

Biodiversity Net Gain Statement

The proposed development at Shepherds Barn, Birch Avenue, Haywards Heath RH17 7SL comprises a rear extension and associated roof alterations within the curtilage of an existing residential dwelling.

The site is currently in residential use and consists predominantly of domestic garden and built form. In accordance with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021 and Mid Sussex District Council's Biodiversity Net Gain policy, the development has been designed to avoid any unnecessary impact on existing habitats and ecological features.

Given the limited nature and scale of the proposal, the development is considered to result in a very minor change to the existing biodiversity value of the site. No significant loss of habitat is anticipated, and any temporary disturbance during construction will be confined to the immediate working area.

The scheme seeks to incorporate proportionate biodiversity enhancements where feasible, including retention of existing boundary planting and opportunities for additional native landscaping within the residential garden. These measures will contribute positively to local biodiversity and ecological resilience.

In line with national BNG requirements, the development will achieve at least a 10% biodiversity net gain where applicable through on-site enhancements or, if required, through alternative mechanisms in accordance with the statutory biodiversity metric and Council guidance. Any required Biodiversity Gain Plan will be submitted and discharged prior to commencement of development.

Overall, the proposal maintains the existing residential character of the site while supporting opportunities for biodiversity enhancement in accordance with national and local planning policy objectives.