

# Biodiversity Net Gain Report

## The Newsome Centre, Huddersfield

4<sup>th</sup> December 2025



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# 1. Summary

- 1.1.1 Completion of statutory Biodiversity Metric calculations and preparation of a Biodiversity Net Gain report for The Newsome Centre, Huddersfield was commissioned by Ben Walters of One 17 Design on behalf of the client on 20th November 2025.
- 1.1.2 A UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) survey was undertaken on 5th November 2025 by Robert Bell (MCIEEM), forming the baseline for metric assessment.
- 1.1.3 The 0.067 ha site comprises the former St. John the Evangelist Church, hardstanding access paths, three small vegetated garden blocks and one large copper beech tree. Existing habitats were mapped as Developed land; sealed surface, Vegetated garden, and Scattered trees. Both developed land and vegetated garden have default condition scores within the metric. The single copper beech was assessed as being in moderate condition.
- 1.1.4 Two non-native and invasive plant species, included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) were present within the footprint of the proposed works. These species should be excavated and appropriately disposed of.
- 1.1.5 The metric outputs (Appendix 3 of the report) show that the scheme will result in a net loss of 0.33 Habitat Units, equivalent to a 97.73% net loss when compared with baseline conditions.
- 1.1.6 There is no scope within the red-line boundary to deliver sufficient on-site habitat creation to achieve the required Biodiversity Net Gain. To address this, the project proposes off-site compensation through native tree planting at a suitable location within Kirklees.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1.1 Completion of calculations using The Statutory Biodiversity Metric and production of a Biodiversity Net Gain Report for The Newsome Centre in Huddersfield (O.S. Grid Reference: SE 14409 14651; Figure 1) was commissioned by Ben Walters of One 17 Design on behalf of the client on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025.
- 2.1.2 A UK Habitat Classification survey of the site was undertaken by Robert Bell (MCIEEM) on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025, which formed the basis of the metric calculations presented.
- 2.1.3 An Arboricultural Impact Assessment of land within the wider curtilage of The Newsome Centre, undertaken by Woodsage Consulting (Woodsage Consulting, 2024), was used to help assess the condition of the single site tree.
- 2.1.4 The site consisted of an area 0.0674 ha in extent, which comprised the former St. John the Evangelist Church, the access path, three small blocks of garden planting and one large copper beech *Fagus sylvatica* tree.

**Figure 1. Site Location**



### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 UK Habitat Classification Survey

3.1.1 The site was surveyed on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 using the UK Habitat Classification survey methodology (UKHab Ltd., 2023) by Robert Bell (MCIEEM). Notable, rare or scarce plant species were highlighted if present.

3.1.2 Robert Bell is a competent botanist with more than 16 years' experience of undertaking botanical surveys including appraisals of Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) in Barnsley.

#### 3.2 Biodiversity Calculation

3.2.1 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2023) was used to calculate the ecological impact of this scheme. This metric uses habitat as a proxy for wider biodiversity with different habitat types scored according to their relative biodiversity value. This value is then adjusted depending on the condition and location of the habitat, to calculate 'biodiversity units'. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric incorporates similar but separate calculations for habitats that require a different method of measurement such as hedgerows, lines of trees, rivers, streams and street trees. Calculations are undertaken in a purpose designed spreadsheet, which provides the main output of the process.

3.2.2 The site did not fall within the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network, however it was located adjacent to habitat included in this area (Figure 2). For the purposes of the metric, the site has however considered to be located within a 'Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy' in terms of its strategic significance, given its location in a rural setting adjacent to Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network.

**Figure 2. Site location in relation to Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network**



#### 3.3 Limitations

3.3.1 The field survey was undertaken outside the main botanical survey season. It was however possible to confidently determine habitats present and their condition. Two of the three habitats (Developed land; sealed surface and vegetated garden), had a default condition level, with the single tree still in leaf and its condition assessment aided by the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (Woodsage Consulting, 2024).

## 4. Baseline Conditions

### 4.1 Existing Habitats

4.1.1 The layout of existing site habitats is presented in Appendix 1.

*Developed land; sealed surface (including building)*

4.1.2 The majority of the site comprised the former St. John the Evangelist Church, constructed from stone c.1872 (Plate 1). A hardstanding access path led from Jackyard Lane to the northeast, with an extension of the path passing the church's northwest gable.

4.1.3 Developed land has a default habitat condition.

#### Plate 1. Northeast elevation of The Newsome Centre



*Vegetated garden*

4.1.4 A small extent of vegetated garden was included in the red-line boundary, spread across two blocks on the church's northeast elevation and one small block off the access path (Plates 2 & 3).

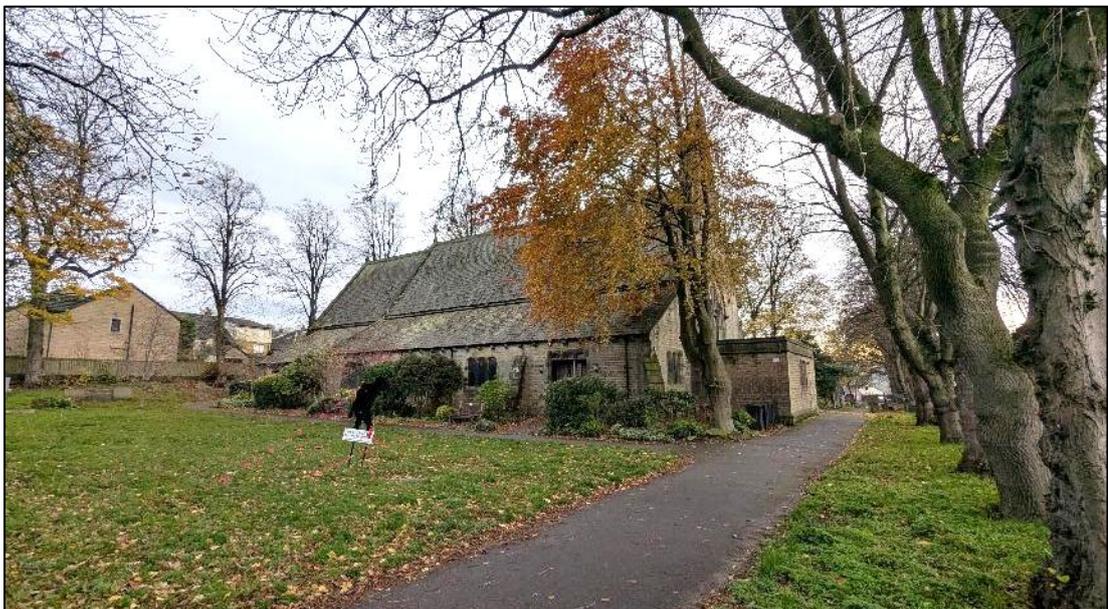
4.1.5 Vegetated land within the red-line boundary was classified as '*vegetated garden*' in the metric, rather than '*cemeteries and churchyards*'. This is because the areas consist largely of amenity planting with a high proportion of ornamental species. In addition, the boundary of the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network has been drawn so that it excludes these areas, although the majority of the churchyard and graveyard fall within the habitat network.

4.1.6 The two blocks of planting adjacent to the northwest elevation of the former church included a range of ornamental species such as rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*, variegated yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*, a cotoneaster species

*Cotoneaster* sp. and hydrangea *Hydrangea macrophylla*. The central vegetated garden block also included the large copper beech tree.

- 4.1.7 The rhododendron and variegated yellow archangel present, both comprised non-native species included on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In relation to Schedule 9 species it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause these plant species to grow in the wild. The existing specimens of rhododendron and vegetated yellow archangel should be fully excavated. Any excavated material may then either be buried on site, in accordance with Regulatory Position Statement 178 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178/treatment-and-disposal-of-invasive-non-native-plants-rps-178> ), or removed from site by a licensed waste disposal contractor. The contractor should be notified of the Schedule 9 species that they are transporting.
- 4.1.8 The small northern vegetated block comprised an area of lawn beneath tree cover. Species recorded here included frequently occurring perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and red fescue *Festuca rubra*, together with occasional creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*.
- 4.1.9 Vegetated garden has a default habitat condition.

**Plate 2. Looking southwest down access track towards The Newsome Centre**



**Plate 3. Main vegetated garden block, located immediately adjacent to northern corner of former church**



*Scattered trees*

4.1.10 A single large copper beech tree was present in the centre of the site (Plate 2 & 3). This tree appeared to have been pollarded at a height of c. 2 m, leading to four co-dominant stems with acute unions. This tree was considered to be in moderate condition (Defra, 2023). These trees comprised a native species (Criteria A), had predominantly continuous canopies (Criteria B and had more than 20 % of their canopy area over sailed vegetation beneath (Criteria F). The tree was not however mature (Criteria C), previous management had resulted in physical defects (Criteria D) and the tree lacked natural ecological niches (Criteria E).

**4.2 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculations for Baseline**

4.2.1 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculations show the baseline value of the site is 0.33 Habitat Units.

**5. Proposed Design**

5.1.1 The proposed landscaping plan is presented in Appendix 2. It is proposed to carry out the following alterations to the site:

- Construct an extension on developed land adjacent to the northern corner of the building.
- Build a new access ramp up to the eastern entrance on the building's northern elevation.
- Remove the existing large tree.
- Construct a bike store off the access track

## **6. Biodiversity Metric Calculation**

- 6.1.1 The Headline Results of The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation are provided in Appendix 3. These calculations show that the proposed scheme will result in a net loss of 0.33 Habitat Units (a 97.73 % net loss in Habitat Units on site, relative to the baseline).
- 6.1.2 There is not scope within the scheme boundary to mitigate for the loss of Habitat Units. It is however proposed to mitigate through tree planting in an off-site location within a site in Kirklees.

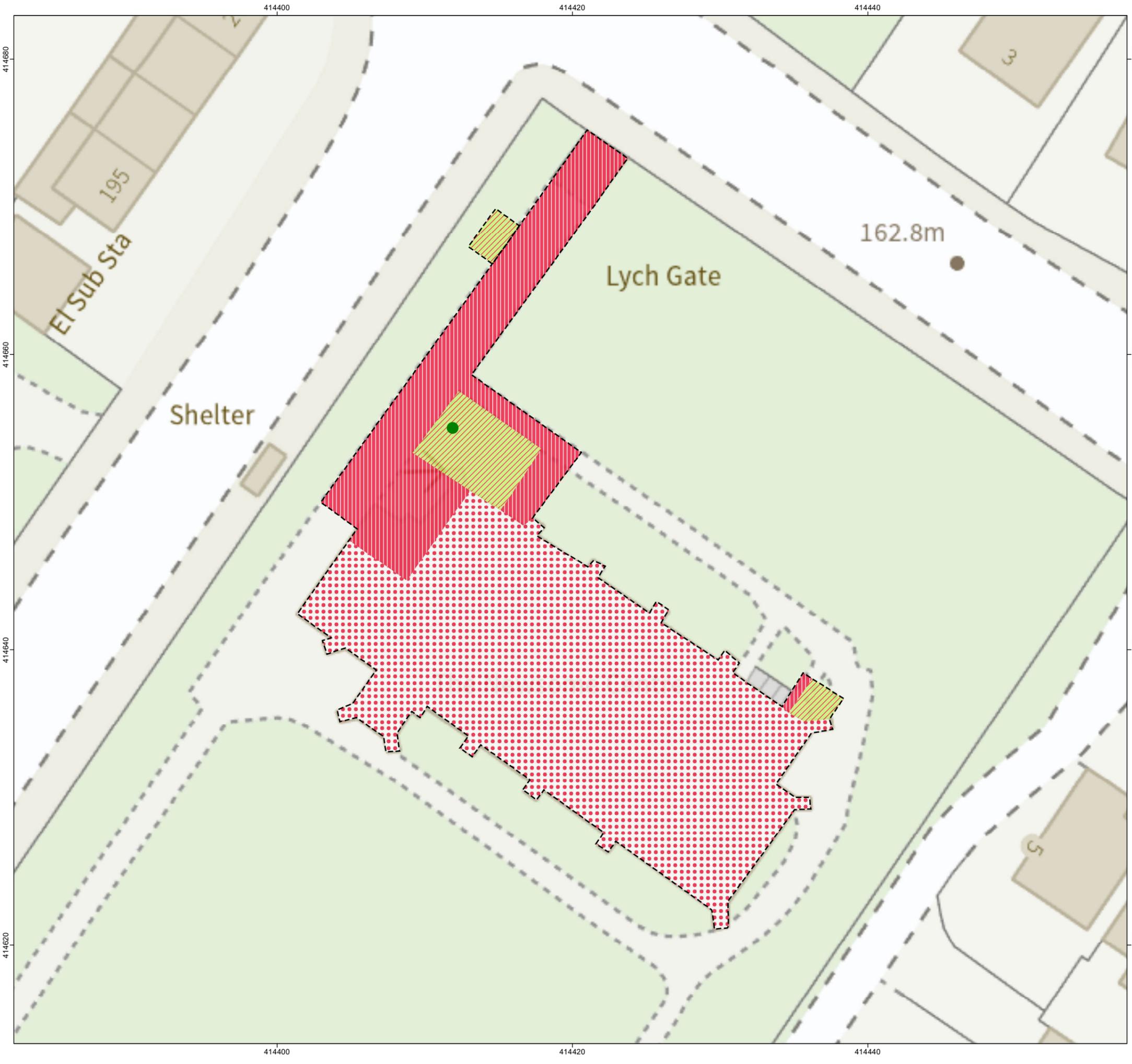
## **7. References**

Defra (2023) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (draft). Defra.

UKHab Ltd (2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org> )

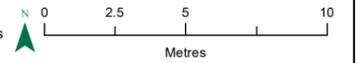
Woodsage Consulting (2024) WC-258.1a Newsome Church - Arboricultural Impact Assessment. Woodsage Consulting.

## **Appendix 1. Existing UK Habitat Classification Plan**



Survey Information	
	Site boundary (674.0m <sup>2</sup> )
UK Habitat Survey (Primary Habitats)	
	u1b - Developed land; sealed surface (159.9m <sup>2</sup> )
	u1b5 - Building (465.9m <sup>2</sup> )
	828 - Vegetated garden (48.2m <sup>2</sup> )
	32 - Scattered tree (1)

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PROJECT TITLE  
***THE NEWSOME CENTRE***

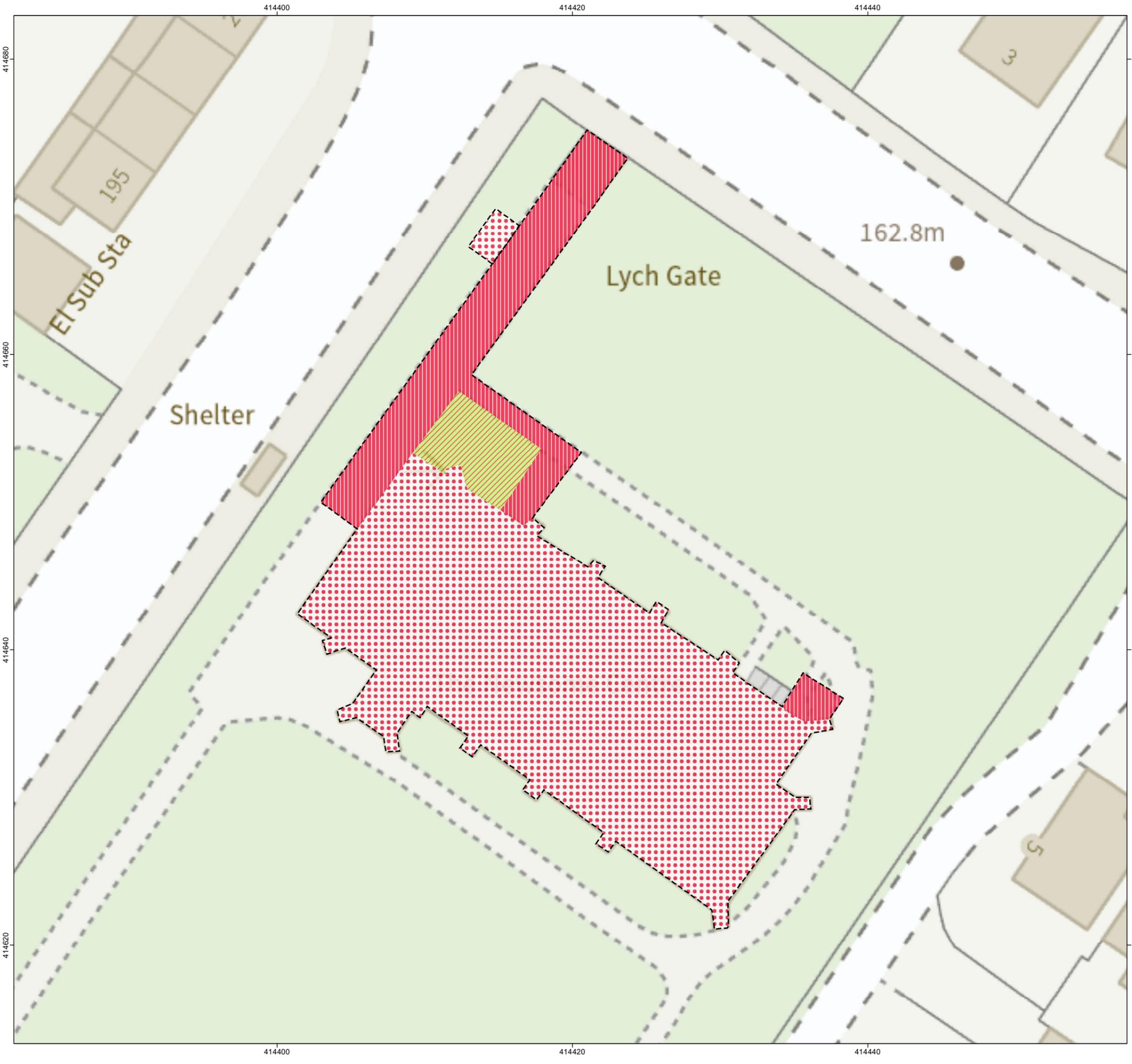
DRAWING TITLE  
**Figure 1. UK Habitat Survey Plan**

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.0	21/11/25	UKHab	MP	RB

DRAWING NUMBER:  
**MIDDLETONBELLECOLOGY/NewsomeCentre/UKHab**

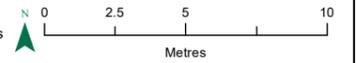
SCALE	PLOT SIZE	DATUM	OSGB	PROJECTION
1:250	A3	OSGB	BNG	

## **Appendix 2. Proposed Habitat Survey Plan**



Survey Information	
	Site boundary (674.0m <sup>2</sup> )
UK Habitat Survey (Primary Habitats)	
	u1b - Developed land; sealed surface (131.5m <sup>2</sup> )
	u1b5 - Building (508.1m <sup>2</sup> )
	828 - Vegetated garden (34.4m <sup>2</sup> )

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PROJECT TITLE  
***THE NEWSOME CENTRE***

DRAWING TITLE  
**Figure 2. Proposed Habitat Plan**

VER	DATE	REMARKS	Drawn	Checked
1.0	21/11/25	Proposed	MP	RB

DRAWING NUMBER:  
**MIDDLETONBELLECOLOGY/NewsomeCentre/Proposed**

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

## Appendix 3. Biodiversity Metric Headline Results

The Newsome Centre		Return to results menu		
Headline Results				
Scroll down for final results ▲				
On-site baseline	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.33		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
On-site post-intervention <small>(Including habitat retention, creation &amp; enhancement)</small>	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.01		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
On-site net change <small>(units &amp; percentage)</small>	<i>Area habitat units</i>	-0.33		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Off-site baseline	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention <small>(Including habitat retention, creation &amp; enhancement)</small>	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Off-site net change <small>(units &amp; percentage)</small>	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Combined net unit change <small>(Including all on-site &amp; off-site habitat retention, creation &amp; enhancement)</small>	<i>Area habitat units</i>	-0.33		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
<b>FINAL RESULTS</b>				
Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site &amp; off-site habitat retention, creation &amp; enhancement)</small>	<i>Area habitat units</i>	-0.33		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site &amp; off-site habitat retention, creation &amp; enhancement)</small>	<i>Area habitat units</i>	-97.73%		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00%		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%		
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲			
<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Baseline Units</b>	<b>Units Required</b>	<b>Unit Deficit</b>
<i>Area habitat units</i>	10.00%	0.33	0.37	0.36
<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Watercourse units</i>	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00