

10th July 2024**File Note: BNG for Field at Market Bosworth School**

Ref: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) statutory version reporting file note**Site address:** Field at Market Bosworth School, Station Road, Near Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV13 0JT**National Grid Reference:** Centred on SK 4020 0323**Site area:** 1.22295ha BNG project area assessed.**Recipients:** The Market Bosworth School**BNG change summary.**

	Area units	Linear units	Watercourse
% Change	+10.43%	+0.14 units (no baseline)	N/A (none present in baseline or proposal)
More units required for a 10% net gain	N/A	N/A	N/A

Record of activity**➤ Background**

Arbtech consulting Ltd were instructed by The Market Bosworth School to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) evaluation of a development on the site, subject to a planning application with Wealden District Council for:

- The construction of astroturf, MUGA and pitch renovation with associated parking.

➤ Purpose of survey

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes it clear (para 170) that “Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment

by; minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”.

Paragraph 174 requires the promotion of “the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity”.

Proposals for net gain should be clearly recorded and reported through use of an appropriate metric such as the DEFRA statutory Biodiversity Metric. Natural England advise that any net gain should be fully secured and funded for the lifetime of the development.

The 10% target was set by the government to be the standard minimum net gain required by BNG.

Therefore, the purpose of this survey report is to provide an evaluation of the proposed plans compared to the ecological baseline, and to report any net gain (or loss) to biodiversity using the DEFRA statutory Biodiversity Metric scheme.

➤ **Surveyor and date of survey**

This survey report was carried out by Craig Williams, BSc (Hons), MSc, DIC, MRSB of Arbtech Consulting Ltd. iteratively, with the latest version on 13th June 2024. A previous preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) is used as the ecological baseline and was carried out on 15th May 2024, by Nicholas Smith of Arbtech Consulting Ltd. The baseline habitat map and the current proposed plan are found in appendix 1 and 2.

Site-specific BNG methodology notes

- No water course units are found on site in the baseline or proposed plans, and these sections are omitted from the metric.
- Large parts of the western field are considered retained in the metric, as although possibly damaged during construction, are likely to be restored to the baseline habitat and condition within two years.

Summary findings

- The full results of the metric are included in the excel file:

Statutory BNG metric (Field at Market Bosworth School CV13 OJT) v2

This highlights that the current change in the biodiversity habitat metric is:

- +10.43% in habitat units
 - +0.14 for linear units (percentage cannot be calculated as none present in baseline)
- The results indicate a net gain in both habitat and linear units. This is based on the replacement of large areas of modified grass and the small neutral grass meadow for the new artificial pitches area and car park, and the loss of 6 medium sized trees in the southern boundary. This is compensated for with enhanced grassland meadow habitat in the north of the site, mixed native scrub habitat, and 16 trees planted on site and 47 around the wider site.
- The off-site component of the metric included comprises:
- 0.17355ha baseline modified grass of poor condition in the wide sports field (the same habitat as the on-site sports field) enhanced to other neutral grass meadow of moderate condition, with the planting of 47 new small native trees (see map in appendix 2 for location of this provision).

Unit change discussion

- The currently proposed plan results in a 10.43% % net gain in habitat units (a gain of 0.34 area units from a baseline of 3.26) and a 0.14 net gain in linear units (a gain of 0.14 linear units from a baseline of 0.00, making a percentage difference incalculable).
- The change in area and linear units are more than the overall positive target of biodiversity net gain (10% gain) and are likely to be sufficient for planning approval based on the policy outlined above.

Creation and management

- The creation and management of any significant habitats on the compensation site to the appropriate condition would need to be secured for at least 30 years - linked to the application through a planning obligation in Section 106 (S106) agreement.
- Design statement
- This report contains recommendations on measures for achieving BNG. These recommendations do not constitute a design for BNG. In submitting these recommendations, Arbtech Consulting has no Design Liability associated with these recommendations for BNG.

The strategy sets out the criteria which the landscape team can use to design the creation and management of the site.

Appendix 1: Habitat baseline map



Appendix 2: Currently proposed ecological map of the site (tree locations are examples)



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