposed development will have 3 bird boxes which are suitable for Black Redstart Birds, a species recognised as declining in the borough Biodiversity Action Plan. This will be on the rear elevation on the fencing of the rear boundary.

3.5. Lighting

Lighting can negatively impact biodiversity, so it is proposed that the development will incorporate a sensitive light design. Lighting to the rear of the development, which is where the biodiversity enhancement measures are predominantly, will not be continuous and will only be operated by a PIR sensor, with lighting specification as;

- Only luminaires with 0% upward light ratio should be used and fixed on the horizontal to avoid excessive up-lighting, back-lighting and light spill onto boundary vegetation;
- Lamps of greater than 2000 lumens (150 W) must not be used;
- Light emitting diodes (LED) should be used, as these typically feature no UV component and, as a result are less attractive to invertebrates and less disturbing
- A warm white spectrum (ideally under 2700 Kelvin) should be used in order to reduce the blue light component, therefore reducing the number of invertebrates attracted to the lights;
- Internal luminaires can be recessed where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill;
- Movement sensors or timers must be used - they must be carefully installed and aimed, to reduce the amount of time a light is on;
- Light must illuminate only the immediate area required, by using as sharp a downward angle as possible;
- Light must not be directed at or close to bat roost access points or flight paths from the roost - a shield or hood can be used to control or restrict the area to be lit;
- Where habitat needs to be unlit (e.g., important foraging and commuting corridors/roost sites), illuminance should be below 0.2 lux on the horizontal plane and below 0.4 lux on the vertical plane.

4. Conclusion

The proposed dwelling will replace a single storey addition which comes level with the shared side boundary which currently hold negligible biodiversity value. The site, in its current form, lacks any meaningful green space or features of ecological significance.

Upon implementation of the enhancements proposed in this report, the development would deliver a 100% net gain in biodiversity. The introduction of soft landscaping, native planting, and bird boxes will significantly improve habitat availability, supporting greater use of the site by local wildlife. These features directly respond to species of importance as identified in the Borough's Biodiversity Action Plan.

In addition, a sensitive lighting scheme will be incorporated to ensure the ecological benefits are not undermined by artificial lighting impacts.

While the proposal meets criteria for certain exemptions, it nonetheless places a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability, incorporating biodiversity enhancements, water efficiency measures, and energy-efficient design.

These elements align with national and local planning policy objectives and contribute to the delivery of a greener, more resilient urban environment.

We respectfully request that the exemption be granted based on the above grounds. Should the Local Planning Authority require any further clarification or supporting documentation, we would be pleased to provide it.

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED BIRD BOXES



Open nest box suitable for Black Redstart Birds

APPENDIX B: – Relevant Legislation & Policy

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) is the principal piece of UK legislation relating to the protection of wildlife. It consolidates and amends existing national legislation to implement the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (Birds Directive) in Great Britain.

The Act makes it an offence to: intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2). Special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed on Schedule 1, for which there are additional offences of disturbing these birds at their nests, or their dependent young. Intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed in Schedule 5, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places (subject to exceptions). The Act also prohibits certain methods of killing, injuring, or taking wild animals listed in Schedule 6.

Uproot, trade in, or possess (for the purposes of trade) any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, and prohibits the unauthorised intentional uprooting of such plants (subject to exceptions). Facilitate the establishment of non-native species which may be detrimental to native wildlife, prohibiting the release of animals and planting of plants listed in Schedule 9. It also provides a mechanism making any of the above offences legal through the granting of licences by the appropriate authorities.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitat Regulations'), as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, establish the requirements for protecting sites that are interannually important for threatened habitats and species and thus the requirement for a 'Habitat Regulations Assessment' of plans or developments with potential to affect them. The Habitat Regulations also establish the strict protection of some species (European Protected Species) and make it an offence to deliberately capture, kill or disturb certain wild animals, and to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal even if the animal is not present at the time.

The competent authority will have to adhere to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions. As such, they must consider whether it is likely that an EPSM Licence from Natural England will be granted, and in so doing must address the three tests when deciding whether to grant planning permission for the proposed development.

The three tests are that: Regulation 55(2)(e) states: a licence can be granted for the purposes of "preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment". Regulation 55(9)(a) states: the appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that there is no satisfactory alternative". Regulation 55(9)(b) states: the appropriate authority shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied "that the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range." Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 41 of the NERC Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as local planning authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the Act, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when exercising their normal functions. 56 habitats and 943 species of principal

importance are included on the S41 list. These are all the habitats and species in England that were identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).