

ORANGE DESIGN STUDIO.

ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN STATEMENT.

MOORLANDS CRICKET CLUB, MEMORIAL PARK, HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, MIRFIELD,
WF14 9HP.

INTRODUCTION.

This statement accompanies the planning application for the proposed development to Moorlands Cricket Club, Mirfield. Combined with the BNG report, this statement demonstrates how the development will deliver a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, in line with the Environment Act 2021, the National Planning Policy Framework, and Kirklees planning policy. A Biodiversity Gain Plan and Small Sites Metric Assessment have been prepared to accompany this application.

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS.

The applications site is an operational cricket ground comprising of a central grass patch, maintained playing area, and surrounding amenity grassland, mature trees, hedgerows which contribute to the site's ecological value, and existing developed areas, including the cricket pavilion and associated hard standing areas. No protected habitats or species were recorded within the development footprint.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.

The proposal is for the erection of a two storey side extension, single storey front/rear extension, first floor balcony and associated internal and external alterations. The proposed works are confined to the footprint of the existing developed area and will not require removal of trees or significant areas of grassland. In parallel with the revitalization of the club facilities, the scheme will also deliver revitalization of the surrounding landscape, predominantly through the planting of new native trees, hedgerows, shrubs and wildflower areas. These enhancements will contribute to the sites ecological value, strengthen habitat connectivity, and provide long-term biodiversity benefits.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT.

A BNG report has been prepared which demonstrates that the baseline ecological value of the site has been assessed. Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures will result in a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity units, in compliance with statutory requirements. The Small Sites Metric submitted confirms:

- Pre-development biodiversity value: 2.61 habitat units.
- Post-development biodiversity value: 2.898 habitat units/
- Net gain delivered: +0.2875 units, equivalent to an 11.01% uplift.

This demonstrates that the scheme exceeds the statutory 10% BNG requirement.

BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENT MEASURES.

The following measures will be implemented as part of the scheme:

- Planting of new native hedgerows and shrubs to strengthen site boundaries
 - Installation of bird boxes on retained mature trees.
- Native tree and hedgerow planting to strengthen existing green infrastructure.
 - Creation of pollinator-friendly planting areas and plant beds.
 - Sensitive management of grassland edges to provide habitat diversity.
 - Ongoing management to ensure the longevity of enhancement.

To mitigate the loss of trees, due to safety concerns to the existing clubhouse, the proposals include the planting of new replacement poplar trees. This will allow for:

- Landscape Continuity: Poplars have long been a characteristic feature of the cricket ground setting. The new poplars ensures continuity of this established landscape character, maintaining the sense of enclosure and identity valued by the club and community.
- Biodiversity Contribution: The replacement poplar trees ensures a provided habitat for wildlife, such as birds and invertebrates.

CONCLUSION.

The proposed development will not result the loss of high-value habitats and, through the incorporation of enhancements set out in the accompanying ecological report, will achieve at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain. The development has been designed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, avoiding impacts on higher value habitats and incorporating a package of ecological enhancements. The submitted biodiversity gain plan and metric confirm an 11.01% net gain. The scheme is therefore fully compliant with the Environment Act 2021, the NPPF and Kirklees policy, and makes a positive contribution to local biodiversity and ecological resilience while delivering improved community sporting facilities.