



Avant Homes

Lychgate Lane, Burbage

Biodiversity Net Gain Plan

July 2026

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of Avant Homes for the development proposal off Lychgate Lane, Burbage, herein referred to as ‘the Site’.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is both to update Biodiversity Net Gain calculations undertaken by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd in 2022, and to provide a plan for ensuring the habitat proposals as described within the calculations are met, to discharge condition 23 of the appeal decision ref. APP/K2420/W/23/3321670:

“No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until a Biodiversity Net Gain Plan (the Plan) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Plan shall be based on the submitted Biodiversity Net Gain metric spreadsheet (Sam Weston 05/05/2022) and shall provide a minimum of 1% net gain on the reported baseline habitat loss. The Plan shall include the following details:

- a) Location plan of the area(s) to be used for Biodiversity Net Gain;*
- b) Description of existing habitats on and off site;*
- c) Description of planned habitat creation/enhancement, including species;*
- d) Baseline habitat data used to inform metric;*
- e) Habitat creation/enhancement plans used to inform metric;*
- f) Timetable for implementation of habitat creation/enhancement;*
- g) Habitat management and monitoring plan including timetable for management routines and reviews, and strategy for any remedial measures, if and when required;*
- h) Mechanism for securing the implementation of the biodiversity off-setting and its maintenance/management for a period of 30 years in accordance with details approved in the Plan;*
- i) Timetables for implementation.*

The Plan shall be supported by up to-date Biodiversity Net Gain metric calculations for both the application site and the site for off-setting using the latest DEFRA version of the metric. The Plan shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details and shall be retained thereafter.”

Site Location and Context

- 1.3 The site is located off Lychgate Lane to the east of the village of Burbage and comprises one compartment of poor semi-improved grassland with some scrub cover along the eastern boundary.
- 1.4 The site is bordered by species poor native hedgerows.
- 1.5 The bordering landscape to the north, east, and south is predominantly agricultural.

Site Proposals

- 1.6 The proposals include the development of a residential housing estate and associated green infrastructure. Eighty-two houses are proposed with gardens, hedgerows, mature trees, play area, and associated urban infrastructure.

2.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

Strategic Significance

- 2.1 The Site is classed as an area not in local strategy. The site is not identified as part of any biodiversity strategy within the Charnwood Draft Local Plan 2021-37
- 2.2 Priority habitats within the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan¹ present within the site comprise hedgerows and mature trees, although they are not mapped or described as important in this specific location. No other priority habitats are present within the Site boundary.
- 2.3 Considering the above, the hedgerows and mature trees on Site are considered to be of medium strategic significance. The habitat areas on the Site are not considered to be of strategic significance.

Baseline Habitats (Figures 1 & 4)

- 2.4 The Site baseline predominantly comprises modified grassland in poor condition, with an area of mixed scrub in poor condition along the western boundary. The site is bounded by species poor native hedgerows in good condition, with a number of mature trees.
- 2.5 Baseline habitats are described in more detail in the previously submitted Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Note.

3.0 PROPOSED DESIGN

- 3.1 Habitat proposals have been informed by the Detailed Soft Landscape Proposals Plan (Drawing no. P24-0282_EN_0001_E_0005) and the Site Layout Plan (Drawing no. EM-LLB-20 rev. F). Proposals aim to create habitats appropriate to the local area, with conditions targeted to be realistically achievable.

Retained Habitats

- 3.2 Habitat retention is illustrated in Figure 3. The habitats to be lost under current proposals are 2.69ha of modified grassland in poor condition and 0.09ha of mixed scrub in poor condition.
- 3.3 Where feasible, hedgerows and lines of trees are to be retained, with a 13m section of hedgerow H4 lost for access.

Habitat Creation

- 3.4 Post-development habitats are shown in Figure 2. Green Infrastructure (GI) proposals include the creation of a range of habitats suited to a residential development, including amenity and wildflower grassland, ornamental planting, and native scrub planting.
- 3.5 Tree and native scrub planting will be incorporated throughout the Green Infrastructure areas along with grassland areas. These habitats will be managed for their value to biodiversity and grasslands will be sown with a species rich seed mix.

¹ Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-2026. Access [online] 25.04.23 Available at: [Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland BAP \(lwrt.org.uk\)](https://www.leicester.gov.uk/leicestershire-and-rutland-biodiversity-action-plan/)

- 3.6 36 small native trees will be planted within areas of grassland and ornamental planting within the Green Infrastructure.
- 3.7 Approximately 100m of native hedgerow (H2) in good condition will be enhanced to species-rich native hedgerow in good condition. This will be achieved through supplementary planting and ongoing management.

Table 1: Summary of Proposed Habitat Management

Habitat (UKHab Type)	Targets for Creation/Management	Target Condition	Distinctiveness
Other neutral grassland	Wildflower meadows created towards the west of the Site. Creation of a herb rich neutral grassland community achieved through use of a suitable nutrient poor substrate, achieved through topsoil mixing or similar. Seeding with an appropriate species rich seed mix (e.g., Emorsgate EM3 or similar composition). The following management prescriptions should be adopted to achieve the target value by achieving 3 or 4 of 5 criteria: 1-2 cuts taken per year, with the grassland left un-mown during the summer and any arisings removed. A graduated edge between scrub and grassland habitat types should be encouraged. - Treatment to remove any invasive non-native species should they arise. - Targeted weeding/treatment to limit/remove undesirable species to below 5% ground cover (creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>, broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i>, cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>).	Moderate	Medium
Modified grassland	Species rich grassland areas created within the developed Site areas. The following management prescriptions should be adopted to achieve the target value by achieving 5 of 7 criteria: - Seeding with an appropriate species rich seed mix (e.g., Emorsgate EM2 or similar composition) to ensure at least 6 vascular plant species per m². - Rotational mowing throughout the year to ensure a varied sward (at least 20% of the sward less than 7 cm and at least 20% more than 7 cm at any time). - Treatment to remove any invasive non-native species and self-set scrub should they arise. - Regular maintenance and reseeding as needed to ensure physical damage remains below 5% of the total area and bare ground remains below 10% of the total area.	Good	Low
Modified grassland	Grassland managed for amenity purposes, mown areas alongside footpaths, or as part of grasscrete. No specific management prescriptions required to achieve the target condition.	Poor	Low

Mixed scrub	Native scrub planting will be included within the Green Infrastructure. The following management prescriptions should be adopted to achieve moderate condition by targeting at least 3 or 4 of 5 criteria: • Planting mix to use a diverse range of native species, with no one species compromising more than 50% of the mix. • Replace any failed woody specimens. • Targeted weeding/treatment to limit/remove invasive/undesirable species to below 5% ground cover (typical species include but are not limited to- Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos spp</i>, cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster spp</i>). • Allow a graduated edge to form with scattered scrub and tall grassland along the peripheries where possible. • Rotational clearance/coppicing of selected areas to allow opportunities for natural regeneration.	Moderate	Medium
Urban tree	36 small trees to be planted throughout areas of modified grassland around the Site. Trees will be managed to achieve moderate condition by targeting at least 3 or 4 of 5 criteria. The following management prescriptions will be implemented: • Only native tree species in planting scheme. • Area beneath trees maintained as vegetation (not paved/gravelled over) • Pruning regime to be limited to that required to maintain tree health, with exception of public health and safety requirements. • Avoid herbicide use in close proximity to trees (<1m). • Replace any failed specimens.	Moderate	Medium
Species-rich native hedgerow	Hedgerow H2 is to be enhanced from native hedgerow to species-rich native hedgerow through the following management prescriptions: • Supplementary planting to ensure at least 5 native woody species present throughout the length of the hedgerow to be enhanced. • Hedgerows will be managed to encourage tall, wide and bushy features with only one side of hedgerows cut each year. • A 1m margin from the base of the hedgerow will be planted with perennial vegetation and managed to remain 'undisturbed' • Avoid herbicide use in close proximity to hedgerow (<1m). • Replace any failed specimens	Good	Medium

4.0 OFF-SITE COMPENSATION

- 4.1 The off-site contribution to the development's biodiversity net gain is secured at a habitat parcel of 0.8ha forming part of a habitat bank managed by Environment Bank Ltd, held under Environment Bank's internal reference HARB03. The parcel is held within a wider habitat bank established specifically to generate biodiversity units for allocation to third-party developments, of which the units required for this scheme have been reserved under allocation reference BNGREG-TEOD8-AVDLJ.
- 4.2 The baseline for the parcel comprises modified grassland in moderate condition, with a baseline value of 0.3 habitat units.
- 4.3 Proposals for the generation of biodiversity units comprise enhancement of the existing modified grassland to lowland meadow, with a target condition of good. The parcel will then have a value of 1.03 habitat units, delivering a net gain of 0.73 habitat units.
- 4.4 Delivery and long-term management of the off-site parcel is secured through Environment Bank's habitat bank model, under which the developer's allocation (reference BNGREG-TEOD8-AVDLJ) reserves the biodiversity units generated by parcel HARB03 for use by this development. Purchase of the units has been completed to secure habitat enhancement, management and monitoring of the parcel for a minimum of 30 years.
- 4.5 Confirmation of the registration of the parcel, together with the purchase certificate and the parcel's HMMP, will be submitted to Leicestershire County Council to provide the remaining information required to discharge condition 23.

5.0 BNG METRIC

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 5.1 The habitat creation proposals highlighted within this report have all been inputted into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Table 3 provides a summary of the headline results of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric assessment completed for the proposals. The full metric has been provided in Appendix A.

Table 2: Statutory Biodiversity Metric Headline Results

On-Site Baseline	Habitat Units	5.74
	Hedgerow Units	4.33
On-Site Post-Intervention	Habitat Units	5.06
	Hedgerow Units	4.76
On-Site Net Unit Change	Habitat Units	-0.67
	Hedgerow Units	+0.42
Off-Site Baseline	Habitat Units	0.30
Off-Site Post-Intervention	Habitat Units	1.03
Off-Site Net Unit Change	Habitat Units	+0.73
Total Net Unit Change	Habitat Units	+0.06
	Hedgerow Units	+0.42
Total Net Percentage Change	Habitat Units	+1.01%
	Hedgerow Units	+9.79%

- 5.2 The assessment has demonstrated that the proposals as currently indicated will lead to an overall loss of -0.67 habitat units representing a -11.71% loss for this unit type. The proposals will lead to a +0.36 unit gain for hedgerows, representing a +7.48% gain. No change has been identified within the rivers category due to these habitat types not being present within the baseline or proposals.
- 5.3 To achieve the target of 1% habitat net gain, off-site enhancement will provide the delivery of a further 0.73 habitat units, delivering a total of +0.06 unit gain or +1.01%.

Habitat Trading

- 5.4 No irreplaceable habitats are present at the Site.
- 5.5 No high or very high distinctiveness habitats were present on site so like-for-like or bespoke compensation will not be required for any habitats that are to be lost under the current proposals.
- 5.6 The baseline habitats currently at the Site include medium distinctiveness mixed scrub which requires compensation to be provided through the provision of habitat within the same broad habitat type i.e. losses of one type of medium distinctiveness scrub may be compensated for by the creation or enhancement of any type of medium distinctiveness scrub. The current proposals provide sufficient quantities of medium distinctiveness habitat groups to satisfy the trading requirements.
- 5.7 Low and very low distinctiveness habitats can be compensated for by the creation of any habitat type, and the scheme has satisfied trading rules when off-site compensation is considered.
- 5.8 Table 4 below summarises the habitat trading results for the Site under the current proposals.

Table 3: Habitat Trading Summary

Trading Summary		
Distinctiveness Group	Trading Rule	Trading Satisfied?
Very High	Bespoke compensation likely to be required	N/A
High	Same habitat required	N/A
Medium	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required	Yes
Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The approach to habitat creation has aimed to maximise biodiversity value within the space made available within the proposals for green infrastructure. Biodiversity Net Gain has then been used to inform the habitat creation proposals for the scheme and to guide decisions around additional habitat provision.
- 6.2 The results of the assessment demonstrate that the scheme currently will not lead to an overall gain of biodiversity units associated with the area habitats when compared with the baseline habitats. The scheme does lead to a gain in hedgerow units when compared to the baseline.
- 6.3 The scheme has aimed to deliver a 1% uplift over the baseline biodiversity value of the Site and satisfy all the trading requirements for medium distinctiveness habitats. In order to achieve this, compensation equivalent to 0.74 habitat units will be acquired.



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Key

 **Red Line Boundary**

Baseline Habitats

 **Mixed scrub**

 **Modified grassland**

Baseline Hedgerows

 **Native hedgerow**





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Key

 Red Line Boundary

Proposed Habitats

 Grasscrete

 Developed land; sealed surface

 Introduced shrub

 Mixed scrub

 Modified grassland

 Other neutral grassland

 Vegetated garden

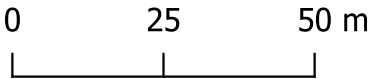
Proposed Hedgerows

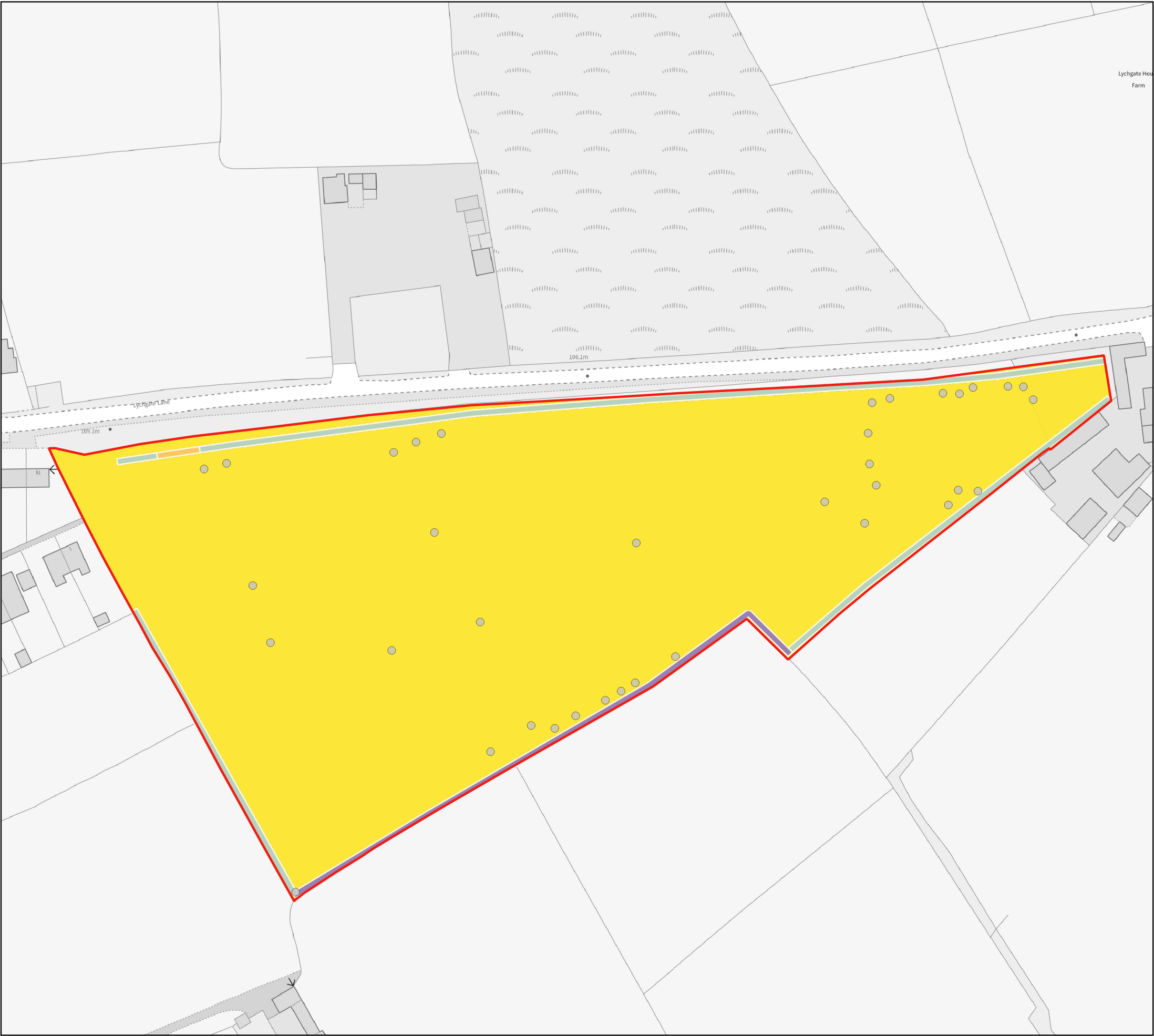
 Native hedgerow

 Species-rich native hedgerow

Proposed Individual Trees

 Proposed Small Urban Tree





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Key

 **Red Line Boundary**

Retained Habitats

 **Lost**

Retained Hedgerows

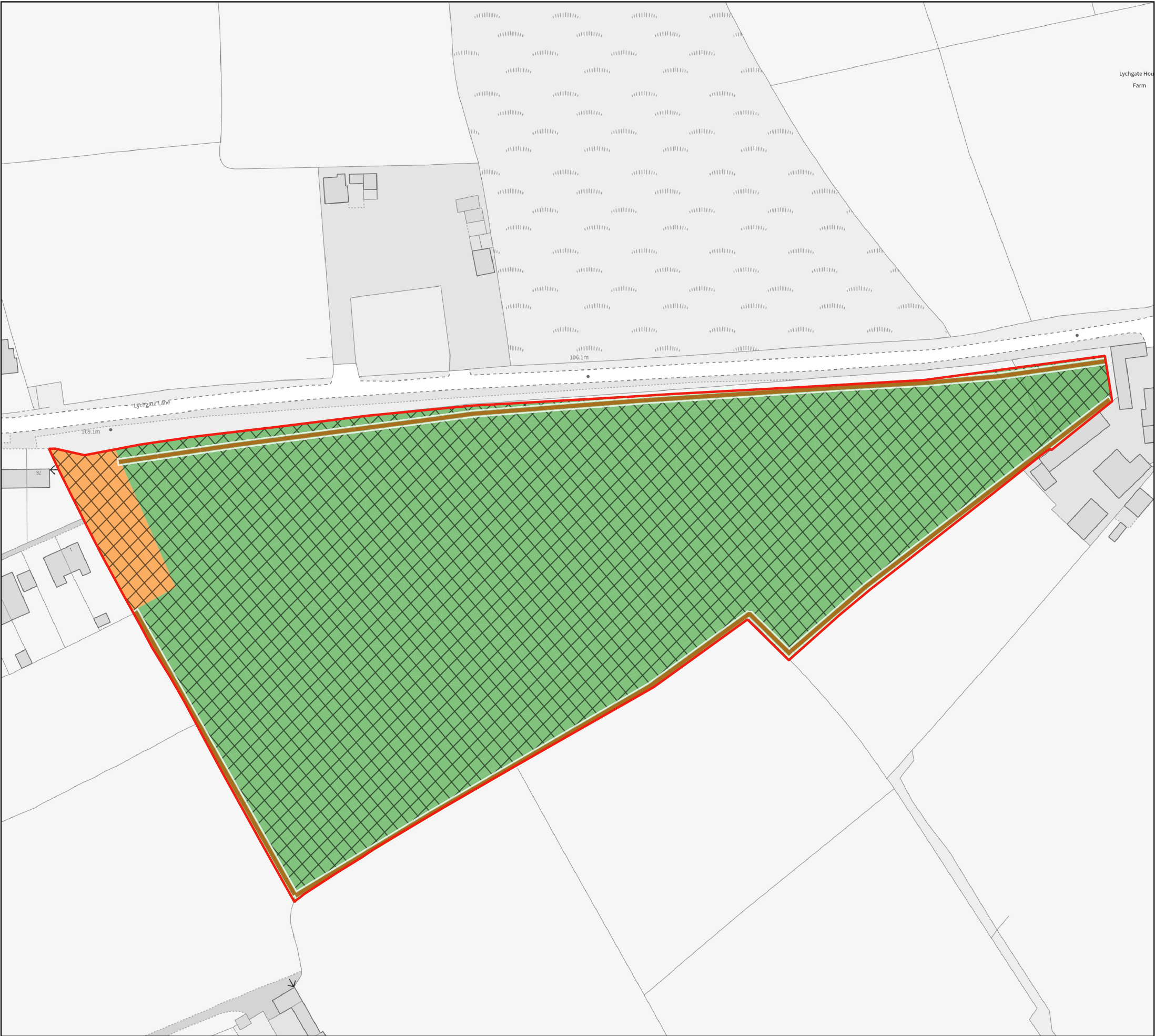
 **Enhanced**

 **Retained**

 **Lost**

Retained Individual Trees

 **Created**



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Key

 **Red Line Boundary**

Baseline Habitat Condition

 **Poor**

Baseline Habitat Distinctiveness

 **Medium**

 **Low**

Baseline Hedgerow Condition

 **Good**

Baseline Hedgerow Distinctiveness

 **Low**





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Key

Red Line Boundary

Proposed Habitat Condition

Good

Moderate

Poor

N/A

Proposed Habitat Distinctiveness

Medium

Low

V.Low

Proposed Hedgerow Condition

Good

N/A

Proposed Hedgerow Distinctiveness

Medium

Low

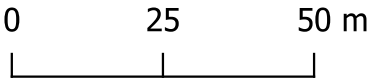
N/A

Proposed Individual Tree Distinctiveness

Medium

Proposed Individual Tree Condition

Moderate





client
Avant Homes

project
Lychgate Lane, Burbage

drawing title
PROPOSED HABITAT CONDTION /
DISTINCTIVENESS

scale @ A3
1:1,250

drawn
SFW

issue date
20/8/2024

drawing / figure number
Figure 5



Biodiversity gain plan

Submit a biodiversity gain plan to show how your development will achieve biodiversity net gain.

When to use this form

A biodiversity gain plan shows how a development will achieve 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG). Submit this form to your local planning authority after they approve your planning application.

Unless your development is exempt, you cannot start the development until the LPA approves your biodiversity gain plan and biodiversity metric calculation tool.

1. Submission details

1.1 Date

For example, 3/11/2023

08/07/2026

1.2 Planning application reference number

26/00367/DISCON

1.3 Local planning authority (LPA)

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

1.4 Development site address

If the site does not have an address, enter the OS grid reference.

Land Opposite Spring Acre, Lychgate Lane, Burbage,
Leicestershire

1.5 Describe the development

Tell us about the proposed development and any changes of use (250 words).

Residential development of up to 85 dwellings alongside associated site infrastructure and open space.

2. Developer details

2.1 Applicant name

Sam Salt

2.2 Company name

Avant

2.3 Address

Avant Homes Midlands, 1 Phoenix Place, Phoenix
Centre, Nottingham
NG8 6BA

2.4 Email address

sam.salt@avanthomes.co.uk

2.5 Telephone number

01156466415

2.6 Declaration

By signing this declaration, you confirm that the information you give is complete and correct. Any opinions are your genuine opinions.

2.7 Signature

Sam Salt

2.8 Date

08/07/26

3. Responsible person details

Tell us about who is responsible for completing the biodiversity gain plan. For example, a consultancy ecologist or planning agent.

3.1 Name

Sam Weston

3.2 Company name

FPCR Environment & Design

3.3 Address

Lockington Hall,
Derbyshire
DE74 2RH

3.4 Email address

sam.weston@fpcr.co.uk

3.5 Telephone number

01509672772

3.6 Declaration

By signing this declaration, you confirm that the information you give is complete and correct. Any opinions are your genuine opinions.

3.7 Signature

Sam Weston

3.8 Date

08.07.26

4. Biodiversity net gain strategy

4.1 Is the relevant date for the pre-development biodiversity value the same date as the planning application?

☒ Yes

☐ No

4.2 If no, what earlier date did you agree with the LPA?

4.3 How have you met the guidance on 'what counts towards your BNG'?

[Find out what you can count towards a development's BNG](#)

All habitat creation counted within the completed statutory metric under post-development habitat meets the criteria for being able to be counted in full. Habitat creation on the Site includes green infrastructure and ecological enhancement. There are no conflicting habitat schemes associated with the development.

4.4 How will you avoid or minimise impacts to habitats?

Tell us about the steps you've taken on site, including to avoid or minimise the impact on irreplaceable habitats.

The baseline habitats were of mostly low distinctiveness with some medium distinctiveness. No irreplaceable habitats were present. Medium distinctiveness habitats were retained where possible and replaced like-for-like where retention is not possible.

4.5 Did you use your local nature recovery strategy to inform the strategic significance of habitats?

This includes other specified strategies if you do not have a local nature recovery strategy.

☒ Yes

☐ No

4.6 How will you achieve the target net gain percentage?

☐ On-site

☒ Off-site

☐ Both

4.7 Are any of your on-site enhancements considered 'significant'?

[Find out what counts as a significant on-site enhancement.](#)

☒ Yes

☐ No

4.8 If yes, tell us about the significant on-site enhancements

Include the appropriate planning condition or how you've secured the habitat.

Proposed habitats include other neutral grassland, scrub, and individual trees. Habitat creation and maintenance is secured through planning conditions and as detailed within the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)

4.9 How many off-site biodiversity units do you need to meet 1% net gain?

0.73

4.10 Explain why you're using off-site biodiversity units

Only answer this question if you're planning to use off-site biodiversity units (250 words).

Due to the size of the land parcel being developed, and the proposed design, it is not possible to achieve a net gain post-development using on site land alone.

4.11 Explain why you're planning to use statutory biodiversity credits

Only answer this question if you're planning to use statutory biodiversity credits (250 words).

N/A

4.12 Do you have a habitat management and monitoring plan?

☒ Yes

☐ No

4.13 Have you used the statutory biodiversity metric tool?

☒ Yes

☐ No

4.14 Biodiversity metric calculation

Send your biodiversity metric calculation to the LPA and enter the file name.

B-HBOS2606-MST-V01 - -
The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_Calculation_Tool_-
_Macro_enabled_20.08.24-87e5a2 - EB Complete

4.15 Condition assessments

Send your condition assessments to the LPA and enter the file name.

Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Note.
Biodiversity Net Gain Plan

4.16 Pre-development habitat survey report and map

Send your baseline habitat survey report and map to the LPA. Enter the file name.

Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Note.
Biodiversity Net Gain Plan

4.17 Post-development habitat map or landscape plan

Send your post-development habitat survey report and map to the LPA. Enter the file name.

Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Note.
Biodiversity Net Gain Plan

4.18 Have you included an approved habitat degradation in the baseline?

If yes, include the relevant consenting body and reference number.

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

Consenting body

Reference number

5. Irreplaceable habitats

5.1 Does the development impact any irreplaceable habitats?

If yes, tell us if you've submitted an approved compensation plan.

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

5.2 Have you submitted an approved compensation plan?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No

6. On-site habitat enhancements

Answer this section if your development includes on-site habitat enhancements.

6.1 Survey date

For example, 3/11/2023

21/04/2021

6.2 Survey constraints

For example, access issues, weather, or seasonal constraints.

None

Total pre-development biodiversity value

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

5.74

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

4.33

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

0

6.4 Total post-development biodiversity value

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

5.06 (on site)

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

5.12 (on site)

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

0

6.5 Total net change in biodiversity units

Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

Area habitat biodiversity units

0.06

Area habitat biodiversity units % change

1.01

Hedgerow biodiversity units

0.36

Hedgerow biodiversity units % change

7.48

Watercourse biodiversity units

0

Watercourse biodiversity units % change

0

6.6 Will you register and allocate any biodiversity units from your site to other developments?

If yes or provisionally, give details.

☐ Yes

☒ No

6.7 Give details

Tell us about the amount of biodiversity units and the development location (250 words).

7. Off-site habitat enhancements

Answer this section if your development includes off-site habitat enhancements.

7.1 Tell us about the off-site habitat enhancements

Include whether you're delivering the off-site enhancements or buying biodiversity units.

Units have been purchased from the Environment Bank, comprising enhancement of modified grassland into lowland meadow

7.2 Biodiversity gain site register reference number

BGS-060625001

7.3 How have you secured the off-site habitat enhancements?

Tell us about any responsible bodies and whether you've used an S106 or conservation covenant.

Conservation covenant

8. Statutory biodiversity credits

Answer this section if you need to use statutory biodiversity credits.

8.1 Do you need to use statutory biodiversity credits?

☐ Yes

☒ No

8.2 How many statutory biodiversity credits do you need?

Tell us the unit shortfall by tier, including the spatial risk multiplier. Enter the number from the headline results in your statutory biodiversity metric calculation.

A1

A2

A3

A4

A5

H

W

8.3 What evidence is there that no units are available through the market?

Send a message from at least 3 habitat providers, or a search result from online registers.

8.4 Proof of purchase

Send proof of purchase and enter the reference number.

9. Trading summary

9.1 Distinctiveness group

Tell us if you met the BNG trading rules on habitat compensation for each distinctiveness group. If you did not meet the trading rules, tell us if you agreed bespoke habitat compensation.

Check the rules on habitat compensation in the [statutory biodiversity metric user guide](#).

Very high

Yes

High

Yes

Medium

Yes

Low

Yes

10. Sharing data (optional)

10.1 Can we share your ecological survey data with the Local Environmental Records Centre or other bodies?

☒ Yes

☐ No