

ECOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE

PROJECT ADDRESS	Seventy Acre Farm, Meltham Road, Honley, HD9 6RG.
PLANNING REFERENCE	2023/62/92075/W (Kirklees Council)
ECOLOGY ASSESSMENT TYPE	BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN – REVISION
DATE	5 th February 2024
AUTHOR	Ryan Knight BSc (Hons) MCIEEM - Principal Ecologist
ISSUED TO	Robert Halstead Chartered Surveyors & Town Planners

INTRODUCTION

Knight Sky Ecology was commissioned to re-run the biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment for Seventy Acre Farm following several alterations to the proposed site layout during the planning consultation stage. These site layout alterations resulted in changes to the landscaping plan. Subsequently, the BNG assessment was required to be redone. The following previous BNG assessment was submitted to support the application:

- Knight Sky Ecology (2023). Seventy Acre Farm, Honley - Biodiversity Net Gain Report. July 2023
- Knight Sky Ecology (2023). Biodiversity Metric 4.0 calculation tool. July 2023.

The information contained within this document is intended to provide a summary of the revised BNG calculations that have been made. The BNG assessment calculations have been inputted into the *Statutory Metric Biodiversity Metric Tool* which supersedes version 4.0. This tool is to be submitted alongside this document. Figure 1 (existing) and Figure 2 (proposed) provide the UK Habitat Classification maps for the site. It can be confirmed that there are no changes to the original baseline value as assessed in the previous report. Any changes to BNG measurements from the original assessment have been highlighted in **red text** for clarity.



RESULTS

Baseline - On-site Habitats

Table 1.1 provides the list of habitat parcels on the site. Distinctiveness has been set automatically in the metric calculator. In terms of habitat condition, the modified grassland is poor condition, primarily due to having a very low species diversity and a uniform structure. Strategic significance has been removed as no areas are within the local strategy and all have a low strategic significance (multiplier x1).

The revised layout has resulted in a slight reduction in initial biodiversity loss (prior to habitat creation).

Table 1.1. Habitats on the site and a grading of their value

Habitats and areas			Distinctiveness		Condition		Ecological baseline	Retention category biodiversity value					
Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Total habitat Units	Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area habitat lost	Units lost
Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	0.3171	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.00
Urban	Vegetated garden	0.0186	V.Low	2	N/A - Other	1	0.04	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04
Grassland	Modified grassland	2.2173	Low	2	Poor	1	4.43	1.7474	0	3.49	0.00	0.47	0.94
Total Area		2.55	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.47	1.75	0.00	3.49	0.00	0.81	0.98

Baseline - On-Site Hedgerows

There are no hedgerows within the site. A 10% biodiversity net gain is therefore not required in respect of hedgerows. However, post-development calculations are provided to show the gains that would be made.



On-Site Habitat Enhancement

No habitats are proposed to be enhanced to achieve net gain.

On-Site Habitat Creation

Table 1.2 presents the calculations of the value of the created habitats post-development and as based on the revised landscape plan. The target conditions of the grassland, scrub and trees have been set at moderate. The time it will take to reach the target condition for the grassland and scrub is 5 years. The time to target condition of the trees is 27 years. Strategic significance for the scrub and the trees has been set at moderate as the habitats would provide much needed linkages for wildlife. The created habitats will deliver **1.77 habitat units (previously 1.37 habitat units)**.

Table 1.2. On-site habitat creation

Habitats and areas			Distinctiveness		Condition		Standard time to target condition (years)	Habitat units delivered
Broad Habitat	Proposed Habitat	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score		
Grassland	Developed land; sealed surface	0.5299	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	0	0.00
Urban	Vegetated garden	0.1395	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	1	0.25
Grassland	Other neutral grassland	0.0592	Medium	4	Moderate	2	5	0.33
Urban	Introduced shrub	0.0036	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	1	0.02
Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	0.0734	Medium	4	Moderate	2	5	0.42
Individual trees	Rural tree	0.1669	Medium	4	Moderate	2	27	0.34
Total Area		0.97					Total	1.77



On-Site Hedgerow Creation

Table 1.3 presents the calculations of the created hedgerows post-development and as based on the revised landscape plan. The target condition of the native hedgerow with trees has been set at moderate. The time it will take to reach the target condition is 10 years. The created hedgerows will deliver **1.58 hedgerow units (previously 2.48 hedgerow units)**.

Table 1.3. On-site hedgerow creation metric

Proposed habitats		Distinctiveness		Condition		Standard time to target condition (years)	Hedgerow units delivered
Habitat Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score		
Native hedgerow with trees	0.257	Medium	4	Moderate	2	10	1.58

SUMMARY

The pre-development value of the site is **4.47 habitat units**. The site's development proposals will result in a loss of biodiversity value comprising **0.98 habitat units**. No hedgerow habitat units are to be lost.

The post-development value of the site will be **5.27 habitat units**. This will achieve a biodiversity net gain of **17.83% (previous 10.64%)**. This net gain complies with the legislation set out within the Environment Act 2021.

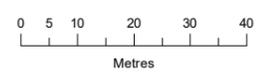
Whilst there are no hedgerows currently on the site, the development will deliver **1.58 hedgerow units**.

FIGURES (NEXT PAGE)

- **FIGURE 1. UK HABITAT CLASSIFICATION MAP (BASELINE)**
- **FIGURE 2. UK HABITAT CLASSIFICATION MAP (POST-DEVELOPMENT)**



Survey Information	
	Site boundary (25,530m ²)
UKHab Habitat Survey	
	g4 - Modified grassland (22,173m ²)
	u1b - Developed land; sealed surface (1,459m ²)
	u1b5 - Buildings (1,712m ²)
	230 - Garden (186m ²)
	u1e - Built linear features (921.0m)



PROJECT TITLE
SEVENTY ACRE FARM, HONLEY

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 1: UK Habitat Classification Map

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
2.0	06/07/23	UKHab	MP	RK

DRAWING NUMBER:
KSEcology/SeventyAcreFarm/UKHab

SCALE	1:1,250	PLOT SIZE	A3	DATUM	OSGB	PROJECTION	BNG
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Survey Information	
	Site boundary (25,530m ²)
UKHab Habitat Survey	
	h3h - Mixed scrub (734m ²)
	g3c - Other neutral grassland (592m ²)
	g4 - Modified grassland (17,474m ²)
	u1b - Developed land; sealed surface (3,636m ²)
	u1b5 - Buildings (1,663m ²)
	230 - Garden (1,395m ²)
	1160 - Introduced shrub (36m ²)
	h2a - Hedgerow (priority habitat) with 190 (257.0m)
	u1e - Built linear features, retained (461.2m)
	u1e - Built linear features, new (329.8m)
	Proposed heavy standard tree (19)
	Proposed standard tree (42)

Secondary Codes:

190 - Hedgerow with trees

PROJECT TITLE
SEVENTY ACRE FARM, HONLEY

DRAWING TITLE
Figure 1: Proposed Habitat Classification Map

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
4.0	05/02/24	UKHab Proposed	MP	RK

DRAWING NUMBER:
KSEcology/SeventyAcreFarm/UKHabProposed

SCALE 1:1,250 PLOT SIZE A3 DATUM OSGB PROJECTION BNG

