

Biodiversity Report for a Single-Storey Wraparound Extension Replacing a Tiled Side Way and Rear Patio

Site: 120 Fairwater Dr, Woodley, Reading RG5 3JB

1. Introduction

This biodiversity report is conducted in relation to the proposed construction of a single-storey wraparound extension to replace the existing patio and tiled side way of the property. The goal of this report is to evaluate the potential impact of the development on local biodiversity, specifically assessing the surrounding habitat, flora, fauna, and any mitigation measures necessary to ensure the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity throughout the project.

2. Site Description

The property is a residential dwelling situated in Fairwater Dr, Woodley, Reading. Currently, the side way is an unused, hard-surfaced area paved with patio tiles, and decking at the rear side which serves as a non-vegetative, non-permeable space. The surrounding environment includes gardens with a mixture of ornamental plants, lawns, trees, and hedgerows. The development will involve the removal of the patio and the construction of a wraparound extension extending out from the rear and side of the property.



Figure 1. Existing Side Way



Figure 2. Rear Patio/Garden

The immediate area around the side way and patio are characterized by low ecological value due to its hard-surfaced nature and lack of diverse habitats. However, the surrounding gardens and green spaces hold greater ecological potential and are crucial for local wildlife, particularly birds, insects, and small mammals.

3. Findings

3.1 Habitats and Vegetation

- **Existing Habitat:** The side way, covered by patio tiles, and rear patio offers little to no habitat for wildlife. However, the adjacent garden areas provide a range of habitats, including grass lawns, flower bed.
- **Invasive Species:** There is no evidence of invasive plant species on the site

3.2 Fauna

- **Birds:** There is no indication of nesting sites within the immediate vicinity of the side way.
- **Mammals:** Small mammals such as squirrels, hedgehogs, and urban rodents may use the surrounding garden area. No evidence of larger mammal activity was observed.

3.3 Ecological Features

- **Trees and Shrubs:** Several mature trees and hedgerows are in the neighbouring gardens. These provide valuable habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife. The extension's construction will not directly affect any trees or hedgerows.
- **Pollinator Habitat:** The garden areas provide important pollinator habitat with a variety of flowering plants that support bees and butterflies.
- **Water Sources:** No permanent water sources (such as ponds or streams) were identified within or near the site.

4. Potential Impacts of the Development

4.1 Direct Impacts

- **Loss of Hard Surface:** The removal of the patio and its replacement with a building will reduce the amount of hard surface, which may temporarily affect the movement of small terrestrial species such as insects and small mammals during the construction phase.

4.2 Indirect Impacts

- **Runoff and Drainage:** The new extension will cover an area that was previously paved.

5. Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

To mitigate the potential impacts of the development on local biodiversity, the following measures are recommended:

5.1 Pre-Construction

- **Wildlife-Friendly Site Preparation:** During the demolition of the patio, care should be taken to avoid disturbing any small mammals, insects, or nesting birds.

5.2 During Construction

- **Control of Waste and Debris:** Ensure that any waste materials do not spill onto surrounding garden areas, which could negatively impact plants and wildlife.
- **Dust Suppression:** Dust control measures should be put in place to minimize disturbance to plants and invertebrates.

5.3 Post-Construction

- **Pollinator Planting:** Post-construction landscaping should include native plants, particularly those that support pollinators like bees and butterflies. This will help enhance the habitat quality for local invertebrates and other wildlife.

6. Conclusion

The proposed single-storey wraparound extension replacing the patio-tiled side way and rear patio will have minimal direct ecological impact, as the existing side way and patio offers limited habitat value. However, careful attention during the construction phase and implementation of post-construction mitigation measures will help ensure that the development enhances the biodiversity value of the site. By incorporating native planting, green infrastructure, and wildlife-friendly features, the project can contribute positively to the local ecosystem, benefiting a variety of species such as birds, insects, and small mammals.

The mitigation measures outlined in this report will help reduce any negative impacts and promote long-term biodiversity enhancement for the property and its surrounding environment.