



FUTURESECOLOGY

Homes by Honey

Penistone Road / Rowley Lane, Fenay Bridge

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (BIA)

Report Reference Number: FE305/BIA01

December 2024

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CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION1

2.0 METHODOLOGY.....2

3.0 BASELINE ECOLOGY4

4.0 BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT.....5

TABLES

Table 1: Summary of Habitats

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Biodiversity Metric 4.0 (BM 4.0)

FIGURES

Figure 1: Baseline Habitat Plan

Figure 2: Proposed Habitat Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Homes by Honey. This summary report presents the results of the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) calculations using the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 (BM 4.0) Calculation Tool produced in respect of proposals for the development of land at Penistone Road / Rowley Lane, Fenay Bridge, West Yorkshire (central grid reference: SE 18736 14504).

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

- 1.2 The site comprised approximately 2.45ha of arable land and hardstanding, with a line of broadleaved trees in the north, along Rowley Lane, part of which falls within the site boundary. An individual tree (T1) was present in the south-east corner of the site.

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

- 1.3 The site proposals are for the development of 67 dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping.

2.0 **METHODOLOGY**

FIELD SURVEY – HABITATS

Personnel

- 2.1 The initial extended Phase 1 survey and protected species survey assessment was conducted by M. Baker BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM. M. Baker has 5 years' experience in ecological consultancy, including habitat surveys and is appropriately qualified for the surveys based on the CIEEM competencies for habitat surveys.

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 2.2 A Phase 1 habitat survey of the application site was completed on the 17th July 2023.
- 2.3 Survey methodology followed guidance from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 2016¹ comprising a walkover of the survey area mapping (using JNCC standard habitat codes) and broadly describing and classifying the principal habitat types and other features of interest. Whilst the plant species lists obtained should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was obtained to determine broad habitat types.
- 2.4 The survey was used to determine the habitats present on site and to fully inform the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) using the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 (BM 4.0). This information was used to adequately map the onsite habitats to inform the BIA.

UK Habitat Classification (UK Hab)

- 2.5 A summary of the habitats present on site is provided within the report including the UK Hab² equivalent habitats for the purpose of the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA).

Survey Limitations

- 2.6 The Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken in July, which is within the optimal period (April to mid-October) for habitat classification. As such, no survey limitations are anticipated.

Habitat Condition Assessment

- 2.7 Habitat condition was assessed and assigned during the Phase 1 assessment following the guidance from the 'Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets with Instructions' excel document (Natural England, 2022) which accompanies the Biodiversity Metric 4.0. Assessment criteria were followed for each broad habitat type, to determine the condition of each habitat.

¹ JNCC (2016) *Handbook for Phase1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit*. ISBN 0 86139 636 7

² <https://ukhab.org/>

Strategic Significance

- 2.8 The strategic significance of the on-site baseline habitats was determined by whether the habitats fell within:
- any designated sites;
 - any national habitat networks (as identified using the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)³);
 - any local sites or green infrastructure corridors;
 - within the Kirklees Local Plan 2013-2031 (Adopted 27th February 2019); or
 - was identified as a priority habitat.

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (BIA)

- 2.9 To quantify deliverable net gain for the application, the baseline value of the habitats within the site have been calculated utilising the Biodiversity Metric 4.0.

³ www.magic.defra.gov.uk

3.0 **BASELINE ECOLOGY**

- 3.1 The baseline habitats are provided on Figure 1. A summary of the habitats present is provided in Table 1 below, including UK Hab equivalent habitats for the purpose of the BIA.

Table 1: Summary of Habitats

Phase 1 Habitat Type	UK Hab	Condition Assessment Notes
Hardstanding	Developed land; sealed surface	Condition Assessment N/A (fixed condition)
Arable	Cropland; cereal crops	Condition Assessment N/A (fixed condition)
Tall ruderal vegetation	Urban; ruderal/ephemeral	Urban Condition Assessment Passes: C Fails: A, B Condition: Poor
Treeline TL1	Line of trees	Passes: A, B, C, E Fails: D Condition: Moderate
Tree T1	Rural tree	Passes: A, B, C, D, E, F Condition: Good

Strategic Significance

- 3.2 The site does not fall under any of the criteria for strategic significance, therefore all habitats within the site have been assigned the strategic significance of *'Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy'*.

Baseline Summary

- 3.3 From the completed BM 4.0, the value of the existing on-site habitats is **4.98 Biodiversity Habitat Units** and **0.61 Hedgerow Units** (see Appendix A).

4.0 **BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

4.1 In accordance with NPPF (2024⁴) and The Environment Act (2021⁵), as well as the Kirklees Council Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note (June 2021⁶) the aim is to generate a 10% net gain for biodiversity.

Application Site

4.2 Figure 2 outlines the habitat areas post development across the site.

4.3 The proposed habitats are based on the Soft Landscaping Proposals (Golby + Luck Landscape Architects, Drawing Numbers GL2199 01D and GL2199 02D).

Lost Habitats

4.4 All of the existing on-site habitats, including the arable field (Cropland: Cereal crops) and broadleaved trees (TL1 Line of Trees) (Individual trees: Rural tree) will be lost to the development. Rowley Lane will also be widened and resurfaced, so the existing road has been shown as lost (Developed land; sealed surface).

Created Habitats

4.5 The site proposal is for 67 residential units (Urban: Developed land; sealed surface) with associated gardens (Urban: Vegetated gardens) and parking as well as road infrastructure (Urban: Developed land; sealed surface). Some gardens and property frontages will be planted with 10 small trees (garden trees are excluded from the BM 4.0 and therefore not included in the calculation) and boundaries denoted with box hedging (Non-native and ornamental hedgerow).

4.6 Throughout the site there will be areas of Public Open Space (POS). These areas of POS will include:

- amenity grassland lawn areas (Grassland: Modified grassland) are to be seeded with an amenity lawn mix (such as Emorsgate EL1 Flowering Lawn Mix) or are to be turfed (such as Rolawn Medallion turf);
- areas of seeded native meadow grassland (e.g., Emorsgate EM1 General Purpose Meadow Mix) (Grassland: Other neutral grassland);
- the planting of 32 small native trees (Urban: urban tree); &
- the creation of a new species-rich native hedgerow with trees (NH1) (Hedges: Species-rich native hedgerow with trees) planted with at least 5 native woody species per 30m.

⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (December 2024). National Planning Policy Framework. London n

⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

⁶ Kirklees Council, Biodiversity Net Gain in Kirklees, Technical advice note on Biodiversity Net Gain requirements for developments within Kirklees; <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-applications/pdf/biodiversity-net-gain-technical-advice-note.pdf>

Post Development Summary

- 4.7 Post development, the on-site habitat creation (Figure 2) with long-term management (for a minimum of 30 years) will achieve **3.26 Biodiversity Habitat Units** and **0.94 Hedgerow Units**, which is a **total net unit change of -1.71 Biodiversity Habitat Units** and **+0.33 Hedgerow Units**. This equates to a **-34.42% net loss in Biodiversity Habitat Units** and a **+53.44% net gain in Hedgerow Units**.
- 4.8 The site proposals do not satisfy the habitat area trading rules. This is due to the loss of the cropland and tree T1. As a result, the rule for low and medium distinctiveness habitats has not been met. This rule requires cropland habitats to be replaced by habitats of the '*same distinctiveness habitat or better habitat required*' and tree T1 to be replaced by habitats of the '*same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required*'.
- 4.9 The above calculation does not account for the following additional enhancement measures that will be provided within the development as these cannot be quantified using the BM calculator. The inclusion of the following biodiversity enhancements with what has already been outlined above would be considered a benefit to biodiversity.
- Provision of bat and bird boxes throughout the site;
 - Provision of hedgehog gaps within boundary treatments (where feasible) to maintain connectivity through the site; &
 - Creation of log piles within areas of POS.

Recommendations

- 4.10 As the development proposals cannot deliver a 10% net gain in Habitat Units on-site there is a requirement to secure a net gain via an alternative mechanism. This could include a combination of the following:
- Utilising off-site land under the control of the applicant to deliver the off-site requirement. The land should ideally be located in a strategic ecologically beneficial location.
 - A Biodiversity Credit which is calculated based on the Biodiversity Units required for the LPA or another third-party Habitat Bank (to be approved by the LPA) to take on responsibility to deliver the Net gain for biodiversity.⁷
- 4.11 The option of enhancing additional land within the ownership of the client to offset the losses and provide a 10% net gain have been explored, however there are complications in using any blueline land due to potential construction impacts of a future road, which would mean habitat enhancements could not be secured for the required minimum of 30 years.
- 4.12 This thereby necessitates a monetary contribution to fund offsite provision equating to 2.21 Habitat Units to achieve a 10% net gain.

⁷ <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-applications/pdf/biodiversity-net-gain-technical-advice-note.pdf>

APPENDIX A: NATURAL ENGLAND BIODIVERSITY METRIC 4.0 (BM)

Penistone Road / Rowley Lane, Fenay Bridge		Return to results menu		
Headline Results				
Scroll down for final results ▲				
On-site baseline	Habitat units	498		
	Hedgeprow units	0.61		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site post-intervention <small>(including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Habitat units	326		
	Hedgeprow units	0.94		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site net change <small>(units & percentage)</small>	Habitat units	-1.71	-34.42%	On-site net gain is less than target set. ▲
	Hedgeprow units	0.33	53.44%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	
Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgeprow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention <small>(including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgeprow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site net change <small>(units & percentage)</small>	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%	
	Hedgeprow units	0.00	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	
Combined net unit change <small>(including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Habitat units	-1.71		
	Hedgeprow units	0.33		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgeprow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change <small>(including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Habitat units	-1.71		
	Hedgeprow units	0.33		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Total net % change <small>(including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Habitat units	-34.42%		Total net gain achieved is less than target set. ▲
	Hedgeprow units	53.44%		
	Watercourse units	0.00%		
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲			
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	4.98	5.47	2.21
Hedgeprow units	10.00%	0.61	0.67	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
				This requirement met or surpassed ✓
				This requirement met or surpassed ✓



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Key

Site Boundary



Redline

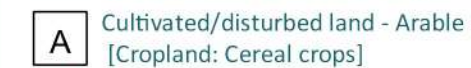


Blueline

Baseline Habitats



Hardstanding
[Urban: Developed land; sealed surface]



Cultivated/disturbed land - Arable
[Cropland: Cereal crops]



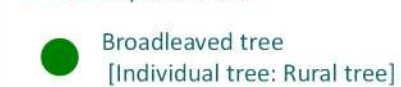
Other tall herb and fern - ruderal
[Sparsley vegetated land: Ruderal/Ephemeral]



Broadleaved trees
[Line of Trees]



Dry stone wall



Broadleaved tree
[Individual tree: Rural tree]



Client: Homes by Honey

Project: Penistone Road / Rowley Lane, Fenay Bridge

Title: Figure 1 - Baseline Habitat Plan

Plan Reference: FE305_01

Project Reference: FE305

Report Reference: FE305/BIA01

Author: KEH

Date: 8/10/2024

Scale: NTS @ A3

C:\Users\kate.haymes\OneDrive - Futures Ecology Ltd\Projects\FE305 Penistone Road Rowley Lane, Fenay Bridge\QGIS\1_Plans\FE305_Biodiversity Net Gain Plan.qgs
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Key

Site Boundary

Redline

Blueline

Post-development Habitats

Buildings
[Urban: Developed land; sealed surface]

Hardstanding
[Urban: Developed land; sealed surface]

Gardens (lawn and planting)
[Urban: vegetated garden]

Introduced shrub
[Urban: Introduced scrub]

Cultivated/disturbed land - Amenity grassland
[Grassland: Modified grassland]

Reinforced grass
[Grassland: Modified grassland]

Medallion turf
[Grassland: Modified grassland]

Neutral grassland - semi-improved
[Grassland: Other neutral grassland]

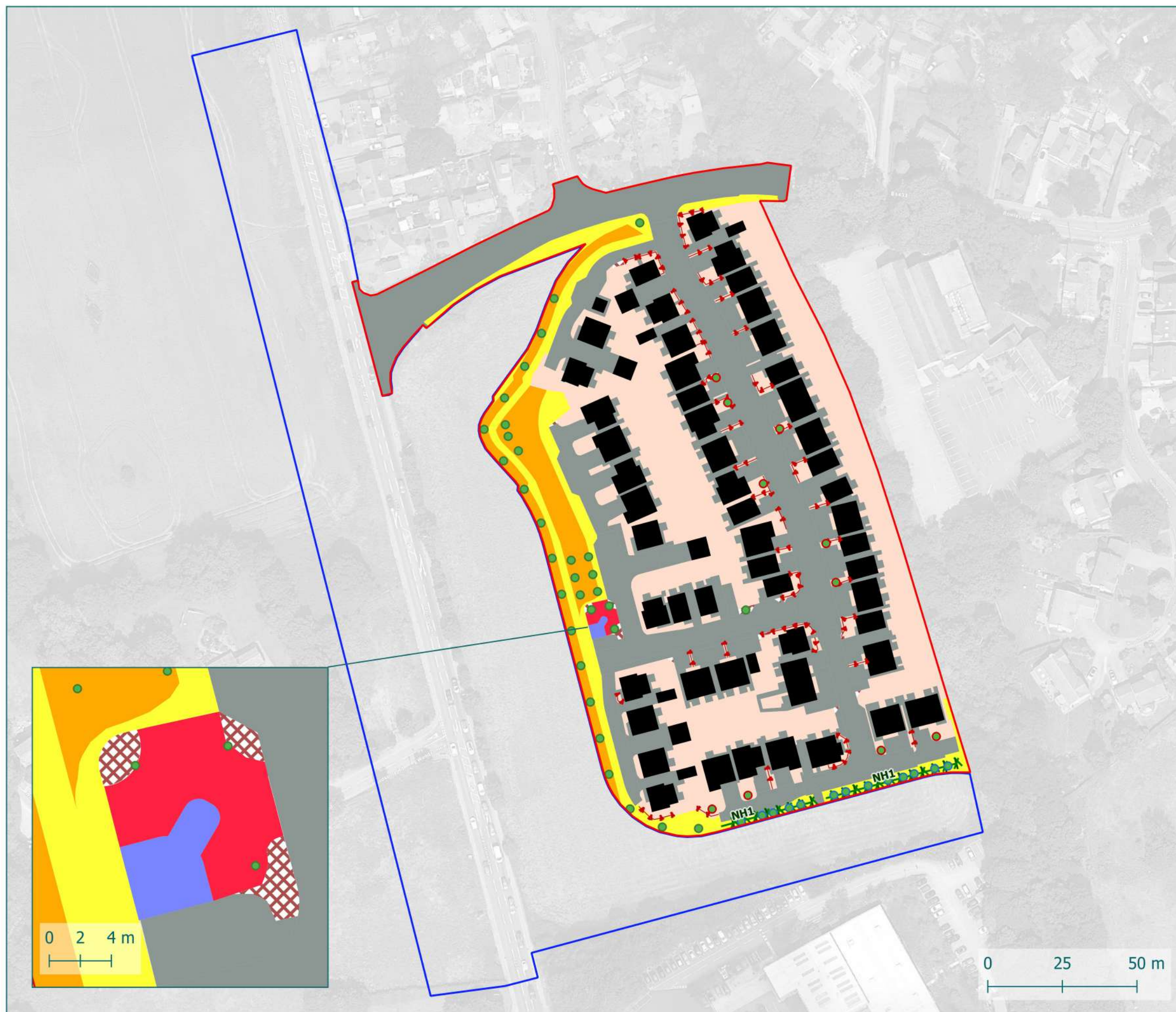
Hedge with trees - native species-rich
[Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees]

Box hedging
[Non-native and ornamental hedgerow]

Small individual tree
[Individual tree: Urban tree]

Garden tree
[Excluded from metric]

Hedge tree
[Excluded from metric, included within adjacent habitat]



Client: Homes by Honey

Project: Penistone Road / Rowley Lane, Fenay Bridge

Title: Figure 2 - Proposed Habitat Plan

Plan Reference: FE305_02

Project Reference: FE305

Report Reference: FE305/BIA01

Author: KEH

Date: 17/12/2024

Scale: NTS @ A3

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