

Biodiversity Net Gain – Exemption Statement

Pickle & Peach, 87 Ocean Road, South Shields, NE33 2JJ

Proposal

Installation of an aluminium louvred roof awning (projection 2.72 m, width approx. 6.30 m, overall height 2.40 m) forming a weather-protected external seating area to the side yard of the café, with half-height solid walls to front and side, sliding glass panels above, and a fixed rear glass panel with glazed door. Integrated rainwater drainage to existing downpipe. Finish: black powder-coated aluminium with clear toughened safety glass.

Site baseline

The works are confined to the existing hard-surfaced side yard of the café. The application area contains no soft landscaping, trees, hedges or watercourses, and supports no priority habitats. The awning structure is bolted to the existing hardstanding; no soil stripping is required.

Extent of development

Approximate covered footprint: 6.30 m × 2.72 m = 17.136 m². Half-height walling is set on the existing slab and does not extend development into any vegetated areas. No habitat loss or fragmentation arises from the proposal.

Exemption rationale

This proposal is a small-scale alteration to a commercial premises located entirely on existing hardstanding. The affected area is well below 25 m² and there is no impact on any priority habitat or irreplaceable habitat. Accordingly, the development qualifies for the statutory 'below threshold' exemption from the requirement to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain.

Mitigation and good practice

Surface water from the louvred roof drains via the integrated gutter to the existing rainwater system. Any external lighting, if installed, will be low intensity and down-directed to avoid light spill. No vegetation removal is proposed.

Prepared by: Dayne Thompson (Applicant) – 10 October 2025