

Biodiversity Net Gain Report	
For:	Kirklees District Council
Site	Bradley Mills Road, Huddersfield, HD1 6PH
Report Date:	12 th November 2024
Report Reference	SQ-2465

Surveying Ecologist:

Sam Toon BSc (hons)

Client:	Kirklees District Council
Site Name:	Bradley Mills Road, Huddersfield, HD1 6PH
Report:	Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
Survey Date:	24 th September 2024
Surveyed by:	Sam Toon BSc (hons)

Issue:	Revision:	Stage:	Date:	Prepared by:	Approved by:
1	-	Draft for review	24 th October 2024	Sam Toon BSc (hons)	John Davies BSc (hons)
2	n/a	FINAL	25 th October 2024	Sam Toon BSc (hons)	Natasha Estrada BSc (hons), MRes, MCIIEEM
3	2	FINAL V2	12 th November 2024	Sam Toon BSc (hons)	Natasha Estrada BSc (hons), MRes, MCIIEEM

1. Introduction




- 1.1 Biodiversity Metric calculations were requested by the client to determine the extent of net loss, no net loss, or net gain for the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements of Kirklees District Council. The calculations were required for submission as part of a planning application, in accordance with local and national planning policies.
- 1.2 Biodiversity Metric calculations were therefore undertaken for baseline and post-development habitats for the development site, using the Defra Statutory Metric developed by DEFRA. This assessment evaluates the impact of current development proposals on existing biodiversity resources within the development site.

2 Baseline and Post Development Scheme Designs

- 2.1 The UK HABS habitat classification map in Figure 1a summarises the on-site habitats identified via field survey undertaken in June 2023.
- 2.2 The UK HABS habitat classification map in Figure 1b summarises the on-site habitats identified via field survey undertaken in September 2024.
- 2.2 Figure 2 presents the summary of the Defra Statutory Metric calculations.

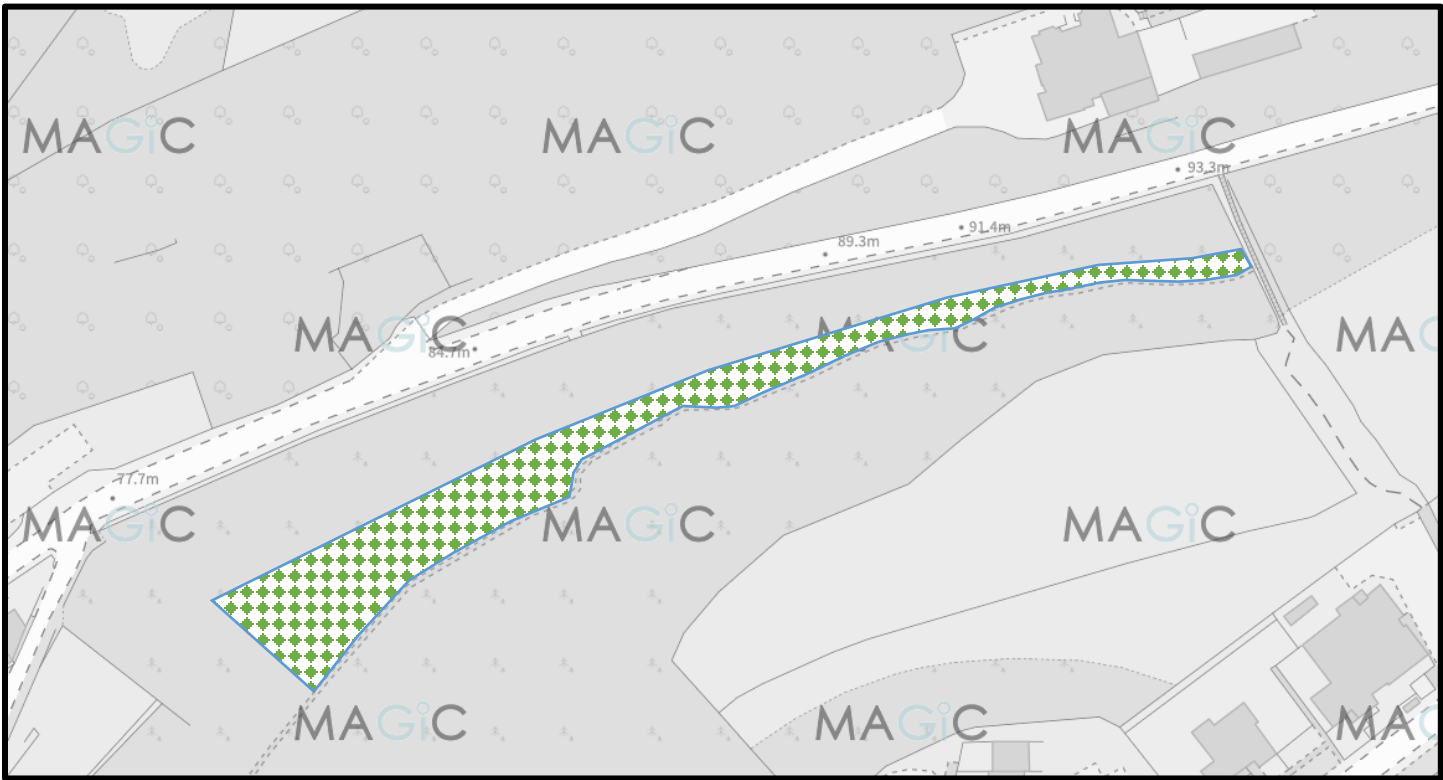
Figure 1a: UK HABS Habitat Classification Map – On-Site (June 2023)





KEY	
Site Boundary	
w1g - Other Broadleaved Woodland	
u1b - Developed Land, Sealed Surface	

Magic Map

Figure 1b: UK HABS Habitat Classification Map – Off-Site (September 2024)



KEY	
Off Site Area	
w1g - Other Broadleaved Woodland	

3 Methodology

- 3.1 The Environment Bill (2020) seeks to improve biodiversity through several means, including the introduction of a mandatory requirement for new developments to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain, which will be managed as such for a minimum of 30 years after the development has been completed (Environment Bank, 2021). Key parts of the Environment Bill which relate to biodiversity net gain and its delivery are Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity and the supporting Schedule 14, particularly sections 9(3), 13(2), 14(2) and 15.
- 3.2 Baseline habitats for on-site habitats were surveyed, and their condition assessed during a site assessment in June 2023 and based on the UK HABS Habitat Classification map (Figure 1a). Post-development habitats were measured using AutoCAD 2022, based on the planting scheme of the proposed development.
- 3.3 Baseline habitats for proposed off-site habitats were surveyed, and their condition assessed during a site assessment in September 2024 and based on the UK HABS Habitat Classification map (Figure 1b). Post-development habitats were measured using AutoCAD 2022, based on the planting scheme of the proposed development.
- 3.4 The DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric was used to calculate biodiversity units for baseline and post-development habitats for the development site, to determine if the proposed development will be likely to achieve net loss, no net loss, or net gain of biodiversity units.
- Habitat areas were rounded to two decimal places, with the minimum mappable unit being 0.01 hectares. The canopy areas of Individual trees were calculated using the Urban Tree Helper tool. Linear habitat features such as hedgerows and ditches were measured in meters or kilometres.
 - Habitat condition indicates the quality of the habitat, either existing or to be achieved, based on the habitat condition assessments using the Biodiversity Statutory Metric Habitat Condition Sheets (Natural England, 2023).

- Habitats were assessed for their strategic significance at a landscape scale, using information from sources such as Local Plans, Biodiversity Action Plans, and Nature Recovery Areas to determine their significance within a specific landscape. If habitats weren't included within published reports, significance was determined by their contribution to habitat connectivity and green corridors.

3.5 Biodiversity unit calculations are based on the retention and/or enhancement of existing habitats within the proposed scheme design, and the creation of new habitats. Biodiversity units for linear habitat features are calculated separately within the metric.

4 Limitations

4.1 Although the Statutory Biodiversity Metric is accurate to two or more decimal places, total habitat areas are calculated to two decimal places. Habitat areas are therefore rounded up or down to the nearest whole value, with a minimal mappable unit of 0.01 hectares.

5 UK HABS Habitat Classification Codes

5.1 The UK HABS habitat classifications used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and applicable to the site are provided in Table 1 with their associated habitat codes.

Table 1: UK HABS habitat classifications and codes – On Site

Phase 1 Habitat Type – On Site	Primary Code	Secondary Code
Other Broadleaved Woodland	w1g	-
Developed Land, Sealed Surface	u1b	-
Phase 1 Habitat Type – Off Site	Primary Code	Secondary Code
Other Broadleaved Woodland	w1g	

6 Biodiversity Net Gain – On-site

- 6.1 The total on-site baseline biodiversity units for the site were calculated at 1.06 units. No hedgerow units or watercourse units were recorded present on the baseline. No irreplaceable habitats are recorded present on the baseline.
- 6.2 The total biodiversity units of on-site habitats post development are 0.00 units for habitats, following the removal of a section of woodland in line with the proposed scheme.

7 Biodiversity Net Gain – Off-site

- 7.1 The total off-site baseline biodiversity units for the proposed offsetting site were calculated at 3.04 units. No hedgerow units or watercourse units were recorded present on the baseline. No irreplaceable habitats are recorded present on the baseline.
- 7.2 The total biodiversity units of off-site habitats post development are 4.10 units for habitats, following the enhancement of a section of woodland in line with the proposed scheme.
- 7.3 Under current development proposals, post-development on site habitats and off site enhancements with their target conditions will result in a net gain of 0.22 biodiversity units, representing a 21.19% net gain.

Figure 2: Metric Calculations – Headline Results

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.22
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Habitat units</i>	21.19%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 The site, with current proposed scheme design and proposed offsite enhancements will result in a net gain for habitat units.
- 8.2 Furthermore, due to the enhancement of the offsite woodland, it is deemed an appropriate and suitable 30-year management plan is conditioned following the acceptance of the scheme.
- 8.3 It is further stated that as the baseline condition assessment of the offsite woodland scored 30 out of 39, scoring moderate, an additional two points to achieve the necessary 32 points to cross into the 'Good' condition threshold, is deemed feasible. This can be achieved following the removal of the noted invasive species and additional planting of native species.
- 8.4 It is recommended that an updated Biodiversity Net Gain report with updated calculations is completed should current development and landscaping proposals change in any way. An updated report will review habitat condition scores of habitats and will take into account any changes in a final masterplan.
- 8.5 The calculations in this report are based on target habitat conditions post-development and post-management, taking future land usage and public access into consideration.
- 8.6 Current development and landscaping proposals as they stand will result in a net gain in biodiversity units for the development site

References

Environment Bank (2015) Biodiversity Impact Calculator – Guidance for Use. Environment Bank.

Environment Bank (2016) Biodiversity Accounting – An introduction. Environment Bank.

Environment Bank (2021) The Environment Bill and Biodiversity Net Gain Delivery. [Online]. Accessed November 2024. Available at: <https://www.environmentbank.com/blog/the-environment-bill-and-biodiversity-net-gain-delivery-what-planning-authorities-need-to-know/>

Natural England (2023) Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide

UK HABS (2022) The UK Habitat Classification: Habitat Definitions. Version 2.0.