

Biodiversity Net Gain Report

For:	Bowmer and Kirkland
Site:	Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Shirley Avenue, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, BD19 4NA
Report Date:	9 th October 2026
Report Reference:	SQ-4480.SQ-4931.V5



BNG Report

Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School
 Shirley Avenue
 Gomersal
 Cleckheaton
 BD19 4NA

October 2026

Client:	Bowmer and Kirkland
Site Name:	Gomersal St Mary's CE(C) Primary School, Shirley Avenue, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, BD19 4NA
Report:	Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
Survey Date:	23 rd May 2024
Surveyed by:	Sam Toon BSc (hons)

Issue:	Revision:	Stage:	Date:	Prepared by:	Approved by:
-	-	Draft for review	29 th July 2024	Sam Toon BSc (hons), GradCIEEM - Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM, Estrada Ecology Ltd
1	n/a	FINAL	31 st July 2024	Sam Toon BSc (hons), GradCIEEM - Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM, Estrada Ecology Ltd
2	1	Amendment	12 th November 2025	Emily Southern BSc (hons) – Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM, Estrada Ecology Ltd
3	2	Amendment	18 th December 2025	Emily Southern BSc (hons) - Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM, Estrada Ecology Ltd
4	3	Amendment	1 st June 2026	Emily Southern BSc (hons) - Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM, Estrada Ecology Ltd
5	4	Amendment	9 th October 2026	Joanne Toller BSc (hons)- Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM, Estrada Ecology Ltd

Introduction

1.1.1 Biodiversity Metric calculations were requested by the client to determine the extent of net loss, no net loss, or net gain for the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements of Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council. The calculations were required for submission as part of a planning application, in accordance with local and national planning policies.

1.1.2 Biodiversity Metric calculations were therefore undertaken for baseline and post-development habitats for the development site, using the Defra Statutory Metric developed by DEFRA. This assessment evaluates the impact of current development proposals on existing biodiversity resources within the development site.

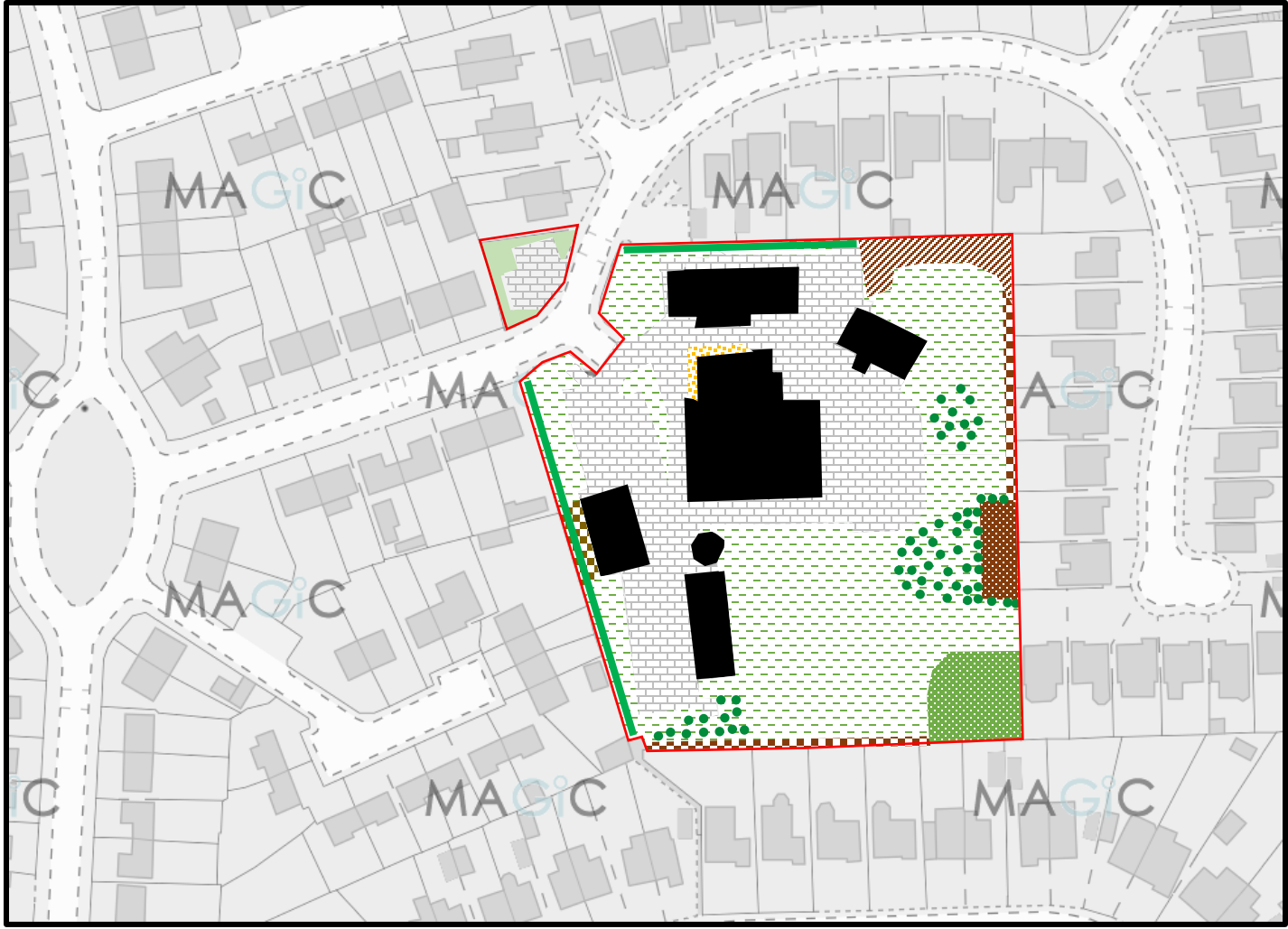
1.2 Baseline and Post Development Scheme Designs

1.2.1 The UK HABS habitat classification map in Figure 1 summarises the habitats identified via field survey undertaken in May 2024 and December 2025.

1.2.2 The UK HABS Classification map in Figure 2 summarises the post-development habitats.

1.2.3 Figure 3 presents the summary of the Defra Statutory Metric calculations.

Figure 1: UK Habs Map showing on-site habitats.



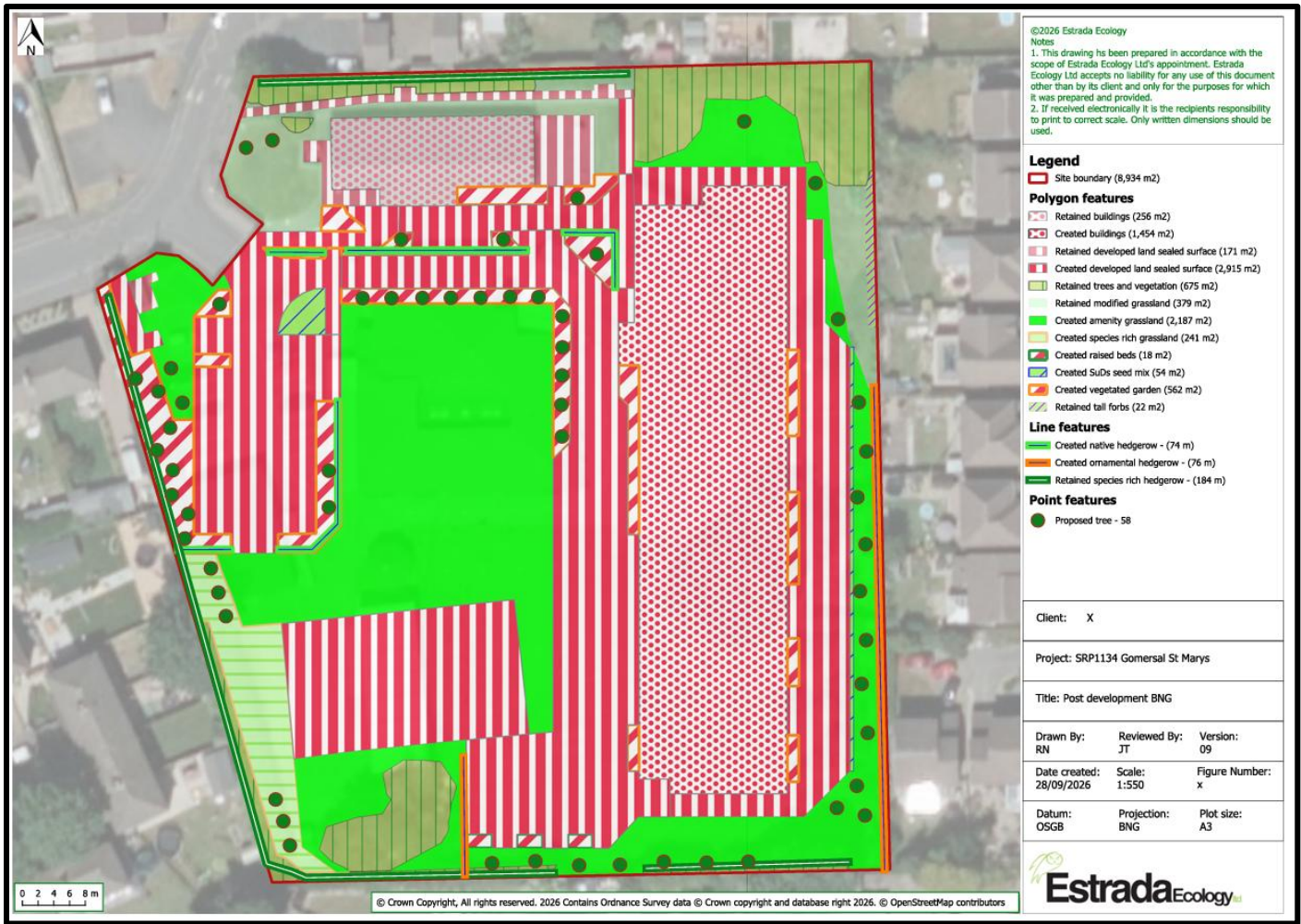
Habitat	Key
Site Boundary	
Modified Grassland (Poor)	
Modified Grassland (Good)	
Tall Forbs	
Building	
Developed Land, Sealed Surface	
Intensive Orchard	
Introduced Shrub	
Mixed Scrub	
Allotment	
Individual Trees	
Species Rich Hedgerow	

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Figure 2: UK Habs Map Showing Post-Development Habitats



1.3 Methodology

- 1.3.1 The Environment Bill (2020) seeks to improve biodiversity through several means, including the introduction of a mandatory requirement for new developments to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain, which will be managed as such for a minimum of 30 years after the development has been completed (Environment Bank, 2021). Key parts of the Environment Bill which relate to biodiversity net gain and its delivery are Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity and the supporting Schedule 14, particularly sections 9(3), 13(2), 14(2) and 15.
- 1.3.2 Baseline habitats were surveyed, and their condition assessed during a site assessment in May 2024 and December 2025 and based on the UK HABS Habitat Classification map (Figure 1). Post-development habitats were measured using AutoCAD 2022, based on the planting scheme of the proposed development.
- 1.3.3 The Defra Statutory Metric was used to calculate biodiversity units for baseline and post-development habitats for the development site, to determine if the proposed development will be likely to achieve net loss, no net loss, or net gain of biodiversity units.
- Habitat areas were rounded, with the minimum mappable unit being one square meter. The canopy areas of Individual trees were calculated using the Urban Tree Helper tool. Linear habitat features such as hedgerows and ditches were measured in meters.
 - Habitats were assessed for their strategic significance at a landscape scale, using information from sources such as Local Plans, Biodiversity Action Plans, and Nature Recovery Areas to determine their significance within a specific landscape. If habitats weren't included within published reports, significance was determined by their contribution to habitat connectivity and green corridors.

- 1.3.4 Biodiversity unit calculations are based on the retention and/or enhancement of existing habitats within the proposed scheme design, and the creation of new habitats. Biodiversity units for linear habitat features are calculated separately within the metric.

1.4 Limitations

- 1.4.1 Habitat areas are rounded up or down to the nearest whole value, with a minimal mappable unit of 0.0001 hectares. However, the overall total of site habitat area and biodiversity units within the Defra Statutory Metric is calculated and accurate to two decimal places.
- 1.4.2 Habitat areas used in the calculations are based on two-dimensional plans and so will not necessarily take into account an increase in overall surface area as a result of slopes and banks.
- 1.4.3 The secondary survey conducted on 15th December 2025 was conducted outside of the growing season to assess the additional areas located in the north-west of the site. This habitat is therefore unable to be condition assessed as per the Biodiversity Metric Guidelines; therefore, the vegetated habitats have been classified in good condition. Recent metric and mapping amendments now exclude this area.

1.5 UK HABS Habitat Classification Codes

- 1.5.1 The UK HABS habitat classifications used within the Defra Statutory Metric and applicable to the site are provided in Table 1 with their associated habitat codes.

Table 1 : UK HABS habitat classifications and codes

Phase 1 Habitat Type	Primary Code	Secondary Codes
Modified Grassland	g4	-
Mixed Scrub	h3h	-
Intensive Orchard	c12	-
Developed Land, Sealed Surface	u1e	-
Built Linear Features	u1b	-
Species Rich Native Hedgerow	h2a5	-
Tall Forbs	g4	16
Scattered Tree	g4	32
Allotment	u	616
Introduced Shrub	u	847

1.6 Biodiversity Net Gain

- 1.6.1 The total baseline habitat biodiversity units for the site were calculated at 4.43 units. Hedgerow units were calculated at 1.69 units. No river units were present at the baseline. No irreplaceable habitats are present at the baseline.
- 1.6.2 The total biodiversity units of on-site habitats post-development are 2.16 units for habitats. Linear units are proposed post-development to achieve 1.93 units.
- 1.6.3 Under current development proposals, post-development habitats with their target conditions will result in a net loss of 51.11%, a decrease of 2.26 area habitat units. Post-development hedgerow habitats with their target conditions will result in a net gain of 14.03%, an increase of 0.24 biodiversity units.
- 1.6.4 Off site biodiversity habitat units are required and have been purchased by the client and the Statutory metric updated with these

allocations. Confirmation of these allocations and their registration are available from the client.

- 1.6.5 Off site habitat baseline units were valued at 1.45 with a post intervention value of 4.16. Thus creating a net gain of 2.71 habitat units representing a 186.05% net gain.

1.7 Combined Overall Development

- 1.7.1 Overall, the proposals for the development site will result in a net gain of 0.44 biodiversity units for area habitats, representing a 10.04% net gain. Hedgerow habitats with their target conditions will result in a net gain of 14.03%, an increase of 0.24 biodiversity units.
- 1.7.2 Due to the scheme design and the limitation of suitable area within the site to accommodate further planting on site, it was concluded that offsetting was necessary to further address the net loss on site.
- 1.7.3 A summary of the metric results including these allocations are headlined as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Summary of Defra Statutory Metric.

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.44
	Hedgerow units	0.24
	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	0.44
	Hedgerow units	0.24
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	10.04%
	Hedgerow units	14.03%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

1.8 Conclusion

- 1.8.1 The site, following advice from the assessing ecologist in line with the current proposed scheme design, results in a net loss for habitats on site.
- 1.8.2 Following the assessment of the baseline and proposed design scheme, it was concluded the site could not support any further net gains therefore offsetting with an external provider would be required. These offsite habitats units have been purchased and registered for the proposal to achieve the net gain required to satisfy the Statutory Metric Condition.
- 1.8.5 It is recommended that an updated Biodiversity Net Gain report with updated calculations be completed should current development and landscaping proposals change in any way. An updated report will review habitat condition scores of habitats and will take into account any changes in a final master plan.
- 1.8.6 The calculations in this report are based on target habitat conditions post-development and post-management, taking future land usage and public access into consideration.

References:

Environment Bank (2015) *Biodiversity Impact Calculator – Guidance for Use*. Environment Bank.

Environment Bank (2016) *Biodiversity Accounting – An introduction*. Environment Bank.

Environment Bank (2021) The Environment Bill and Biodiversity Net Gain Delivery. [Online]. Accessed July 2024. Available at: <https://www.environmentbank.com/blog/the-environment-bill-and-biodiversity-net-gain-delivery-what-planning-authorities-need-to-know/>

Natural England (2026) *Biodiversity Mandatory Metric User Guide*.

UK HABS (2023) *The UK Habitat Classification : Habitat Definitions*. Version 2.0