



LAND AT DAM HEAD, HOLMBRIDGE, HOMFIRTH
INDICATIVE BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT
(OUTLINE PLANNING)

DECEMBER 2023



Land at Dam Head, Holmbridge, Holmfirth
Indicative Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
(Outline Planning)

A report for

Northern Design Partnerships (Oldham)

17 Station Lane

Grotton

Oldham

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On behalf of their client

Geoff Howarth

Report by



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December 2023

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Reason for Assessment	1
2.	Results	2
2.1	Baseline Assessment	2
2.2	Biodiversity Metric Results	2
3.	Recommendations	3
	References	4
	Appendix A: Figures	5

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 REASON FOR ASSESSMENT

To address the anticipated loss of low and medium distinctiveness habitats from the proposals, a biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment has been undertaken to determine whether a 10% can be achieved. This is in line with National Planning Policy (NPPF, 2019), and local planning policy (LP30 of Kirklees Local Plan).

As this application is for outline planning only, an indicative BNG assessment has been undertaken at this stage. The indicative assessment has been undertaken to help support the LPA in making an informed decision that the proposal will be able to achieve the required 10% net gain.

This document provides a summary of the indicative BNG assessment and can be read in conjunction with the following documents:

1. Pennine Ecological (2023) – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Impact Assessment: Land at Dam Head, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire
2. Dam Head, Holmbridge – Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool – macro-enabled (OUTLINE PLANNING)
3. Dam Head, Holmbridge – BM 4.0 – Technical Annex 1 – Condition Assessment Sheets
4. Northern Design (09/23) – Proposed Dwelling Adj 2 Dam Head, Hinchcliffe Mill, Holmbridge: Proposed Site Plan

2. RESULTS

2.1 BASELINE ASSESSMENT

The site is small field parcel positioned in between a row of houses along Dam Head. The site is approximately 34m x 75m. The field has a steep gradient leading uphill as you move south / away from Dam head. The field has been unmanaged for over 5 years and subsequently has become rank and comprises a mosaic of neutral grassland and mixed scrub.

Photographs can be found within the PEA (Pennine Ecological, 2023) and baseline habitat conditions provided within the excel condition assessment sheets.

2.2 BIODIVERSITY METRIC RESULTS

The proposal is to erect a single dwelling in the north west corner of the site. The majority of habitat to be lost is bramble scrub with small areas of g3c8 grassland.

As part of the proposed landscape design, scrub planting is proposed along the southern section of the site. This will be supported by a grassland enhancement programme and a minimum of 12no. native tree (refer to Appendix A, Figure 1 for proposed BNG landscaping).

The current proposal will result in a **+0.43 habitat unit gain / 21.63% net gain**. All habitat trading rules have been satisfied.

Table 2.1: Extract from metric calculator summary of results tab

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.43
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00
Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	21.63%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed landscaping would generate a 0.43 habitat unit gain / +21.63% net gain.

At full planning stage, the soft landscaping design should ensure that the proposed habitats outlined in Figure 1, Appendix A are taken forward to detailed design and implemented to ensure a net gain is achieved.

It is recommended that this document is updated at full planning once the soft landscape plan has been completed. The updated BNG can be provided as part of the reserved matters.

REFERENCES

Dam Head, Holmbridge – Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool – macro-enabled (OUTLINE PLANNING)

Dam Head, Holmbridge – BM 4.0 – Technical Annex 1 – Condition Assessment Sheets

Natural England Joint Publication JP039 (March 2023)- The Biodiversity Metric 4.0: User Guide. Natural England.

Northern Design (09/23) – Proposed Dwelling Adj 2 Dam Head, Hinchcliffe Mill, Holmbridge: Proposed Site Plan

Pennine Ecological (2023) – *Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Impact Assessment: Land at Dam Head, Holmbridge, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire*

Appendix A: Figures

