

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

Submitted in discharge of Condition 5 (Pre-Commencement, Slab Level)

Site Address:	Birchfield Nursery, Kidders Lane, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9AA
Planning Reference:	DC/25/1828
Local Planning Authority:	Horsham District Council
Applicant:	Jack Dunkley, Award-Winning Garden Designer
Date:	11 May 2026
Relevant Policies:	Policy 31 HDPF (2015) Policy 10 HNP (2021) s40 NERC Act 2006

1. Purpose and Conservation Objectives

This Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) is submitted by the applicant in response to Condition 5 of the planning permission for the above site. The applicant, Jack Dunkley, is a multi award-winning professional garden designer with extensive expertise in planting design, native species selection, and the creation of ecologically beneficial gardens. The enhancement measures set out below are proportionate to the small-scale residential nature of the development and have been selected and specified by the applicant drawing on his professional knowledge.

The objectives of this strategy are to:

- Provide new nesting and roosting opportunities for birds and bats within and on the new building;
- Support hedgehog movement through the site by maintaining connectivity with neighbouring gardens;
- Introduce native planting to benefit pollinating insects and other wildlife;
- Ensure all measures are implemented and maintained for the long term.

2. Enhancement Measures

The following measures will be incorporated into the development. All items are widely available from garden centres or online retailers (e.g. CJ Wildlife, Jacobi Jayne, RSPB Shop) and can be installed by the applicant or builder without specialist assistance.

2.1 Swift Brick

Two swift bricks (e.g. Schwegler 17 Swift Brick or equivalent) will be built into the external walls of the new dwelling, as shown on Drawing CON05. It will be positioned on a north or north-east facing elevation, as high as practicable under the eaves and no lower than 5 metres above ground level, with a clear unobstructed approach. Swifts are a Red List species in severe national decline and the provision of artificial nest sites is strongly encouraged by Natural England.

2.2 Bird Nest Boxes

Three bird nest boxes will be installed on the building and within the curtilage of the site, as shown on Drawing CON05:

- One hole-fronted nest box (32mm entrance hole) suitable for blue tit and great tit, fixed to a north or east facing wall or tree at a height of between 2 and 4 metres;
- One open-fronted nest box suitable for robin or blackbird, positioned in a sheltered location with vegetation nearby, at a height of between 1.5 and 2 metres.

2.3 Bat Box

Two bat tubes (e.g. Schwegler 1FF Bat Tube or Ibstock Bat Conservation Brick) will be installed on the building or on a retained tree. It will be positioned at a minimum height of 3.5 metres above ground level, facing south or south-west, with a clear flight line free from artificial light. Common pipistrelle bats are known to forage in gardens and along hedgerows in this area.

2.4 Hedgehog Access

A gap of at least 130mm x 130mm will be left in or under all new close-boarded boundary fencing to allow hedgehog movement through the site. Hedgehogs are a UK Priority Species under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and are in significant national decline. This simple measure costs nothing and directly supports local populations.

2.5 Native Hedging

A native hedgerow will be planted along the eastern boundary of the site fronting the A281 (Kidders Lane), as shown on Drawing CON05. Species will be selected from UK/local provenance stock and will include a mix of at least five native species such as hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), and field maple (*Acer campestre*). The hedgerow will provide a wildlife corridor, screening from the road, and foraging and nesting habitat for birds and insects. Drawing on his professional expertise, Jack Dunkley will personally design and oversee the planting scheme.

3. Locations of Enhancement Measures

The approximate locations of all measures are shown on the site plan appended to this document (Appendix A). The plan identifies the position of:

- Two swift bricks (SB) — on the building (north/north-east elevation, under eaves);
- Three bird boxes (BB) — on building and retained trees within the curtilage;
- Two bat tubes (BT) — on building or retained trees (south/south-west facing);
- Three hedgehog access points (HAP) — in boundary fencing as shown on Drawing CON05;
- Native hedging — along the eastern boundary fronting the A281 (Kidders Lane), as shown on Drawing CON05.

Note: Exact positions may be adjusted at installation stage to suit the final construction, provided the specification above is met. The LPA should be notified of any material change.

4. Persons Responsible for Implementation

Measure	Responsible Person	Stage
Two swift bricks	Builder / Jack Dunckley	During construction (before roof level)
Three bird boxes	Jack Dunckley	Before occupation
Two bat tubes	Jack Dunckley or builder	Before occupation
Three hedgehog access points	Builder / fencing contractor	When fencing installed
Native hedging — eastern boundary	Jack Dunckley	First planting season after occupation

5. Aftercare and Long-Term Maintenance

All measures will be retained in perpetuity and maintained as follows:

Swift Brick and Bat Box

- The swift brick and bat box/tube will not be blocked or removed. No action is required other than ensuring the entrance is kept clear of vegetation or debris.
- The bat box should not be opened, cleaned or disturbed. If it becomes damaged it should be replaced like for like.

Bird Nest Boxes

- Bird nest boxes should be cleaned out annually in October or November once nesting has finished for the year. Remove old nesting material and rinse with boiling water (do not use chemicals).
- If a box becomes damaged it should be replaced in the same position.

Hedgehog Gaps

- Hedgehog access gaps will be retained in all boundary fencing for the life of the development. If fencing is replaced, gaps will be reinstated in the same positions.

Native Hedging

- Planted shrubs will be maintained in a healthy condition. Any plant that fails to establish within the first two years will be replaced with the same species.
- No pesticides or herbicides will be used within 1 metre of planted shrubs.

6. Declaration

Condition 5 Requirement	Addressed In
(a) Purpose and conservation objectives	Section 1
(b) Detailed designs to achieve stated objectives	Section 2
(c) Locations shown on maps and plans	Section 3 and Appendix A

Condition 5 Requirement	Addressed In
(d) Persons responsible for implementation	Section 4
(e) Initial aftercare and long-term maintenance	Section 5

I confirm that the information contained in this Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy is accurate and that all measures described will be implemented as stated and maintained for the life of the development. As a professional garden designer, I will personally oversee the planting scheme and ensure all ecological enhancement measures are established and maintained to a high standard.

Name: Jack Dunckley

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix A — Site Plan

Please attach a copy of the site/block plan below, annotated to show the locations of all five enhancement measures listed in Section 3.

Drawing No: CON05

Mark the positions of: swift brick | bird boxes | bat box | hedgehog gaps | native planting