FUTURESECOLOGY

Mr. Richard Kershaw

Bradley Villa Farm, Kirklees

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (BIA)

Report Reference Number: FE290/BIA01

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REV	Issue Status	Author or Reviewer	Name & Qualifications	Position	Date
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The following report has been prepared by Futures Ecology Ltd. on behalf of Mr. Richard Kershaw. This summary report presents the results of the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) Calculations using The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool produced in respect of proposals for development at Bradley Villa Farm, Kirklees (grid reference: SE 15002 20452).

SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

1.2 The Site is c. 0.99ha in extent and comprises a large area of hardstanding, a large poultry unit, with some additional areas of improved and semi-improved grassland and ephemeral vegetation.

1.3 The landscape immediately surrounding the Site comprises further industrial buildings within Bradley Villa Farm, residential buildings, and a large residential development.

1.4 The Site proposals include the change of use and alteration from egg production units to class E employment uses.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

1.5 This report has been prepared in relation to Condition 23 of the planning permission decision notice for planning application 2023/62/92887/W.

Condition 23

Prior to six months before the first occupation of the development hereby approved, a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment (including a biodiversity metric calculation, setting out the site's existing (baseline) ecological value and the site's proposed (post-development) ecological value, and demonstrating that a biodiversity net gain would be achieved) shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure an appropriate biodiversity net gain would be achieved in accordance with policy LP30 of the Kirklees Local Plan and chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.6 A small area (0.11ha) in north of the application Site overlaps with the neighbouring application (2021/62/92086/W). Given the client has no control over this area, it has been excluded from the calculations with the exception of a short length of hedgerow (NH1) which was proposed as part of the neighbouring application and is to be removed to facilitate access to this development.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

PERSONNEL

2.1 The habitat survey was conducted by M. Baker MSc, BSc (Hons), ACIEEM, who has over 6 years' experience in ecological consultancy, including habitat surveys and site

assessments for protected species. M. Baker is appropriately qualified for the surveys based on the CIEEM competencies.

FIELD SURVEY – HABITATS

Habitat Assessment

2.2 A detailed habitat survey was undertaken on 17th December 2024 and was used to fully inform the Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA).

2.3 Survey methodology followed guidance from Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) 2016[1] comprising a walkover of the survey area mapping (using JNCC standard habitat codes) and broadly describing and classifying the principal habitat types and identifying the dominant plant species present within each habitat type, noting any features of interest. The frequencies at which plant species occurred were noted using the DAFOR[2] method[3]. Whilst the plant species lists obtained should not be regarded as exhaustive, sufficient information was obtained to determine broad habitat types.

2.4 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric works best where habitat types are classified using the UK Habitats Classification methodology (UKHab Ltd., 2023)[4]. Therefore, habitats were also described and evaluated in accordance with the UK Habitats Classification methods aligning the assessed habitats with the Biodiversity Metric habitat types.

Habitat Condition Assessment

2.5 Habitat condition was assessed and assigned during the Phase 1 assessment following the guidance from the 'The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology' excel document (Natural England, February 2024) which accompanies the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Assessment criteria were followed for each broad habitat type, to determine the condition of each habitat.

Strategic Significance

2.6 Strategic significance is the local significance of the habitat based on its location and habitat type.

2.7 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric assigns strategic significance based on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and descriptions set out in Table 7 of the Statutory Metric User Guide (November 2023)[5]. In the absence of an LNRS, the relevant planning authority should specify alternative documents for assigning strategic significance whilst an LNRS is put in place.

2.8 Consequently, the strategic significance of the on-site baseline habitats is the determined by whether the habitats fell within:

- any designated sites;

[1] JNCC (2016) Handbook for Phase1 Habitat Survey – a technique for environmental audit. ISBN 0 86139 636 7
[2] DAFOR: D=dominant, A=abundant, F=frequent, O=occasional, R=Rare, L=Locally
[3] WJ Sutherland (August 2006) Ecological Census Techniques. A Handbook, 2nd Edition. ISBN: 9780521606363
[4] UKHab Ltd. (July 2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 https://ukhab.org/
[5] DEFRA (November 2023) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. User Guide (draft).

- any national habitat networks (as identified using the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)[6]); or
- any local sites or green infrastructure corridors.

Survey Limitations

2.9 The habitat survey and condition assessments to inform the BIA were conducted outside of the optimal survey season (April to September), but given the nature of the habitats present on-site, this was not thought to impact the assessment.

BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (BIA)

2.10 To quantify deliverable net gain for the application, the baseline value of the habitats within the application Site have been calculated utilising the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

3.0 BASELINE HABITATS

3.1 A summary of the habitats present on-site is provided in Table 1 below including UK Hab equivalent habitats for the purpose of the BIA. The baseline habitats are displayed on Figure 1 and photographs are included within Appendix A.

Table 1: Summary of Habitats

Phase 1 Habitat Type	Metric Habitat Classification	Brief description and Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA)	Photographs
Habitat Units			
Hardstanding	Developed land; sealed surface	Unpaved tracks surrounding buildings and paved access road. Condition Assessment: **N/A – Other (fixed)**	 

[6] www.magic.defra.gov.uk

Phase 1 Habitat Type	Metric Habitat Classification	Brief description and Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA)	Photographs
			
Ephemeral/ short perennial	Ruderal/ ephemeral	Some areas surrounding tracks and buildings. Passes: C. Fails: A, B. Condition: **Poor (Fails 2 core criteria)**	  

Phase 1 Habitat Type	Metric Habitat Classification	Brief description and Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA)	Photographs
Improved grassland	Modified grassland	Area of improved grassland. **Quadrat 1 (SE1496620466):** Perennial rye-grass (D) **Total species (forbs): 1 (0)** **Quadrat 2 (SE1495520452):** Perennial rye-grass (D), broad-leaved dock (O), dandelion (R). **Total species (forbs): 3 (2)** **Quadrat 3 (SE1497520433):** Perennial rye-grass (D), broad-leaved dock (O), dandelion (R). **Total species (forbs): 3 (2)** **Total species per m² (forbs): 2.33 (1.33)** Passes: C, D, E, F, G. Fails: A, B. Condition: **Poor (Passes 5 criteria but not essential criterion A)**	  
Poor semi-improved grassland	Modified grassland	Area of semi-improved grassland. **Quadrat 1 (SE1508020445):** Perennial rye-grass (A), cock's foot (F), broad-leaved dock (R). **Total species (forbs): 3 (1)** **Quadrat 2 (SE1507220463):** Perennial rye-grass (A), creeping bent (O), nettle (O), cock's foot (O). **Total species (forbs): 4 (1)**	

Phase 1 Habitat Type	Metric Habitat Classification	Brief description and Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA)	Photographs
		Quadrat 3 (SE1506420476): Perennial rye-grass (F), common couch (F). **Total species (forbs): 2 (0)** **Quadrat 4 (SE1503620478):** Perennial rye-grass (A), creeping bent (O), creeping buttercup (R), broad-leaved dock (R), cock's foot (R). **Total species (forbs): 5 (2)** **Quadrat 5 (SE1501020474):** Perennial rye-grass (A), broad-leaved dock (R), bittercress (R). **Total species (forbs): 3 (2)** **Quadrat 6 (SE1497820471):** Perennial rye-grass (F), cock's foot (O), Yorkshire fog (O). **Total species (forbs): 3 (0)** **Total species per m^2 (forbs): 3.33 (1)** Passes: C, D, E, F, G. Fails: A, B. Condition: **Poor (Passes 5 criteria but not essential criterion A)**	 
Ephemeral/ short perennial	Ruderal/ ephemeral	Some areas surrounding tracks and buildings.5 Passes: C. Fails: A, B. Condition: **Poor (Fails 2 core criteria)**	

Phase 1 Habitat Type	Metric Habitat Classification	Brief description and Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA)	Photographs
			 
Hedgerow Units			
Intact hedge - species-poor (H1)	Native hedgerow	This feature had already been removed prior to the 2024 Site visit, although it was present in January 2021 according to Google Earth imagery. The hedgeow was recorded within the baseline of the adjacent development (2021/62/92086/W - Futures Ecology Ltd., Biodiversity Impact Assessment, FE30/BIA01) so this infomation has been used. Passes: B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2. Fails: A1, A2. Condition: **Moderate (Fails less than 5 but fails 2 criteria in the same functional group)**	N/A
NH1	Native species rich hedgerow	A short section of native species hedgerow proposed as part of the adjacent	N/A

Phase 1 Habitat Type	Metric Habitat Classification	Brief description and Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA)	Photographs
		planning application (2021/62/92086/W) will be removed for access. Condition: **Moderate** (Futures Ecology Ltd., Biodiversity Impact Assessment, FE30/BIA01)	

Strategic Significance

3.2 The Kirklees Habitat Network (LHN) is 217m west of the Site boundary at the closest point, and as such all habitats within these areas have been assigned '*Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy*'.

Baseline Summary

3.3 From the completed Statutory Biodiversity Metric, the value of the existing on-site habitats is **0.98 Biodiversity Habitat Units (BHU)** and **0.35 Hedgerow Units (HU)**.

4.0 BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 In accordance with NPPF (December 2024)[7], The Environment Act 2021[8] and Policy LP30 of Kirklees Local Plan (Adopted February 2019)[9] , the aim is to generate a 10% net gain for biodiversity.

4.2 As the planning application (2023/62/92887/W) was validated in September 2023, it is considered exempt from statutory BNG which became mandatory on the 12th February for major developments and April 2024 for small sites. As such, a 1% net gain is considered adequate.

4.3 Figure 2 outlines the proposed on-site and off-site habitats.

LOST HABITATS

4.4 All on-site habitats are to be lost under the footprint of the development.

CREATED HABITATS

4.5 Habitats to be created on-site include:

- Buildings and hardstanding;

[7] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
[8] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted
[9] https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/planning-policy/local-plan.aspx

- An attenuation pond which will be managed as amenity grassland;
- A native scrub buffer in the north of the Site;
- c. 17m of native species rich hedgerow with trees and c. 32m of native species rich hedgerow;
- 28 small trees.

4.6 An area in the west of the Site has been given zero value in the metric to maintain flexibility.

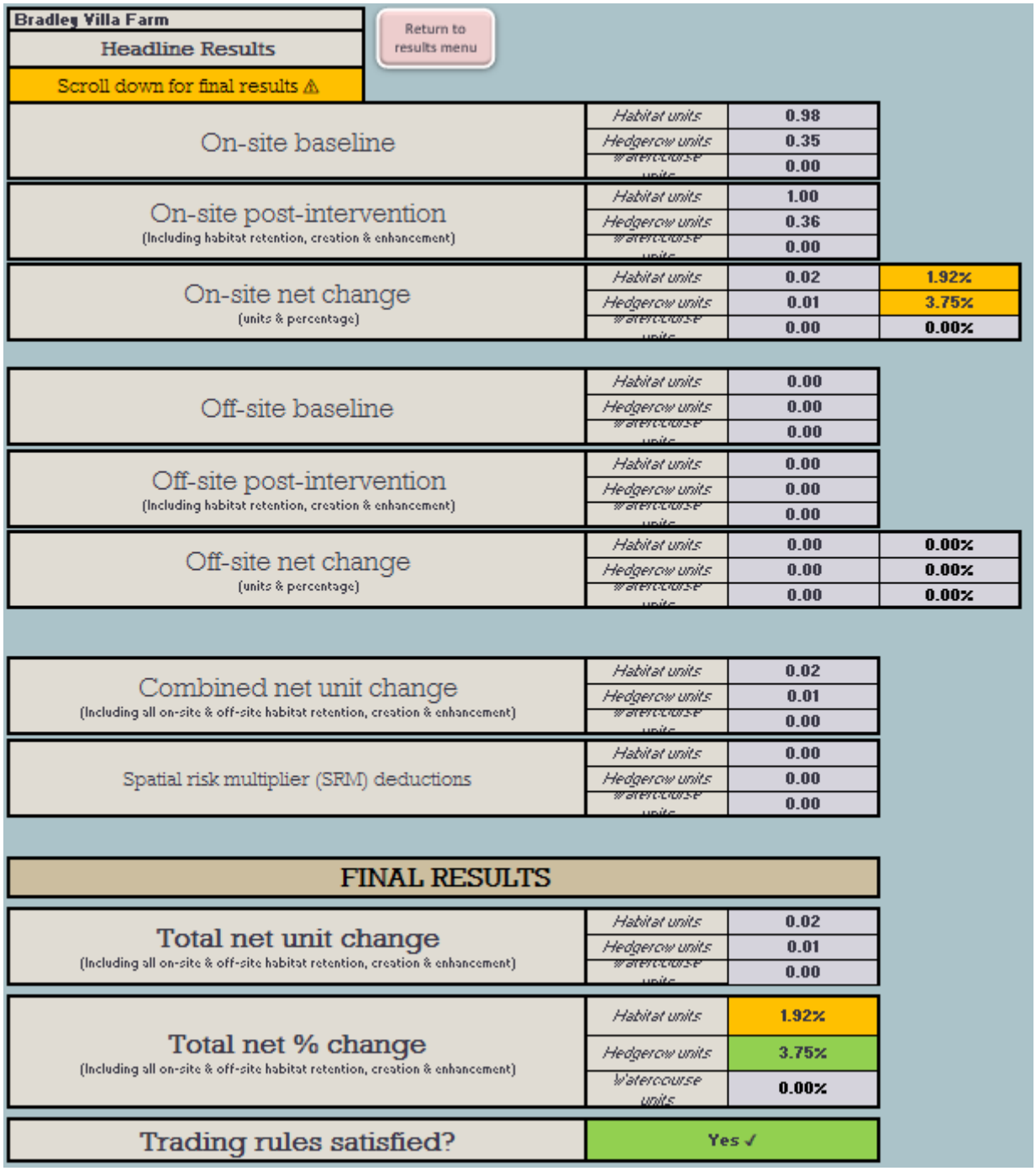
SUMMARY

4.7 Post development, the on-site habitat enhancements and creation (Figure 2) with long-term management (for a minimum of 30 years) will achieve **+0.02 Biodiversity Habitat Units (+1.92%)** and **0.01 Hedgerow Units (3.75%)**.

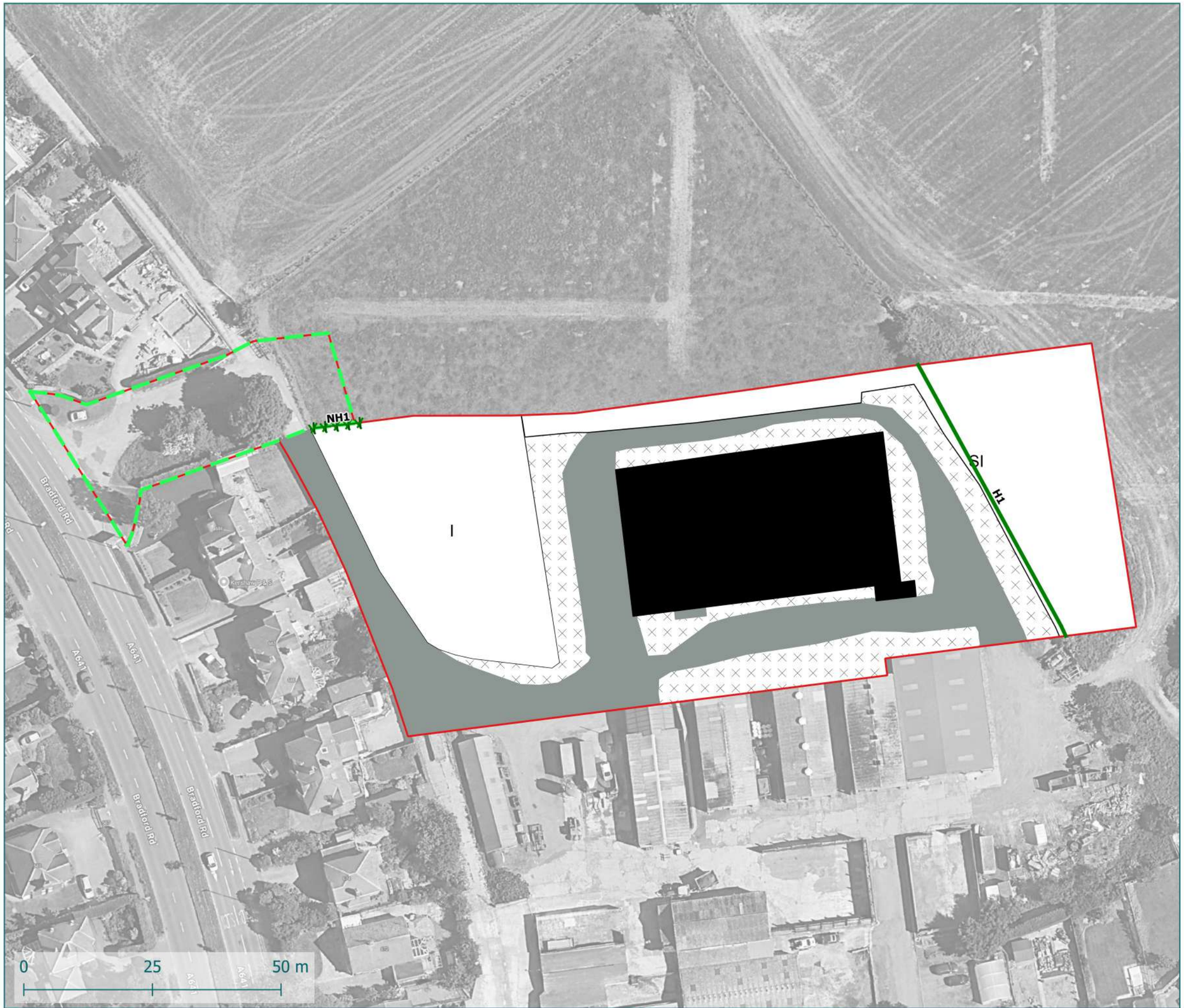
4.8 The proposals for the application Site **do satisfy the Area Habitat Unit and Hedgerow Unit trading rules**.

APPENDIX A: FE290 STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC CALCULATION TOOL

A summary is provided below, please see accompanying excel document for full information.



Bradley Villa Farm			
Headline Results	Return to results menu		
Scroll down for final results ⚠			
On-site baseline	Habitat units	0.98	
	Hedgerow units	0.35	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	1.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.36	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.02	1.92%
	Hedgerow units	0.01	3.75%
	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	0.02	
	Hedgerow units	0.01	
	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	0.02	
	Hedgerow units	0.01	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	1.92%	
	Hedgerow units	3.75%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓		



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Key

- Site Boundary
- Overlap with neighbouring application (2021/62/92086/W)

Baseline Habitats

- Buildings [Urban: Developed land; sealed surface]
- Hardstanding [Urban: Developed land; sealed surface]
- Cultivated/disturbed land - Ephemeral/short perennial [Sparsely vegetated land: Ruderal/Ephemeral]
- I — Improved grassland [Grassland: Modified grassland]
- SI — Poor semi-improved grassland [Grassland: Modified grassland]
- Intact hedge - species-poor [Native Hedgerow]
- Hedge with trees - native species-rich [Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees]

Client:	Mr. R. Kershaw	Plan Reference:	FE290_BIA01_01	Author:	MB
Project:	Bradley Villa Farm (Poultry Units)	Project Reference:	FE290	Date:	24/6/2025
Title:	Figure 1 - Baseline Habitat Plan	Report Reference:	BIA01	Scale:	1:750

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Key

- Site Boundary
- Overlap with neighbouring application (2021/62/92086/W)

Post-development Habitats

- Buildings [Urban: Developed land; sealed surface]
- Hardstanding [Urban: Developed land; sealed surface]
- Cultivated/disturbed land - Amenity grassland [Grassland: Modified grassland]
- Scrub - dense/continuous [Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub]
- Undefined to provide flexibility [Urban: Developed land; sealed surface]
- Intact hedge - native species-rich [Native Species Rich Hedgerow]
- Hedge with trees - native species-rich [Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees]
- Small individual tree [Individual tree: Urban tree]
- Tree in hedgerow [N/A]

Client:	Mr. R. Kershaw	Plan Reference:	FE290_BIA01_02	Author:	MB
Project:	Bradley Villa Farm (Poultry Units)	Project Reference:	FE290	Date:	19/6/2025
Title:	Figure 2 - Proposed Habitat Plan	Report Reference:	BIA01	Scale:	1:750

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