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7341: HINCKLEY WEST PHASE 4

BRIEFING NOTE: BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

1. Ecology Solutions was commissioned by Bloor Homes in January 2023 to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment of the proposed development at the land west of Hinckley, hereafter referred to as 'the site'.
2. The proposal for the site is for 153 residential dwellings with associated infrastructure and areas of open space, including the creation of areas of native wildflower grassland and tree planting based around native species and those of benefit to wildlife.
3. This document details the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment undertaken for the above site, using the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

4. This Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment has been based upon the proposed illustrative masterplans (EM100-LS-021c (Site Landscaping overview Ph4)) for the above site, which is included at Appendix 1.
5. The landscape proposals include the loss of modified grassland, hardstanding and small losses to hedgerows. Plan BNG1 shows the existing habitats within the site.
6. Proposed habitats include other neutral grassland, individual trees, modified grassland, amenity shrub planting and hedgerow planting. In addition, retained hedgerows will be enhanced through bolster planting with native species and subject to a favourable management regime. Plan BNG2 shows the proposed habitats within the site.
7. Following calculations based upon the illustrative proposals undertaken using DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool, it can be seen that a net gain in biodiversity can be delivered as a result of the proposed development. Specifically, an increase in habitat units from 8.86 units to 10.20 units (which equates to a **15.15% increase**) and an increase in hedgerow units from 3.03 units to 5.83 units (which equates to a **92.03% increase**). The DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation is shown at Appendix 2.

8. The condition assessments for the baseline habitats are detailed in Tables 1 and 2, and proposed habitats are detailed in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 1: Summary of baseline area-based habitats assessed against the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool condition sheets.

Baseline Habitat	Location	Condition Sheet	Condition Assessment		Condition
			Criteria Reference	Criteria Achieved (Y/N)	
Modified Grassland	Field F1	Grassland Habitat Type (Low Distinctiveness)	A	N	Poor (4 / 7 passed) Failed Criterion A which is essential for Moderate condition
			B	Y	
			C	Y	
			D	N	
			E	N	
			F	Y	
			G	Y	
Ruderal / Ephemeral	Areas beneath hedgerows	Urban	A	N	Poor (1 / 3 passed)
			B	N	
			C	Y	
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	North / north-west areas of field F1	Condition Assessment N/A			

Table 2: Summary of baseline hedgerows assessed against the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool condition sheets.

Hedgerow No.	Condition Criterion	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2	E1	E2	Condition
H1	Native Hedgerow	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Good
H2	Native Hedgerow	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N/A	N/A	Moderate

Table 3: Summary of proposed area-based habitats assessed against the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool condition sheets.

Proposed Habitat	Location	Condition Sheet	Condition Assessment		Condition
			Criteria Reference	Criteria Achieved (Y/N)	
Modified Grassland	Turfed grass areas	Grassland Habitat Type (Low Distinctiveness)	A	N	Poor (4 / 7 passed) Failed Criterion A which is essential for Moderate condition
			B	N	
			C	Y	
			D	Y	
			E	N	
			F	Y	
			G	Y	
Modified Grassland	Amenity grass areas	Grassland Habitat Type (Low Distinctiveness)	A	Y	Moderate (5 / 7 passed)
			B	N	
			C	Y	
			D	Y	
			E	N	
			F	Y	
			G	Y	
Other Neutral Grassland	Along eastern, southern and	Grassland Habitat Type (Medium Distinctiveness)	A	Y	Moderate (6 / 7 passed) Failed Criterion F as conservative
			B	Y	
			C	Y	

Proposed Habitat	Location	Condition Sheet	Condition Assessment		Condition
			Criteria Reference	Criteria Achieved (Y/N)	
	southwestern boundaries		D	Y	estimate which is essential for Good condition
			E	Y	
			F	N	
Ruderal / Ephemeral	Area beneath new hedgerow	Urban	A	N	Poor (1 / 3 passed)
			B	N	
			C	Y	
Urban Tree	Spread across development area	Individual Trees	A	Y	Moderate (4 / 6 passed)
			B	Y	
			C	N	
			D	Y	
			E	N	
			F	Y	
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Condition Assessment N/A				
Vegetated Garden	Condition Assessment N/A				
Introduced Shrub	Condition Assessment N/A				

Table 4: Summary of enhanced and proposed hedgerows assessed against the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool condition sheets.

Hedgerow No.	Condition Criterion	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2	E1	E2	Condition
H1	Enhanced to Species-Rich Native Hedgerow	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Good
H3	Created Species-Rich Native Hedgerow	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Good

9. It should be noted that the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric calculation does not take into consideration measures relating to protected or notable species. The provision of new species-rich grassland will provide enhanced foraging opportunities for Badgers, bats, and birds, as well as potential terrestrial habitat for amphibians. New tree and hedgerow planting will provide enhanced foraging and navigational opportunities for bats, foraging and nesting opportunities for birds and foraging opportunities for Badgers, potential hibernation/shelter opportunities for amphibians, as well as enhanced habitat for invertebrates.
10. A number of additional enhancements will also be provided as part of the proposed development, that are not accounted for within the net gain calculation. This includes the provision of bat boxes providing enhanced roosting opportunities for bats and bird boxes providing enhanced nesting opportunities for birds, as well as the provision of log piles/hibernacula that will provide enhanced hibernation opportunities for amphibians and create new habitat for saproxylic invertebrates post-development.

CONCLUSION

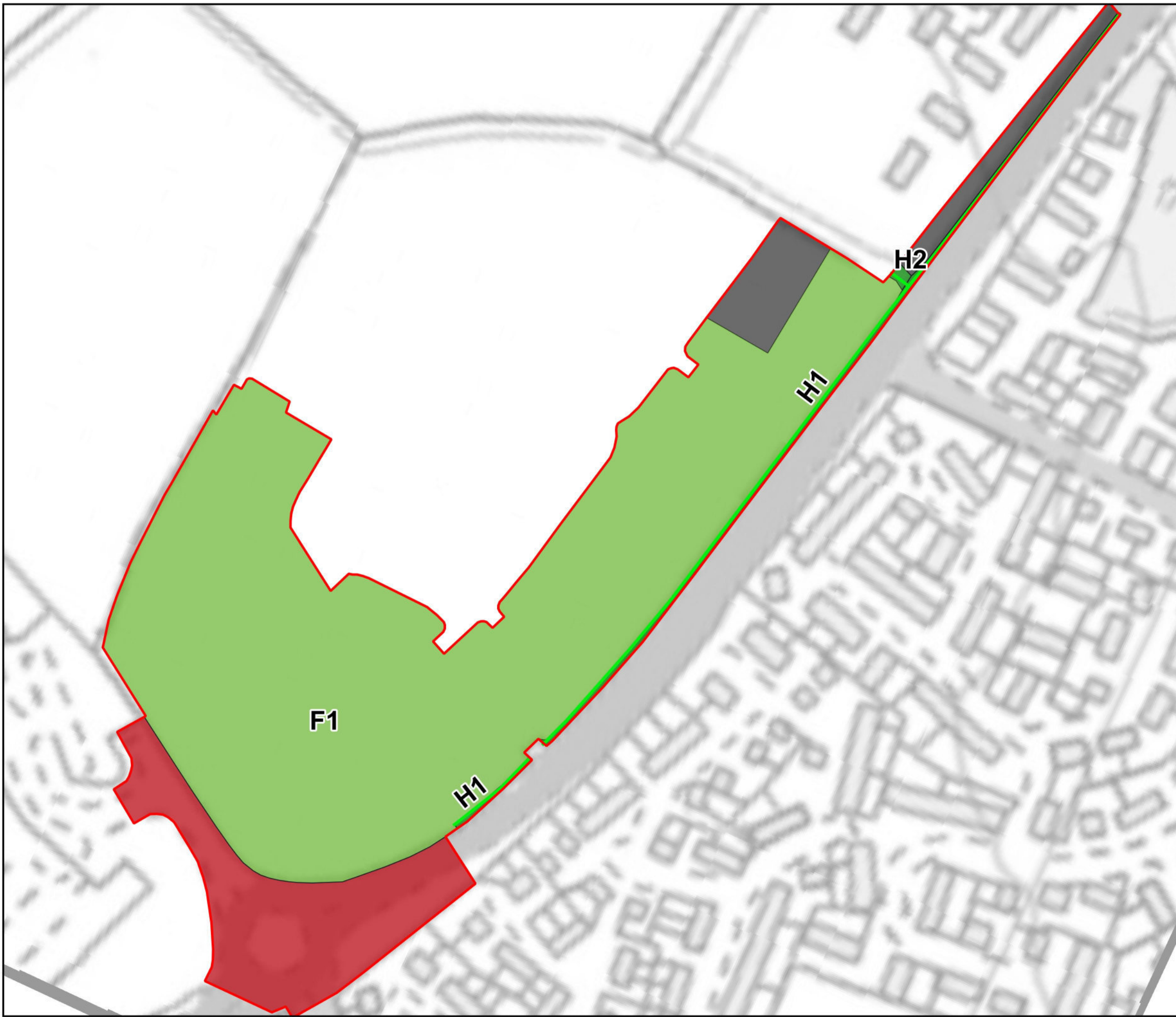
11. The calculation indicates that a net gain in biodiversity can be achieved under the current development proposals. It has also been demonstrated that the proposals would achieve a net gain in excess of 10%, specifically a **15.15% increase in habitat units and a 92.03% increase in hedgerow units**, which is expected to become the minimum net gain requirement following the adoption of a regulation within the Environment Act.
12. It is also considered that the development proposals will deliver a further net gain in biodiversity through the additional enhancement measures detailed above that are not accounted for within the calculation. As such, it is considered that it has been demonstrated that the proposed development will achieve an overall net gain in biodiversity over the existing situation.

Ecology Solutions
June 2023

PLANS

PLAN BNG1

Existing Habitats



KEY:

-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  HIGHWAY ACCESS - NOT ASSESSED FOR BNG
-  MODIFIED GRASSLAND (POOR CONDITION)
-  DEVELOPED; SEALED SURFACE
-  NATIVE HEDGEROW



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PLAN BNG1: EXISTING HABITATS

Rev: A
Jun 2023

PLAN BNG2

Proposed Habitats



- KEY:**
- SITE BOUNDARY
 - HIGHWAY ACCESS - NOT ASSESSED FOR BNG
 - DEVELOPED; SEALED SURFACE
 - VEGETATED GARDEN
 - MODIFIED GRASSLAND (POOR CONDITION)
 - MODIFIED GRASSLAND (MODERATE CONDITION)
 - INTRODUCED SHRUB
 - OTHER NEUTRAL GRASSLAND
 - ENHANCED SPECIES-RICH HEDGEROW
 - CREATED SPECIES-RICH HEDGEROW
 - URBAN TREE



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PLAN BNG2: PROPOSED HABITATS	Rev: A Jun 2023
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Illustrative Masterplan

- LEGEND**
- EXISTING TREES/HEDGES
To be retained
 - PROPOSED TREES
Heavy/Selected/Standard
See Schedule
 - ORNAMENTAL HEDGE
See Schedule
 - NATIVE HEDGE MIX
See Schedule
 - PROPOSED PLANTING
Shrubs/Herbaceous/Grasses
See Schedule
 - TURF
with area (m²)
 - AMENITY GRASS AREAS
Flowering grass mixture
Emmagine EL1 sown at 4g/m²
Kept mown short to 40mm
 - WILDFLOWER MEADOW
Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture
Emmagine EM3 sown at 4 g/m²
(Existing grassland to be retained and managed. Where
reclamation is required see as above)
 - GRAVEL
40mm of Golden Gravel
Laid over Geotextile
 - GRAVEL PATH
REGIONAL SPECIFICATION
 - DEADWOOD PILES (5 no.)
Deadwood piles made from

FOR DETAILED LANDSCAPING SEE
DRAWINGS EM100-LS-017-019

THIS DRAWING IS TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH
SEPARATE GROUP / SITE SPECIFIC CONSTRUCTION
NOTES AND MATERIALS SPECIFICATION.



HINCKLEY WEST PH4

Revision	Date	
a	Updated boundary, trim updated	23.05.23
b	Play equipment added to SE of Site	21.05.23
c	Changes to house types, ecological features added	06.06.23

Job: Hinckley West Ph4

Title: Site Landscaping
Landscape Overview

Scale: 1:500 @ A0
Date: Jan 2023

Drawn: LP
Checked: PMJ

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APPENDIX 2

DEFRA Biodiversity Metric Calculation

Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ▲

Return to
results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	8.86	
	Hedgerow units	3.03	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	10.20	
	Hedgerow units	5.83	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	1.34	15.15%
	Hedgerow units	2.79	92.03%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	1.34
	Hedgerow units	2.79
	Watercourse units	0.00
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	1.34
	Hedgerow units	2.79
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	15.15%
	Hedgerow units	92.03%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	8.86	9.74	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	3.03	3.34	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

Unit requirement met or surpassed ✓
Unit requirement met or surpassed ✓
Unit requirement met or surpassed ✓

Project Name: Map Reference:				Area habitat summary			
A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline				Total Net Unit Change		1.94	
				Total Net % Change		18.19%	
				Treeding Index Retained		Yes ✓	
Condense / Show Columns				Condense / Show Rows			
Main Menu				Instructions			

Existing area habitats							Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance				Ecological baseline
Ref	Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic Significance multiplier	Required Action to Meet Treeding Index	Total habitat units			
1	Urban	Developed land, sealed surface	0.331	Very Low	0	NA - Other	0	Area compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Distinctiveness	1	Compensation Not Required	0.00			
2	Sparsely vegetated land	Buckwheat/phenaria	0.101	Low	2	Poor	1	Area compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Distinctiveness	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat created	0.20			
3	Grassland	Modified grassland	4.327	Low	2	Poor	1	Area compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Distinctiveness	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat created	8.65			
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															
Total habitat area			4.75									8.85			
Site Area (Including area of individual trees and Green walls)			4.75												

Retention category biodiversity value						Regulate compensation agreed for unsuitable losses	Comments		
Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area habitat lost	Units lost		User comments	Consenting body comments	CMS reference number
		0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00				
0.003		0.19	0.00	0.01	0.02		Area beneath hedgerows		
		0.00	0.00	4.33	8.65				
0.09	0.00	0.19	0.00	4.66	8.67				
Total area lost (including area of individual trees and Green walls)				4.66					

M² to hectares conversion tool:				Select a unit	Hectares	M²

Area habitat summary	
Total Net Unit Change	1.94
Total Net % Change	10.19%
Vegetation Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓
Area Check (excluding individual trees and green walls)	Area Acceptable ✓

Project Name: Map Reference:
B-1 On-Site Hedge Baseline

Condense / Show Columns
Condense / Show Rows
Map Users
Instructions

Hedgerow summary	
Total Net Util Change	2.78
Total Net % Change	89.09%
Trading Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓

Existing hedgerow habitats				Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline Total hedgerow units
Baseline ref	Hedge number	Hedgerow type	Length (m)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance		
1	H1	Native hedgerow	0.499	Low	Good	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness based on better	2.99
2	H2	Native hedgerow	0.01	Low	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness based on better	0.04
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
			0.51					3.03

Retention category biodiversity value						Comments		GIS reference number
Length retained	Length enhanced	Units retained	Units enhanced	Length lost	Units lost	User comments	Consenting body comments	
	0.491	0.00	2.98	0.01	0.05			
		0.00	0.00	0.01	0.04			
0.00	0.49	0.00	2.98	0.02	0.09			

Project Name: Map Reference:		Hedgecrow summary																						
B-2 On-Site Hedge Creation		Total Net Yield Change		3.19																				
		Total Net W Change		10.00%																				
		Treasury Value Selected		Yes ✓																				
Condense / Show Columns		Condense / Show Rows																						
Main Menu		Substructure																						
Baseline ref	New hedge number	Proposed habitats		Disturbance		Condition		Strategic significance			Temporal multiplier				Difficulty risk multipliers			Bridge units delivered	Comments					
		Habitat type	Length (m)	Disturbance	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic position multiplier	Standard Time to target condition (years)	Habitat created in advance (years)	Delay in starting habitat creation (years)	Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Final time to target condition (years)	Final time to target multiplier	Standard difficulty of creation		Applied difficulty multiplier	Final difficulty of creation	Difficulty multiplier product	User comments	Overseeing body comments	Old reference number
1	B2	Specimen rich native hedgerow	4000	Medium	4	Good	3	Recreation/conservation not in local strategy not listed as priority	Low to medium disturbance	4	15	0	0	Standard time to target condition adjusted	15	400%	Low	Standard difficulty multiplier	None	1	0.41			
2																								
3																								
4																								
5																								
6																								
0.69																					0.41			

[illegible]



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