

## **Biodiversity Statement**

Proposed front extension to square off shop front.

212 HIGH STREET  
HORNCHURCH  
ESSEX  
RM12 6QP

Biodiversity net gain does not apply as the development is subject to the de minimus exemption as the applicant impacts less than 25 sqm of non-zero distinctiveness habitat and less than 5 sqm of hedgerow and does not impact priority habitat.

This is a minor extension of approximately 8 sqm on an existing hardstanding (paved) area. In addition to paving to the front, there is hardstanding for two cars to the rear and a tarmac access road to the side of the site. These existing sealed surfaces are typically assigned a zero score in the statutory biodiversity metric and are effectively exempted from the 10% net gain requirement. In short, there are no on-site habitats (priority or otherwise) to be lost or downgraded by the proposed extension.