



Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Woodley School and College

Presented
to: **ONE Environments Ltd.**

Issued: February 2026

Lucion Delta-Simons Project No: 90653.625993

Report Details

Client	ONE Environments.
Report Title	Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
Site Address	Fernside Avenue, Huddersfield, HD5 8PQ
Project No.	90653.625993
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Quality Assurance

Issue No.	Status	Issue Date	Comments	Author	Technical Review	Authorised
3	Final	27 th February 2026	Updated Site plans following NMA Application	Dominic Harley Consultant Ecologist	Jonathan Spencer Associate Director - Ecology team Lead	Jonathan Spencer Associate Director - Ecology team Lead

About us

Lucion Delta-Simons is a trusted, multidisciplinary environmental consultancy, focused on delivering the best possible project outcomes for customers. Specialising in Environment, Health & Safety and Sustainability, Lucion Delta-Simons provide support and advice within the property development, asset management, corporate and industrial markets. Operating from across the UK we employ over 180 environmental professionals, bringing experience from across the private consultancy and public sector markets.

As part of Lucion Services, our combined team of 500 in the UK has a range of specialist skill sets in over 50 environmental consultancy specialisms including asbestos, hazardous materials, ecology, air and water services, geo-environmental and sustainability amongst others.



Lucion Delta-Simons is a 'Beyond Net-Zero' company. We have set a Science-Based Target to reduce our Scope 1 and Scope 2 carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement and are committed to reducing Scope 3 emissions from our supply chain. Every year we offset our residual emissions by 150% through verified carbon removal projects linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our consultancy services to you are climate positive.

If you would like support in understanding your carbon footprint and playing your part in tackling the global climate crisis, please get in touch with your Lucion Delta-Simons contact above who will be happy to help.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Context and Purpose

Lucion Delta-Simons Ltd ("Lucion Delta-Simons") was instructed by Frank Shaw Associates Ltd. ("the Applicant") to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment to determine whether redevelopment of Almondbury School ("the Proposed Development"), located off Fernside Avenue, in Huddersfield (hereafter referred to as "the Site") can achieve a net gain in biodiversity.

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023) states, "*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the local environment by...(d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures...*", it also places greater emphasis on achieving a measurable net gain in biodiversity.

This assessment was carried out in adherence to the four rules contained within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (DEFRA, 2024):

- Rule 1: The trading rules of this biodiversity metric must be followed.
- Rule 2: Biodiversity unit outputs, for each type of unit, must not be summed, traded, or converted between types. The requirement to deliver at least a 10% net gain applies to each type of unit.
- Rule 3: To accurately apply the biodiversity metric formula, you must use the biodiversity metric calculation tool or small sites biodiversity metric tool (SSM) for small sites.
- The tools remove the need for a user to manually calculate the change in biodiversity value.
- The tool will summarise the results of the calculation and inform a user whether the biodiversity net gain objective has been met.
- Rule 4: In exceptional ecological circumstances, deviation from this biodiversity metric methodology may be permitted by the relevant planning authority.

In addition, use of the metric during this assessment was informed by the nine principles as contained within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (DEFRA, 2024):

- Principle 1: The metric assessment should be completed by a competent person.
- Principle 2: The use of this biodiversity metric does not override existing biodiversity protections, statutory obligations, policy requirements, ecological mitigation hierarchy or any other requirements. This includes consenting or licensing processes, for example woodlands.
- Principle 3: This biodiversity metric should be used in accordance with established good practice guidance and professional codes.
- Principle 4: This biodiversity metric is not a complex or comprehensive ecological model and is not a substitute for expert ecological advice.
- Principle 5: Biodiversity units are a proxy for biodiversity and should be treated as relative values.
- Principle 6: This biodiversity metric is designed to inform decisions in conjunction with locally relevant evidence, expert input, or guidance.
- Principle 7: Habitat interventions need to be realistic and deliverable within a relevant project timeframe.
- Principle 8: Created and enhanced habitats should be, where practical and reasonable, local to any impact and deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation.
- Principle 9: This biodiversity metric does not enforce a minimum habitat size ratio for compensation of losses. Proposals should aim to:

- Maintain habitat extent - supporting more, bigger, better and more joined up ecological networks; and
- Ensure that proposed or retained habitat parcels are of sufficient size for ecological function.

1.2 Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will comprise a new school facility with associated hard and soft landscaping (Drawing 1).

The construction phase will comprise:

- Clearance of existing on-Site habitats; and
- Construction of the new school facility with associated soft landscaping.

The operational phase will comprise the new school and landscape management.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Overview

The approach used to assess biodiversity impacts resulting from the proposed development is detailed below. This assessment has been based on the Statutory Metric (the Metric), the Landscape Proposal Plan provided by the Client in an email on 17th June 2024 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) undertaken in February 2024.

2.2 Biodiversity Metric

The quantitative assessment is based on the Metric to provide a transparent and repeatable measure of biodiversity at each of the stages identified above. The biodiversity score considers a number of factors including:

- Habitat distinctiveness;
- Habitat condition;
- Temporal risk: time required to reach target condition;
- Difficulty to create/restore;
- Connectivity; and
- Spatial area of loss/gain of each habitat.

The pre-development value is compared to the proposed habitat composition post development to assess the change in biodiversity value using biodiversity units as a proxy numeric value.

The Metric only considers habitats and does not take protected and notable species or associated enhancement measures such as bird/bat boxes into account.

2.3 Habitat Distinctiveness

Distinctiveness refers to the relative scarcity of the habitat and its importance for nature conservation. Habitats are assigned to distinctiveness bands. These are based on an assessment of the distinguishing features of a habitat or linear feature, including the consideration of species richness, rarity (at local, regional, national and international scales), and the degree to which a habitat supports species rarely found in other habitats.

The distinctiveness band of each habitat is preassigned in the Metric. The bands are based upon the UK habitat classification system. Where no directly comparable Defra habitat type was available to match the vegetation recorded by Phase 1 Habitat survey, the closest approximation was selected.

The Defra habitat typologies are split into five distinctiveness bands:

- **Very High** - Priority habitats as defined in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 that are highly threatened, internationally scarce, and require conservation action;
- **High** - Priority habitats as defined in Section 41 of the NERC Act requiring conservation action;
- **Medium** - Semi-natural habitats not classed as Priority Habitat;
- **Low** - Habitat of low biodiversity value; and
- **Very low** - Little or no biodiversity value.

Under the supplementary habitat calculations for linear habitats, hedgerows are assigned a distinctiveness weighting based on their physical structure and the species composition of the woody element of the

hedgerow, and their association with physical features (ditches and banks) that may enhance their ecological value by providing additional niches or enhanced capacity to provide habitat connectivity.

2.4 Habitat Condition

The condition of a habitat is defined by its particular quality. For example, a habitat is in poor condition if it fails to support the notable/protected species for which it is valued, or if it is in unfavourable condition due to degradation from external factors, such as pollution, erosion or invasive species. Condition assessment criteria is based on Common Standards Monitoring of protected sites in the UK where key attributes and positive and negative indicators are used. Habitat condition categories are as follows:

- Good;
- Fairly good;
- Moderate;
- Fairly poor;
- Poor;
- N/A - Agricultural; and
- N/A - other.

For linear features, condition assessment is based on the dimensions and other physical characteristics of a hedgerow or line of trees against a set of minimum requirements for the feature to be considered in a 'favourable' condition. The condition assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.

2.5 Baseline Assessment

The baseline biodiversity score for the Site has been determined using the PEA of the Site undertaken by Lucion Delta-Simons in February 2023. The baseline habitats are shown in Figure 1.

The baseline assessment for the Site has now been established and will not change throughout the development period. This is the baseline from which future audits can be compared.

2.6 Post Development Biodiversity Unit Calculation

Biodiversity Units and Linear Units resulting from ecological mitigation for the Scheme to compensate for potential losses are referred to as post-development Biodiversity Units/Linear Units (BUs/LUs).

To calculate the BUs which may be achieved post-development, risk factors are introduced. The aim of a risk factor is to correct for a disparity or risk, associated with the uncertainty surrounding the creation of habitats. There are three main types of risk that are accounted for within the Metric. These are categorised as follows:

- **Spatial Risk** - these reflect ecological risks deriving from the change in location of the habitat or resource. By way of example, it may be that recreating a habitat in a new location distant from the area of loss could reduce its biodiversity value, through reduced connectivity and a decrease in habitat availability for the species affected by the development;
- **Temporal Risk** - the risk associated with the time required for created habitats to reach their target suitability and for the functionality of the habitat to be restored; and
- **Delivery Risk** - the risks associated with the actual delivery of the offset due to, for instance, uncertainty in the effectiveness of habitat creation/management.

Each risk multiplier is assigned a numerical score which enables post development Biodiversity Units to be calculated.

2.7 Proposed Scheme

In order to calculate the post-intervention score, the Landscape Proposal Plans (Drawing 1) have been used as well as assumptions for targeted habitat conditions as set out in Section 3.1.

2.8 Future Auditing

This Report sets out the predicted biodiversity impacts of the scheme based on a set of assumptions and professional judgement for target habitat conditions post-development. In order to ensure the development achieves the targets set out below, the scheme should be accompanied by an appropriate Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan (LEMMP). The LEMMP should allow for regular monitoring of the habitat establishment and their progression to the desired condition target, allowing for changes to management regimes as necessary to achieve the targets set.

3.0 Assumptions and Application of Professional Judgement

3.1 Baseline Habitats

Professional judgement has been made in relation to the baseline habitats and their conditions based on the criteria provided within the Defra Metric Technical Supplement and User Guide.

3.2 Future Habitats

Assumptions and professional judgement have been applied in relation to the habitat target condition. These judgements are based on realistic targets according to the location and context of the development. Future management of the landscaping at the Site should be informed by an appropriate management and monitoring plan to achieve these target conditions.

4.0 Results

4.1 Baseline

Baseline habitats are shown in Figure 1 and consist of predominantly developed land, including footpaths, playgrounds, carparks and the existing buildings, the boundaries of the Site were defined by modified grassland, with scattered trees of varying species, ages and conditions, in addition to areas of ornamental shrubs. Overall, the baseline for the Site is calculated to provide 9.63 area BUs.

Table 1, below, provides a summary of the baseline habitats, areas and biodiversity units for the Site.

Table 1 - On-Site Area Habitat Baseline Score

Existing Habitats (Area)	Condition	Area (ha)	Biodiversity Units
Grassland - Modified grassland	Poor	1.62	3.24
Urban - Introduced shrub	Condition Assessment N/A	0.07	0.14
Urban - Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other	1.30	0.00
Urban - Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other	0.82	0.00
Individual tree - Urban tree	Moderate	0.684*	5.47
Individual tree - Urban tree	Moderate	0.0814*	0.65
Individual tree - Urban tree	Moderate	0.0163*	0.13
Total		3.81	9.63

*As trees do not provide a groundcover area, their areas are not included in the total within this table, meaning that the total areas presented remain the same as the area of the Site. Within the calculator, however, they are included in addition to the ground vegetation areas.

4.2 Proposed Scheme

Post-development habitat compositions are shown in Drawing 1 and detailed in Table 2, below. The majority of the Site post-development will include the new school building, with associate hard landscaping, in addition to the retention of some of the trees. Newly planted habitats will include ornamental planting, with modified and neutral grasslands, swale planting, and new tree planting across the Site. Woodland whip barrier planting will define the boundaries of the Site, providing a visual buffer to the Site.

Table 2, below, provides a summary of the post-development habitats, areas and baseline biodiversity units for the Site.

Table 2 - Post-Development Area Habitat Score

Proposed Habitats (Area)	Target Condition	Area (ha) Retained	Area (ha) Created	Biodiversity Units Delivered
Urban - Modified grassland	Moderate	0.07	0.22	0.56

Proposed Habitats (Area)	Target Condition	Area (ha) Retained	Area (ha) Created	Biodiversity Units Delivered
Urban - Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other	0.54	1.95	0.00
Grassland - Other neutral grassland	Poor	-	0.23	0.86
Urban - Introduced shrub	Condition Assessment N/A	-	0.07	0.14
Urban - Modified grassland	Poor	-	0.15	0.29
Heathland and Shrub - Mixed scrub	Moderate	-	0.58	3.88
Individual tree - Rural tree	Moderate	0.5212*	0.684*	6.26
Total		0.61	3.20	11.99

*As trees do not provide a groundcover area, their areas are not included in the total within this table, meaning that the total areas presented remain the same as the area of the Site. Within the calculator, however, they are included in addition to the ground vegetation areas.

Table 3, below, provides a summary of the proposed linear habitats on Site (i.e. hedgerows).

Table 3 - Post-Development Linear Habitat Score

Proposed Habitats (Linear)	Target Condition	Length Created (km)	Linear Units Delivered
Native hedgerow	Poor	0.431	0.83
Total		0.431	0.83

All of the hedgerows to be delivered on-Site have been combined to provide the above length measurement.

5.0 Conclusions

The above assessment results in a total net unit change of:

Area Units = +2.36 **Total net % change = +24.46%**

Linear Units = +0.83 **Total net % change = N/A**

See the attached completed Defra Metric for detailed results (Appendix A).

Based on the information currently available, this assessment indicates that the development will achieve a net gain in biodiversity over 10%. The main contributor to this is the retention of trees, in addition of new scrub planting, additional tree planting and grassland planting and the creation of new areas of hedgerow.

The trading rules for the development have been satisfied.

It should be noted that any habitat creation is required to be managed in perpetuity to ensure habitats meet the target conditions (which for the purposes of BNG is considered to be 30 years). Monitoring of this should be implemented through an appropriate LEMMP.

The requirement for further consideration of Biodiversity Net Gain will depend on the current approach and requirements of the LPA.

6.0 Disclaimer

The recommendations contained in this Report represent Lucion Delta-Simons' professional opinions, based upon the information referred to in Section 1.0 of this Report, exercising the duty of care required of an experienced Ecology Consultant. Lucion Delta-Simons does not warrant or guarantee that the Site is free of Bats or other protected species.

This Report was prepared by Lucion Delta-Simons for the sole and exclusive use of the Client and for the specific purpose for which Lucion Delta-Simons was instructed as defined in Section 1.0 of this Report. Nothing contained in this Report shall be construed to give any rights or benefits to anyone other than the Client and Lucion Delta-Simons, and all duties and responsibilities undertaken are for the sole and exclusive benefit of the Client and not for the benefit of any other party. In particular, Lucion Delta-Simons does not intend, without its written consent, for this Report to be disseminated to anyone other than the Client or to be used or relied upon by anyone other than the Client. Use of the Report by any other person is unauthorised and such use is at the sole risk of the user. Anyone using or relying upon this Report, other than the Client, agrees by virtue of its use to indemnify and hold harmless Lucion Delta-Simons from and against all claims, losses and damages (of whatsoever nature and howsoever or whensoever arising), arising out of or resulting from the performance of the work by the Consultant.

Figure 1 - Baseline Habitats



- Legend**
- Site boundary
 - g4 - modified grassland
 - u - urban, ornamental shrub
 - u1b - developed land, sealed surface
 - u1b5 - buildings
 - Fence
 - Broadleaved scattered tree
 - Coniferous scattered tree
 - Target notes

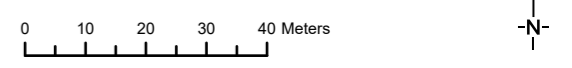


Figure			
Baseline Habitats			
Job			
NWSC			
Client			
Figure No.	Revision	Date	
1	A	13/06/2024	
Drawn	Checked	Scale	
BB	CD	1:1,250 @ A3	
Job No.	Central GR		
90653.625993	416919E 415841N		



DO NOT SCALE.
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION.



Drawing 1 - Landscape Proposal Plans



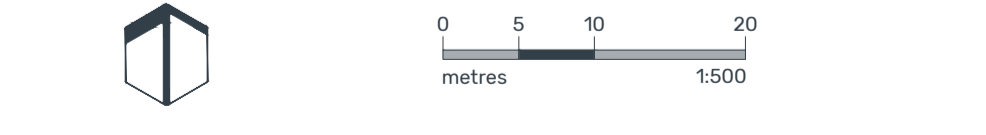
- Covered Cycle Parking
- Cycle stands
- EV charging Bays [Active]
- Accessible Parking Bay marker Post
- External Door Protection
- Timber Raised Planter Bed
- Picnic Tables
- In Ground Trampoline
- Balance Disk
- Climbing Frame
- Nest Swing
- Spinning Wobble Dish
- Spinner with Handles
- Green House
- Potting Shed
- Sports Equipment Storage Cabinet
- Slide
- Chicken Coop
- Farm Storage
- Weatherproof Canopy
- Tensile Canopy
- Straight Timber Benches
- Curved Bench
- Caretakers Storage
- Balance Beam
- Log Tunnel
- Play Log
- Log Seats
- Embankment Climber
- Fire Pit
- Fire Cooking Bowl
- Mud Kitchen
- Composter
- Habitat Feature
- Play Boulders
- Water Feature
- External Play Storage
- Bird Box
- Bat Box
- Outdoor Water Point
- Entrance Sign
- Existing Trees & Vegetation Retained
- Existing Trees & Vegetation Removed
- Proposed Tree Planting
- Hedge Planting
- Ornamental Planting
- Woodland Buffer Planting
- Reinforced Grass Planting
- Meadow Planting
- Amenity Grass
- Existing Grass Retained

©One-Environments Ltd. This drawing is not to be scaled. All dimensions to be verified on site prior to commencement of works. Discrepancies, ambiguities and/or omissions between this drawing & information supplied by others must be reported immediately for clarification before proceeding

NOTES

- Asphalt Concrete [Vehicular Grade]
- Asphalt Concrete [Pedestrian Grade]
- PCC Concrete Block Paving Type 1 [Car Parking]
- Resin Bound Paving
- PCC Concrete Block Paving Type 2
- PCC Concrete Block Paving Type 3
- PCC Concrete Sett Paving
- Reinforced Grasscrete System with Meadow Infill
- Coloured Asphalt Concrete [Pedestrian Grade]
- Wetpour Safety Surfacing
- Self Binding Gravel
- Recycled bonded rubber mulch
- Existing Surfacing Retained
- Existing Tarmac Resurfaced - MUGAS
- Hazard Warning Paving
- Tactile Blister Paving
- Concrete Hardstanding
- 2.4m Secure Weldmesh Fencing with 4.6m ball stop netting (with matching lockable gates where indicated)
- 2.4m Secure Weldmesh Fencing (with matching lockable gates where indicated)
- 1.8m Weldmesh Fencing (with matching lockable gates where indicated)
- 1.2m Weldmesh Fencing (with matching lockable gates where indicated)
- 2.4m Closeboard Timber Fencing- Bin Store (with matching manually operated gates where indicated)
- 3.0m Closeboard Timber Fencing- Sprinkler Tank (with matching manually operated gates where indicated)
- 450mm Steel Kneerail
- Handrails

REVISION P04	DATE 30.01.25	BY RC	CHECKED -
Updated following RDD comments			
REVISION P03	DATE 02.12.25	BY RC	CHECKED -
Plan updated following comments received from Client. Staff garden updated. Post 16 garden updated. Car parking area updated.			
REVISION P02	DATE 26.11.25	BY RC	CHECKED -
Plan updated following V.E Review with Client			
REVISION P01	DATE 12.11.25	BY RC	CHECKED -
First Issue			
CLIENT	Kier Construction		
PROJECT	Woodley School and College		
TITLE	Proposed Landscape Plan		
DWG No.	NWSC-ONE-ZZ-ZZ-D-L-00002	REV	P04
STATUS	PRELIMINARY		
SCALE	1:500	@ A1	DATE 12.11.25 DRN BY RC



Appendix A - Statutory Metric Calculation Tool (Issued Separately)