



DELEGATED APPLICATIONS - ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO./ADDRESS:

DC/26/1203

Bassett House, Gay Street Lane, North Heath, West Sussex, RH20 2HW

DESCRIPTION:

Erection of a single storey rear extension.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY:

None relevant to this application.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Horsham District Planning Framework (2015):

Policy 25 - Strategic Policy: The Natural Environment and Landscape Character

Policy 26 - Strategic Policy: Countryside Protection

Policy 28 - Replacement Dwellings and House Extensions in the Countryside

Policy 32 - Strategic Policy: The Quality of New Development

Policy 33 - Development Principles

Pulborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015 - 2031

Policy 15 - Design

Horsham District Local Plan (2023-40) (Regulation 19):

Policy 19: Development Quality

Policy 20: Development Principles

Policy 45: Replacement Dwellings and House Extensions in the Countryside

Parish Design Statement:

Pulborough Design Statement SPD May 2013

REPRESENTATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS RESPONSES

Where consultation responses have been summarised, it should be noted that Officers have had consideration of the full comments received, which are available to view on the public file at www.horsham.gov.uk.

Consultations:

Southern Waters: No objection.

Arboricultural Officer: No significant arboricultural concerns.

NatureSpace (District Newt Licencing Scheme): The proposed development is not considered to be relevant to the District Licensing Scheme in this case and we consider there would be no likely impact on great crested newts or their habitats. I therefore have no comments to make at this time.

Parish Comments:

Pulborough Parish Council: Members RESOLVED to support this application.

Representations:

None received

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY:

The application has been considered having regard to Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Human Rights Act 1998, which sets out a person's rights to the peaceful enjoyment of property and Article 8 of the same Act, which sets out their rights in respect to private and family life and for the home. Officers consider that the proposal would not be contrary to the provisions of the above Articles.

The application has also been considered in accordance with Horsham District Council's public sector equality duty, which seeks to prevent unlawful discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between people in a diverse community, in accordance with Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In this case, the proposal is not anticipated to have any potential impact from an equality perspective.

PLANNING ASSESSMENT:

The application has been assessed on the basis of the submitted details, together with the planning history of the site and adjoining properties, available images and photographs supplied by the agent. These details were considered sufficient to allow the application to be properly considered and determined.

Character and Appearance

Policy 28 of the HDPF relates to house extensions and outbuildings in the countryside, stating that extensions should not be disproportionate to the size of the existing dwelling, and should be in keeping with the scale and character of the existing dwelling. The policy also states that the cumulative impact of existing extensions will be taken into account.

Policies 32 and 33 of the HDPF seek to ensure that development promotes a high standard and quality of design in order to enhance and protect locally distinctive characters. The policies also seek to ensure that the scale, massing and appearance of development relates sympathetically with the built surroundings, landscape, open spaces and routes within and adjoining the site, including any impact on the skyline and important views.

Policy 15 of the Pulborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan aims to maintain that the scale, density, massing, height, landscape design, layout and materials of all development proposals, including alterations to existing buildings, will be required to reflect the architectural and historic character and scale of the surrounding buildings and landscape, as detailed in the Pulborough Design Statement and Nutbourne Design Statement.

The proposal seeks planning permission for the erection of a single storey rear extension with gabled roof. Whilst the proposal would be a lengthy extension, the proposed width and the single storey nature of the extension would ensure that the proposal appears subordinate to the main dwelling. Furthermore, the development would be sited on a generous plot size which would be capable of accommodating an extension of this size. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed extension has been designed to appear proportionate to the size of the existing dwelling and in keeping with the scale as well as the character of the existing dwelling.

For the above reasons it is considered that the proposal would be of a design, form and scale which is appropriate to the character and appearance of the existing dwelling. The development would not harm

the character or appearance of the wider area. It is therefore considered that the visual impact of the proposal is acceptable and would accord with the above policies.

Impact on Neighbouring Amenity

Policy 33 of the HDPF states that permission will be granted for development that does not cause unacceptable harm to the amenity of the occupiers/users of nearby properties and land.

Due to the orientation of the main dwelling it is considered that the siting and layout of the proposal and the resulting relationship with adjacent properties would be sufficient to prevent any unacceptable harm to neighbouring amenity.

Tree and Landscaping

Policy 26 seeks to maintain that development in the countryside protect, conserve and enhance the key features and characteristics of the landscape character area in which it is located including the pattern of woodlands, fields, hedgerows, trees, waterbodies and other features.

The application is not accompanied by any supporting information in respect of the potential impact on adjacent trees of public amenity value.

Following consultation with the Council's Arboricultural Officer, it is noted that the proposal requires the removal of an aging Indian bean tree situated in the lawn area of the property. The tree is in declining health and not suitable for longer term retention in any event. It has no public visual amenity value and is not a constraint on potential property development.

The mature bounding trees to the East are located a reasonable distance from the area of foreseeable development process associated with the extension. A deep garden border currently acts as a constraint on the spread of the development process over their key soft ground rooting area. Provided the border is retained, there will be no foreseeable harm to the rooting areas of these trees. Therefore, there are no significant arboricultural concerns raised in relation to the proposed development.

Water Neutrality

A 2021 Position Statement from Natural England identified that it could not be concluded with the required degree of certainty that new development in the Sussex North Water Supply Zone would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Arun Valley SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites. As a consequence, and to comply with the legal duties set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (known as the Habitat Regulations), all new development since has been required to demonstrate water neutrality.

On 31st October 2025 Natural England formally withdrew the 2021 Position Statement, citing a package of measures that they were satisfied would safeguard the Arun Valley sites. Principal amongst these measures is a reduction in the Southern Water abstraction licence 'by March 2026'. However, given the licence change has not yet taken place Horsham District Council, as competent authority under the Habitats Regulations, cannot yet be certain that new development will not result in adverse impacts on the Arun Valley sites.

To ensure development can come forward as water neutral in the meantime, the Council has agreed with Natural England to use the significant water savings made by Southern Water in 2024/25 through their programme of leakage reduction (amongst other measures). This has generated some 3,240,000 litres per day of water savings that can now be attributed to new development without increasing water abstraction in the Arun Valley beyond baseline. These savings were previously to be used to launch the Sussex North Water Certification Scheme (SNWCS), however following the withdrawal statement SNWCS will no longer be launching. Natural England standing advice dated 10 November 2025 raises no objection to using these savings to enable development to come forward. The standing advice clarifies that it functions as Natural England's formal response pursuant to Regulation 63(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 to all relevant planning applications which seek to achieve water neutrality using the above Southern Water savings.

Officers have undertaken an Appropriate Assessment which demonstrates that the anticipated increase in mains water consumption from this development, alongside all other development granted since the 31st October 2025, will not exceed 3,240,000 litres per day.

Accordingly, Officers consider that the proposed development will not have an Adverse Effect on the Integrity of the Arun Valley Site, either alone or in combination with other plan and projects, thereby complying with Regulations 63 and 70 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, HDPF Policy 31, and N6 of the NPPF.

Biodiversity Net Gain

In accordance with the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024 as amended, this application is exempted from the statutory requirement to demonstrate a 10% net gain in biodiversity as the development is below 0.2 hectares.

Conclusion

The proposal is considered to comply with relevant local and national planning policies and is therefore recommended for approval.

Recommendation: Application Permitted

Conditions:

- 2 **Standard Time Condition:** The development hereby permitted shall begin before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

- 3 **Regulatory Condition:** The materials to be used in the development hereby permitted shall strictly accord with those indicated on the application form and approved plans.

Reason: To enable the Local Planning Authority to control the development in detail in the interests of visual amenity and in accordance with Policy 33 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).

POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE STATEMENT

Statement pursuant to Article 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by assessing the proposal against all material considerations, including planning policies and any representations that may have been received, in order to be able to, where possible, grant permission.

Plans list for: DC/26/1203

Schedule of plans/documents **approved:**

Plan Type	Description	Drawing Number	Received Date
Floor plan	Existing ground	1.02	28.07.2026
Floor plan	Existing first	1.04	28.07.2026
Roof plan	Existing	1.05	28.07.2026
Elevation plan	Existing south and east	1.07	28.07.2026

Elevation plan	Existing north and west	1.08	28.07.2026
Plans	Topographical	1.01	28.07.2026
Location & Block plan		3.01	28.07.2026
Floor plan	Proposed ground, first and roof	3.02	28.07.2026
Elevation plan	Proposed and section AA	3.03	28.07.2026

DELEGATED

Case Officer sign/initial Halima Chowdhury Date: 07.09.2026

Authorising Officer sign/initial RHERMITAGE Date: 21.09.2026