



envirotech

**Ecological Consultants
Environmental and Rural Chartered Surveyors**

Biodiversity Net Gain

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ACCURACY OF REPORT

This report has been compiled based on the methodology as detailed and the professional experience of the surveyor. Whilst the report reflects the situation found as accurately as possible, all of the protected species this survey covers are wild and can move freely from site to site. Their presence or absence detailed in this report does not entirely preclude the possibility of a different past, current or future use of the site surveyed.

We would ask all clients acting upon the contents of this report to show due diligence when undertaking work on their site and/or in their interaction with protected species. If protected species are found during a work programme, and continuing the work programme could result in their disturbance, injury or death, either directly or indirectly an offence may be committed.

If in doubt, stop work and seek further professional advice.

Quality and Environmental Assurance

This report has been printed on recycled paper as part of our commitment to achieving both the ISO 9001 Quality Assurance and ISO 14001 Environmental Assurance standards. Envirotech have been awarded the Gold standard by the Cumbria Business Environmental Network for its Environmental management systems.

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of this Report

Envirotech were requested to carry out a biodiversity assessment of land at Blackmoorfoot Road. The aim was for an ecologist with botanical expertise to carry out a site visit to map the habitat types present at the site in order to establish the biodiversity baseline.

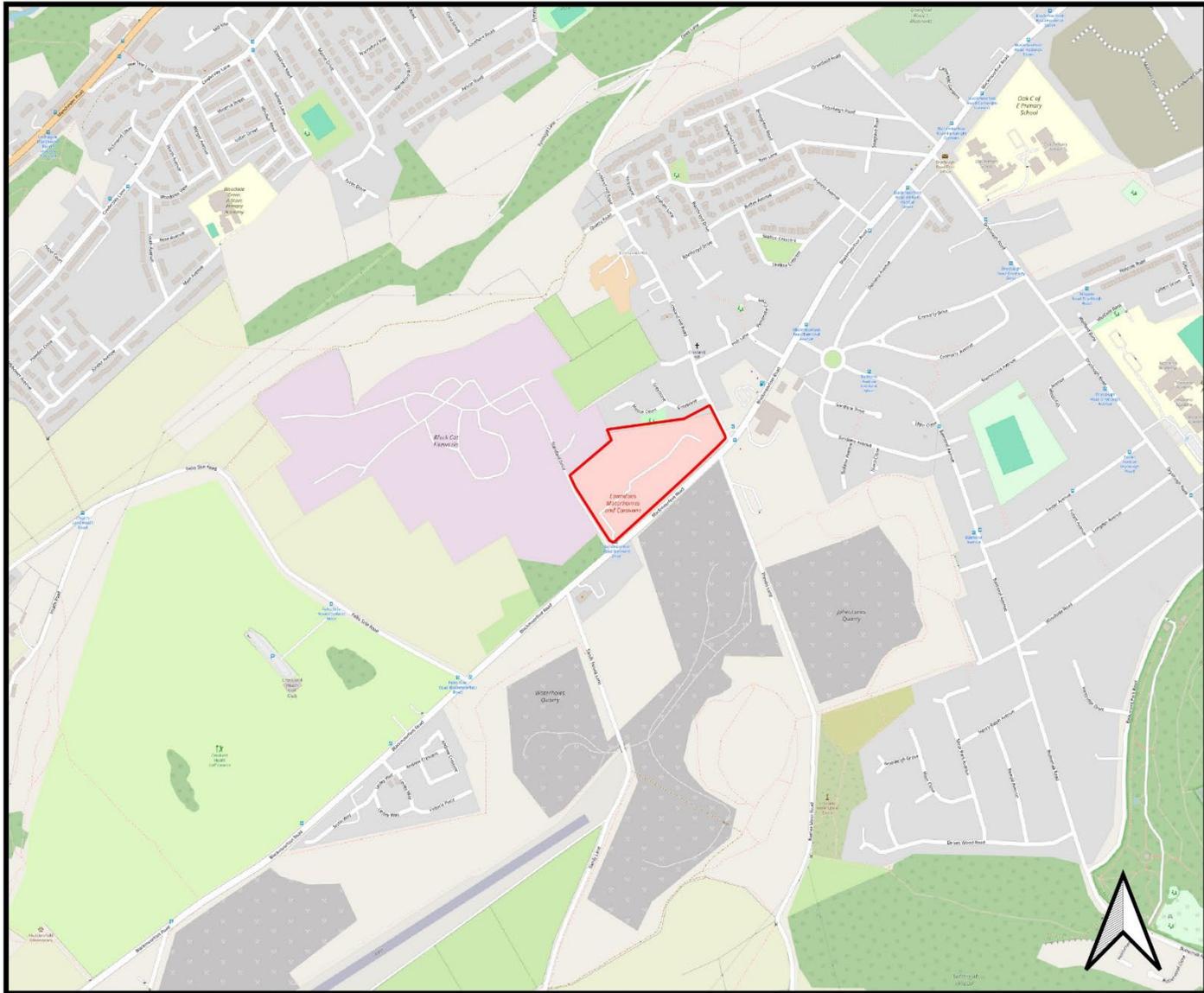
Each habitat type was mapped using the standard habitat mapping convention using UK Habitat Classification V2 (Butcher et al., 2023) for the purposes of using the Defra metric.

Using the findings of the baseline surveys, pre-construction ecology was measured against proposed habitat changes arising from future ecological enhancements based on an Illustrative Landscape Plan (post-construction) provided by the client.

This report presents the results of this desk-based study to assess net change in biodiversity 'units' in connection with the removal of habitats for the proposed development at the site.

Ecological Context

The site is 3.33Ha and *Figure 1* shows the site location.



 Red Line Boundary

Figure 1
Site Location



Policy context

The primary aims of Biodiversity Net Gain are to secure a measurable improvement in habitat for biodiversity, to minimise biodiversity losses and to help to restore ecological networks whilst streamlining development processes.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes provisions for the delivery of biodiversity net gain. Additionally, there is a 10% net gain requirement in the Environment Bill.

METHODS

Introduction

The statutory biodiversity metric is designed to quantify biodiversity to inform and improve planning, design, land management and decision-making (Natural England, 2024).

This study has been carried out as a desk-based exercise, using the results of field surveys carried out at the site by Envirotech and an Illustrative Landscape Plan (PWP 876 001 P03 Outline Landscape Masterplan & Specification) provided by the client.

Biodiversity Assessment Methods

To calculate biodiversity units for the site and assess any changes arising from the proposed development this study uses methods set out the latest Statutory Biodiversity Metric user guide (Natural England, 2024).

The biodiversity metric uses three core measurements:

- Habitat area
- Length of linear terrestrial habitats
- Length of linear aquatic habitats.

Consequently, a site can have three biodiversity unit values, which are assessed using the same metric, but cannot be summed together.

Habitat area is multiplied by several factors that indicate its quality: distinctiveness, condition, strategic location and connectivity, and this gives its biodiversity unit value. This can be used for existing and future created habitats. In addition, when habitats are to be enhanced or newly-created, the risk of failure is accounted for by applying multipliers for risk factors (difficulty, time to target condition, and off-site risk).

Habitat Distinctiveness

Habitats are classified using the UK habitat classification V2 system (Butcher et al., 2023).

The metric pre-assigns each habitat type to a distinctiveness band according to its distinguishing features, i.e. species richness, rarity (at local, regional, national and international scales), and the degree to which it supports species rarely found in other habitats. On rare occasions, the

habitat distinctiveness of a habitat can be altered up or down from the preassigned value. Any alterations must then be fully explained using evidence relevant to the site, e.g. an increase in distinctiveness because of rare flora or fauna or a decrease in distinctiveness because of significant damage to the habitat.

Habitat Condition

Habitat condition measures the varying quality of similar habitats against what is perceived to be their optimal state. The statutory biodiversity metric technical supplement (Natural England, 2023) contains condition sheets for all habitats to which the metric can apply. The condition sheets contain a habitat description, contextual information to aid the assessment, and the assessment criteria. The criteria describe what components need to be present for a habitat to be in good, moderate or poor condition.

Strategic Location

Strategic location - sometimes called 'strategic significance' - works at a landscape scale, allowing additional value to be added to habitats in 'priority' or 'biodiversity target areas'. They include statutory and non-statutory sites and other areas with biodiversity value or potential, and they are mainly identified from local plans and objectives. If a habitat is within such a target area, a multiplier is applied to increase its value.

Difficulty of Creation and Restoration

The risks associated with creating new or enhancing existing habitats, are known as difficulty factors; for example, where habitats fail to establish owing to natural changes in local conditions, incorrect management or for unknown reasons. The statutory biodiversity metric contains default values for each habitat based on the average difficulty of creating or enhancing a habitat. Occasionally, under exceptional circumstances, these can be modified, but any deviation from the default value must be fully justified.

Time to Target Condition

There is often a lag between a habitat being removed and the new compensation habitats achieving their target condition. This gives reduced biodiversity value for a time. The statutory biodiversity metric preassigns the time to target condition based on good practice and typical conditions, and assigns a multiplier based on the number of years required to achieve it.

Using bespoke techniques under unique conditions, or creating compensation habitats prior to impacts taking place, the time to target condition can be adjusted. Any changes must again be fully justified.

Off-site Risk

Sometimes it is not possible to compensate adequately for loss of biodiversity within the site boundary, so off-site compensation is required. If the off-site compensation is a significant distance from the development site, then there will be a local loss of biodiversity and a multiplier is applied to any off-site compensation.

BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT

Baseline:

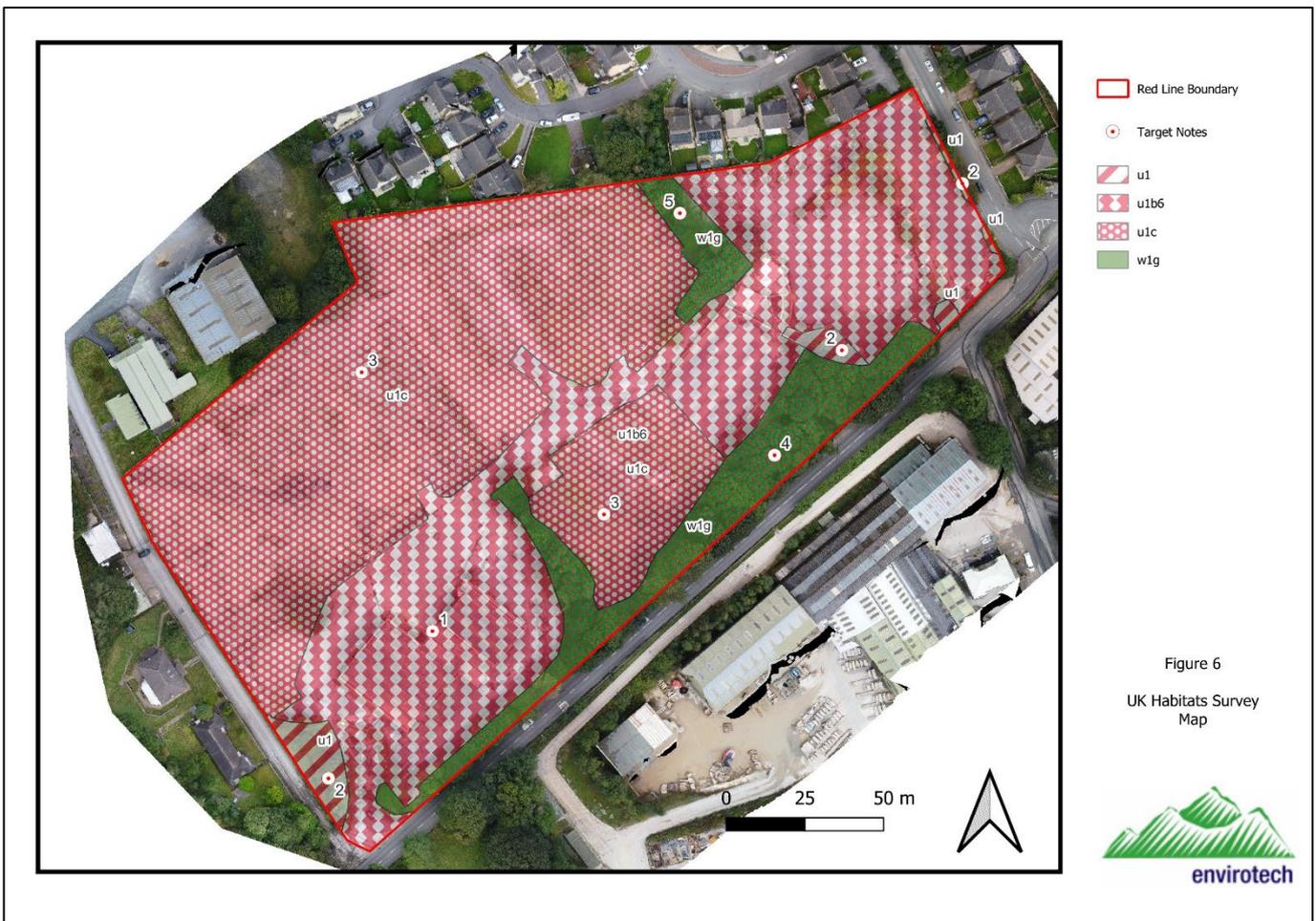
The sites baseline BNG value was calculated using the Statutory BNG metric and UKHabs v2 methodology. This was shown in the PEA report, as Figure 6, reproduced below.

The baseline value for the site is as at 22.09.2023. This is the date that our assessment was undertaken. We consider there will have been no substantive changes to habitat condition at the time of the planning application being made.

We are not aware of any habitat features which have been purposefully degraded after 30th January 2020.

We consider planning permission, if granted, would be subject to the biodiversity gain condition

The type, area and distinctiveness values are shown on Table 1.



Habitat	Area	Distinctiveness
Other woodland; broadleaved	0.2991	Medium
Other woodland; broadleaved	0.0633	Medium
Vegetated garden	0.0716	Low
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	1.5974	V.Low
Developed land; sealed surface	1.2994	V.Low
Urban Tree	0.2404	Medium

Table 1- Habitat, Area and Distinctiveness Values

The UK Habs V2 habitat survey has been used to identify relevant habitat areas, linear habitat areas and watercourse units.

These habitats have been input into the statutory biodiversity metric calculator R2 and indicate a total of 3.52 area units and zero terrestrial linear units and zero watercourse units. The results of the calculations are presented in the full biodiversity assessment calculation in the Excel document 'Statutory Biodiversity Metric Blackmoorfoot Road R4'.

The condition assessments for each of the area habitats are presented in Appendix A. No deviations have been made from the default methods for baseline habitats assessment.

Post-development Habitat Creation and Enhancement

The Illustrative Landscape Plan has been used to identify that there will be one retained habitat, one enhanced habitat and six new habitats.

These figures have been put in to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and would comprise a total of 4.92 biodiversity area units.

There are no changes to default values for post development habitats.

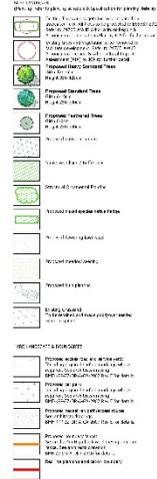
Details of the assumptions made to achieve the proposed conditions are found in Appendix B.

Notes on establishment of habitats are included on the landscape plan.

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



LANDSCAPE KEY



SOFTWORKS SPECIFICATION NOTES

The softworks specification is intended to provide a detailed description of the softworks to be installed on the site. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the landscape plan and the bill of materials. The specification is divided into sections for trees, groundworks, and other softworks. The following notes provide a detailed description of the softworks to be installed on the site.

Trees: All trees to be planted shall be of a minimum height of 1.5m at the time of planting. They shall be well established and free from any signs of disease or damage. The trees shall be planted in accordance with the landscape plan and the bill of materials. The trees shall be planted in accordance with the following specifications:

- Tree to be protected:** All trees to be protected shall be of a minimum height of 1.5m at the time of planting. They shall be well established and free from any signs of disease or damage. The trees shall be protected in accordance with the landscape plan and the bill of materials.
- Tree to be removed:** All trees to be removed shall be of a minimum height of 1.5m at the time of planting. They shall be well established and free from any signs of disease or damage. The trees shall be removed in accordance with the landscape plan and the bill of materials.
- New tree to be planted:** All new trees to be planted shall be of a minimum height of 1.5m at the time of planting. They shall be well established and free from any signs of disease or damage. The trees shall be planted in accordance with the landscape plan and the bill of materials.

Groundworks: All groundworks shall be installed in accordance with the landscape plan and the bill of materials. The groundworks shall be installed in accordance with the following specifications:

- Grass:** All grass areas shall be planted with a mix of grasses suitable for the site. The grass shall be planted in accordance with the landscape plan and the bill of materials.
- Planting beds:** All planting beds shall be installed in accordance with the landscape plan and the bill of materials. The planting beds shall be installed in accordance with the following specifications:

PLANTING SCHEDULES:

Trees:

Species	Quantity	Notes
...

Shrubbery:

Species	Quantity	Notes
...

Grass:

Species	Quantity	Notes
...

Ornamental Planting:

Species	Quantity	Notes
...

Native Planting Beds:

Species	Quantity	Notes
...

Seed Rows:

Species	Quantity	Notes
...

Bulbs:

Species	Quantity	Notes
...

Notes:

1. All trees to be planted shall be of a minimum height of 1.5m at the time of planting.
2. All trees to be planted shall be well established and free from any signs of disease or damage.
3. All trees to be planted shall be planted in accordance with the landscape plan and the bill of materials.
4. All trees to be planted shall be planted in accordance with the following specifications:
5. All trees to be planted shall be planted in accordance with the following specifications:
6. All trees to be planted shall be planted in accordance with the following specifications:

Project: Blacknott Road, Huddersfield	Client: Park Valley Huddersfield
Title: Outline Landscape Masterplan & Specification	Drawn: PVP
Drawing Number: PVP 878 001	Revision: PC4

Rev	Date	By	Checked	Appr
01	15/03/20	PVP
02	15/03/20	PVP
03	15/03/20	PVP
04	15/03/20	PVP
05	15/03/20	PVP
06	15/03/20	PVP
07	15/03/20	PVP
08	15/03/20	PVP
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48	15/03/20	PVP
49	15/03/20	PVP
50	15/03/20	PVP

FOR PLANNING, P/SP/PP

Notes:

1. Not for construction all dimensions to be confirmed on site.
2. Layout by KKP Architects.
3. Refer to architect's engineering drawing for site levels, drainage, retaining walls, services and utilities.
4. Build loadings to be confirmed by contractor prior to installation of any planting.
5. Location of services to be confirmed by contractor prior to installation of any planting.
6. All existing trees to be protected to BS 5837.

PWP Design Ltd
Unit 1, Mill Valley Court
Pool Road
Osley
LS21 1FR
0115 4572508
info@pwpdesign.co.uk

Figure 3- Illustrative landscape plan

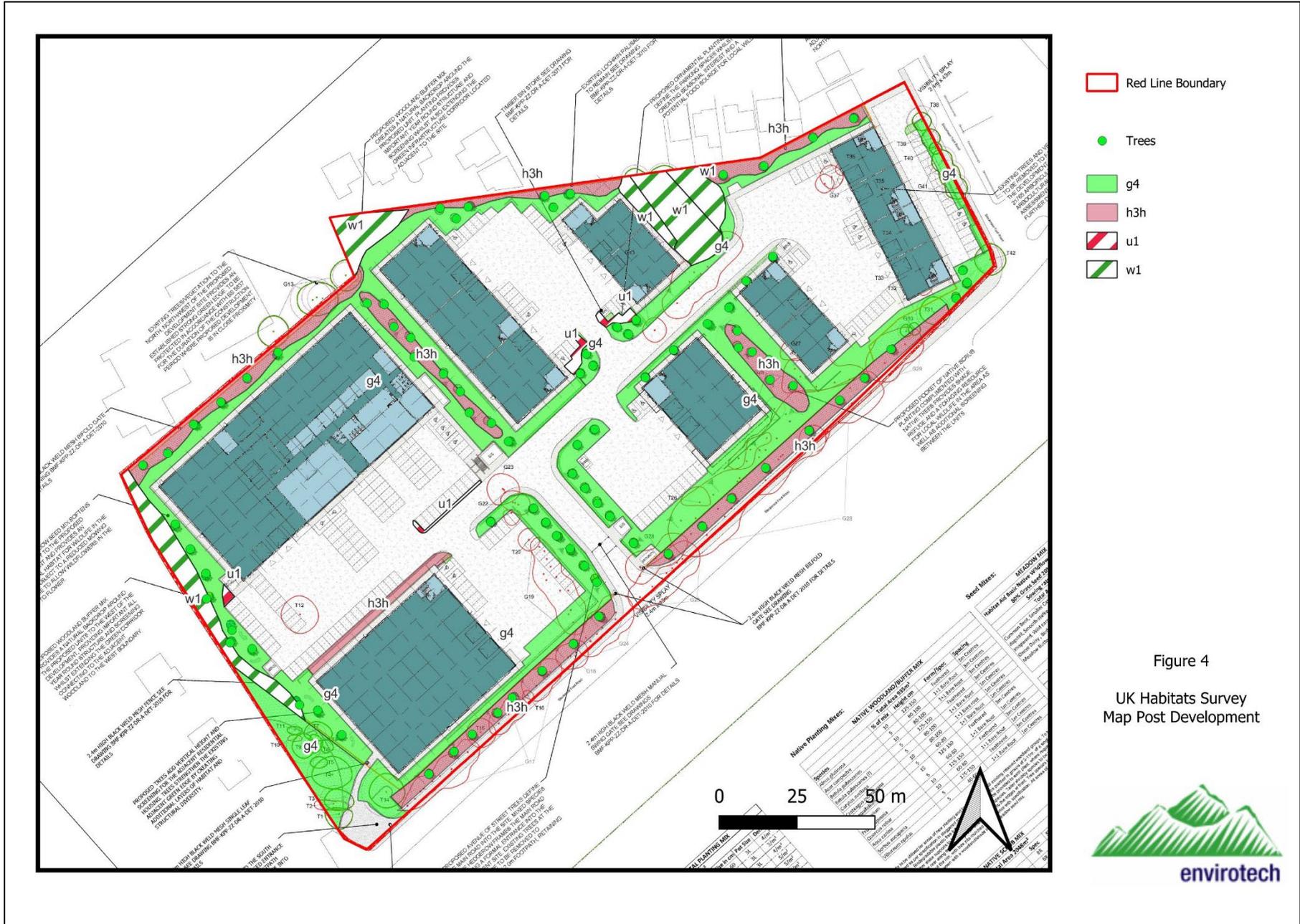


Figure 4
UK Habitats Survey
Map Post Development



Change in Biodiversity Value

Under the current proposals set out in the Illustrative Landscape Plan (PWP 876 001 P04 Outline Landscape Masterplan & Specification) there will be a GAIN of 1.40 biodiversity area units (+39.88). This is shown in Table 2.

Due to the loss of woodland, trading rules are not satisfied. 0.85 Units of Other woodland; broadleaved or higher are required to offset the woodland loss.

Table 2. Change in Biodiversity Units Calculation

On-site baseline	Habitat units	3.52			
	Hedgerow units	0.00			
	Watercourse units	0.00			
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	4.92			
	Hedgerow units	0.00			
	Watercourse units	0.00			
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	1.40	39.88%		
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%		
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%		
Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00			
	Hedgerow units	0.00			
	Watercourse units	0.00			
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00			
	Hedgerow units	0.00			
	Watercourse units	0.00			
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%		
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%		
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%		
Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	1.40			
	Hedgerow units	0.00			
	Watercourse units	0.00			
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00			
	Hedgerow units	0.00			
	Watercourse units	0.00			
FINAL RESULTS					
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	1.40			
	Hedgerow units	0.00			
	Watercourse units	0.00			
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	39.88%			
	Hedgerow units	0.00%			
	Watercourse units	0.00%			
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲				
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Habitat units	10.00%	3.52	3.87	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Input errors/rule breaks present in metric ▲

REFERENCES

Butcher, B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L. and Treweek, J. (2023), UK Habitat Classification - Habitat Definitions V2.01 at <http://ukhab.org>

Natural England 2023. Natural England The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (draft)

APPENDIX A – BASELINE DETAILED CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

This appendix presents the assessment of the post-development habitats against the condition sheets in the statutory biodiversity metric technical supplement published by Natural England, 2023. Any deviations from the published guidance is explained and justified.

UK Hab Equivalent	Condition Sheet	Other Habitat Criteria Score									Total Score	Condition Assessment	Notes	
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9				
Garden	Vegetated Garden										-	-	Amenity grassland and planting to site entrance retained around T1- T10	
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	Not assessed										-	-	Carparking yard areas - Less than 10% vegetation cover so not "derelict land"	
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Not assessed										-	-	Tarmac and buildings	
Urban trees	URBAN TREES	P	P	F	F	F	P				3	Moderate	Trees are within landscaped areas of the site or next to tarmac and yards. Trees generally small T1- 12, T32-42 are classified as "individual trees" all other trees are part of woodland blocks	
Key: P – Criteria passed F – Criteria failed														

Appendix Table A1: Condition Assessment for Area Habitats

Phase 1 Habitat	UK Hab Equivalent	Condition Sheet	Other Habitat Criteria Score													Total Score	Condition Assessment	Notes
			C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12	C13			
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	Other broadleaf woodland	WOODLAND AND FOREST	1	3	2	2	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	20	Poor	Single age, no open spaces. Himalayan Balsam present. No woodland communities. Damage from adjacent land use
Key to woodland condition assessment: 3 (points) = Good 2 (points) = Moderate 1 (point) = Poor Total score >32 – Good Total score 26 – 32 – Moderate Total score <26 – Poor																		

Appendix Table A2: Woodland Condition Assessment

APPENDIX B – POST DEVELOPMENT DETAILED CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

This appendix presents the assessment of the post-development habitats against the condition sheets in the statutory biodiversity metric technical supplement published by Natural England, 2023. Any deviations from the published guidance is explained and justified.

UK Hab Equivalent	Condition Sheet	Other Habitat Criteria Score									Total Score	Condition Assessment	Notes	
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9				
Garden	Introduced Shrub										-	-	Default condition	
Modified Grassland	GRASSLAND: Low distinctiveness	F	P	P	P	P	P	P			6	Poor	Fails C1. Could be enhanced to pass C1 but not required to achieve targeted BNG. Grassland combination of flowering lawn and wildflower grass seeding to boundaries	
Scrub	Mixed Scrub	P	F	P	F	F					2	Poor	Small areas, no edges or glades. Single age. Could be enhanced to achieve moderate condition but not required to achieve targeted BNG	
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	Not assessed										-	-		
Urban trees	URBAN TREES	F	P	F	F	F	P				2	Poor	Trees are within landscaped areas of the site or next to tarmac and yards. Trees all small size	
Key: P – Criteria passed F – Criteria failed														

Appendix Table B1: Condition Assessment for Area Habitats

Phase 1 Habitat	UK Hab Equivalent	Condition Sheet	Other Habitat Criteria Score											Total Score	Condition Assessment	Notes		
			C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11				C12	C13
Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	Other broadleaf woodland	WOODLAND AND FOREST	1	3	3	3	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	24	Poor	Newly planted woodland will lack structure.
Key to woodland condition assessment: 3 (points) = Good 2 (points) = Moderate 1 (point) = Poor Total score >32 – Good Total score 26 – 32 – Moderate Total score <26 – Poor																		

Appendix Table B2: Woodland Condition Assessment