

Biodiversity Statement

Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension

31 Spruce Road, Woodley, RG5 4BB

1. Introduction

This Biodiversity Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the erection of a single storey rear extension. The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate that the proposed development has been designed to minimise impacts upon biodiversity and existing ecological features.

2. Existing Site Conditions

The application site comprises an established residential curtilage associated with an existing dwelling. The area affected by the proposed extension consists predominantly of an existing hard surfaced patio area immediately adjoining the rear of the dwelling. A small section of maintained amenity grass adjacent to the existing patio will be removed to facilitate the reconfiguration of external paving associated with the proposed bifold doors. No mature vegetation, hedgerows, shrubs or trees will be removed as part of the development.

3. Proposed Works

The proposed development comprises:

- A single storey rear extension extending approximately 4 metres from the existing rear elevation;
- Replacement of existing rear openings with bifold doors;
- Minor landscaping alterations involving replacement of a small area of amenity grass with patio surfacing.

No works are proposed to the existing roof structure of the dwelling.

4. Ecological Considerations

The proposed development has been specifically designed to avoid impacts upon ecological receptors.

The development will not require:

- Removal or alteration of any trees;
- Removal of hedgerows or shrub planting;
- Disturbance of ponds or aquatic habitats;

- Alteration of the principal roof structure;
- Demolition of buildings or structures with known ecological potential.

Given the limited scale of the proposal and the nature of the affected surfaces, the likelihood of adverse effects on protected species is considered to be negligible.

The proposal primarily affects previously developed hardstanding and intensively managed garden areas of low ecological value.

5. Biodiversity Enhancement

Whilst not necessary to mitigate impacts arising from the proposal, opportunities exist to provide modest biodiversity enhancements in accordance with the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Potential enhancements may include:

- Installation of a bee brick within the new external wall construction;
- Native flowering planting within retained garden areas; and/or
- Provision of a small bird nesting box within the rear garden.

These measures would provide biodiversity benefits appropriate to the scale of the development.

4. Site Photographs

Photograph 1



View of the existing rear elevation and garden area demonstrating the predominantly hard surfaced nature of the development footprint.

Photograph 2



View of the existing rear elevation and garden area demonstrating the predominantly hard surfaced nature of the development footprint.

Photograph 3



View of the existing rear elevation and garden area demonstrating the predominantly hard surfaced nature of the development footprint.

Photograph 4



View of the existing rear elevation and garden area demonstrating the predominantly hard surfaced nature of the development footprint.

Photograph 5



View of the existing rear elevation and garden area demonstrating the predominantly hard surfaced nature of the development footprint.

Photograph 6



View of the existing rear elevation and garden area demonstrating the predominantly hard surfaced nature of the development footprint.

6. Conclusion

The proposed development is limited in scale and is largely confined to an existing patio area.

Only a very small area of managed amenity grass will be replaced with hard surfacing. No trees, hedgerows, shrubs or other notable habitat features will be affected.

The proposal does not involve roof alterations or demolition works that would increase the likelihood of impacts upon protected species.

Accordingly, the development is considered to have a negligible impact on biodiversity and ecological interests. The proposal accords with the objectives of national planning policy in seeking to conserve and enhance the natural environment, and no further ecological surveys are considered necessary in relation to the proposed works.