RSK Environment

Baysgarth School Racetrack

Biodiversity Net Gain Design Stage Report

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Document

1.1.1 This document has been prepared by RSK Wilding on behalf of Baysgarth School ('the Applicant') to present the results of a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for the proposed racetrack development ('the Proposed Development') at Baysgarth School, Barrow Road, Barton-upon-Humber, DN18 6AE ('the Application Site') (Figure 1). This report is to be submitted in support of a full planning application to North Lincolnshire Council. The document provides:

- a detailed methodology, including assumptions, for undertaking the BNG assessment;
- the baseline biodiversity value of habitats within the Application Site prior to construction;
- the likely biodiversity value of habitats within the Application Site post-development based on the current design information; and
- the relative biodiversity changes of habitats within the Application Site after construction compared with before construction, determining whether the Proposed Development has achieved a 10% net gain in biodiversity.

1.2 Landscape Context

1.2.1 The Application Site is located within the administrative boundary of North Lincolnshire Council. The Application Site is situated at site central grid reference TA 03625 21639. It is *c.* 1.05 hectares (ha) and is comprised of amenity grassland for sports and recreation, with associated infrastructure such as car parks and tarmac paths.

1.2.2 The Application Site is bordered to the north by woodland and grassland habitats, to the south by more of the playing field, to the east by the school buildings and to the west by residential developments and more school grounds.

1.2.3 The Application Site is situated in a largely urban context, surrounded by a network of residential developments with agricultural fields within 1km of the Application Site. The Application Site resides within Barton-upon-Humber, a town with a population of *c.* 11,000. The City of Kingston-Upon-Hull lies *c.* 8km to the northeast of the Application Site, across the Humber river.

1.2.4 There are no habitats that qualify as the priority habitat types under Section 41 of The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 within the Application Site.

1.3 The Proposed Development

1.3.1 The Proposed Development consists of a racecourse for use by school pupils (Figure 2).

1.3.2 The removal of a single tree is anticipated for the Proposed Development, as well as loss of *Modified grassland*.

1.4 Policy context

1.4.1 The primary aims of the BNG process are for developments to secure a measurable improvement in habitat for biodiversity, to minimise biodiversity losses and to help to restore ecological networks whilst streamlining development processes. BNG does not replace other existing legislation and policy for nature conservation. The below legislation and policy provide the context behind the need to achieve BNG.

The Environment Act

1.4.2 The Environment Act 2021 mandates a statutory requirement for developments to deliver a minimum 10% BNG which has been mandatory since February 2024.

Town and Country Planning Act

1.4.3 Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) mandates a statutory requirement for developments to deliver a minimum 10% BNG which has been mandatory since January 2024.

National Planning Policy Framework

1.4.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied by Local Authorities within their Local Development Frameworks (LDF). The revised National Planning Policy Framework was published on 5 September 2023 (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2023).

1.4.5 Chapter 15 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' sets out the requirements to consider BNG in planning decisions. Paragraph 170 states: "*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: … d) minimising impacts and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*"

Local Plans

1.4.6 While there are no specific policies in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan which require applicants to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, Policy LC12 – Protection of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows reads:

- "*Proposals for all new development will, wherever possible ensure the retention of trees, woodland and hedgerows. Particular regard will be given to the protection of these features within the setting of settlements, the protection of ancient woodlands and historic hedgerows and the amenity value of trees within built up areas. Tree preservation orders will be made where trees which contribute to local amenity or local landscape character are at risk. Landscaping and tree and hedgerow planting schemes will be required to accompany applications for new development where it is appropriate to the development and its setting.*"

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This BNG assessment has been carried out as a desk-based exercise and has been undertaken by a competent person in accordance with best practice[1].

2.1.2 The results of UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) surveys carried out within the Application Site by RSK Biocensus in April 2025 has been used to determine the biodiversity value of habitats within the Application Site before construction (Figure 3).

2.1.3 The Proposed Development plan (Figure 2), provided by RSK Environment, has been used to determine the biodiversity value of habitats within the Application Site after construction (Figure 4).

2.1.4 The primary documents consulted as part of this assessment include:

- "Baysgarth School Test Track – Track General Arrangement"; and
- "2488701 D01 – Baysgarth School – Ecological Constraints Walkover Survey Rev00".

2.2 Biodiversity Assessment Methods

2.2.1 This assessment was undertaken in line with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (CIEEM, 2021), the British Standard for Biodiversity Net Gain (BS 8683) and industry best practice (CIEEM/CIRIA/IEMA, 2016).

2.2.2 To calculate the baseline values for the Application Site, and assess any changes arising from the Proposed Development, this study uses methods set out the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (hereafter 'the Metric') user guide (Defra, 2023). The Metric measures biodiversity value for habitats in 'biodiversity units' (BUs)[2].

2.2.3 The Metric is designed to quantify losses and gains in biodiversity because of proposed development or land management to inform and improve planning, design, land management and decision-making. The Metric uses habitats and as a proxy to assess biodiversity value.

2.2.4 The Metric can calculate biodiversity value of:

- existing habitats;
- habitat enhancement; and
- habitat creation.

[1] A competent person has the knowledge and skills to perform specified tasks to complete and review biodiversity metric calculations. This is obtained through training, qualifications, experience, or a combination of them. Competency is aligned with the British Standard '*Process for designing and implementing biodiversity net gain* (BS 8683:202)'.

[2] 'Biodiversity units' are used to describe relative biodiversity value. There are three types of biodiversity units: area habitat units, hedgerow units and watercourse units. Each of these are calculated in separate 'modules' of the Metric.

2.2.5 Consequently, a site can have three biodiversity unit values, which are assessed using the Metric, but which cannot be summed together or traded between.

2.2.6 The area or length of a habitat is multiplied by several factors in the Metric (called multipliers) that indicate its quality and value (distinctiveness, condition and strategic location), and this provides its BU value.

2.2.7 In addition, for those habitats that are to be created or enhanced, the risk of failure is accounted for by applying multipliers for risk factors (difficulty, time to target condition, and off-site risk).

2.2.8 A brief description of the different multipliers contained within the Metric are detailed below in Table 1.

Table 1 – Statutory Biodiversity Metric multipliers and their explanations

Biodiversity Metric multiplier	Explanation
Habitat distinctiveness	A measure based on the type of habitat and its distinguishing features. This includes: • consideration of species richness and rarity; • the extent to which the habitat is protected by designations; and • the degree to which a habitat supports species rarely found in other habitats.
Habitat condition	A measure of the habitat against its ecological optimum state. Condition is a way of measuring variation in the quality of patches of the same habitat type.
Strategic significance	Describes the local significance of the habitat based on its location and the habitat type.
Difficulty	A measure which represents the uncertainty in the effectiveness of management techniques used to enhance or create habitat.
Time to target condition	The average time taken between starting creation or enhancement of habitats and that habitat reaching its target condition or distinctiveness.
Spatial risk	Spatial risk represents the relationship between the location of biodiversity loss (on-site) and where the off-site habitat is being delivered. This is applied to off-site interventions only.
Riparian zone encroachment	A measure of any feature or intervention within the riparian zone that reduces the quantity, quality or ecological function of the riparian habitat.
Watercourse encroachment	A measure of any feature that adversely affects the natural function of the watercourse, or results in localised changes in habitat, species and migratory pathways.

2.3 BNG Good Practice Principles for Development

The Metric has been designed as a tool to help inform plans and decisions; however, when undertaking BNG assessments this must be undertaken in accordance with set principles outlined in the user guide (Defra, 2023). These are outlined in

2.3.1 Table 2 along with a full justification regarding how each principle has been considered.

Table 2 – Defra metric good practice principles and justification

Principle	Justification of how principle has been applied
Principle 1: The metric assessment should be completed by a competent person.	The Metric assessment was undertaken by two ecologists, who are associate members of the CIEEM and hold an MSc each. Each have over 4 years each of experience respectively undertaking ecological assessments and specialise in BNG. The Metric has been reviewed by an experienced principal ecologist, with full CIEEM membership, who is accomplished in undertaking complex BNG assessments.
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.	Existing levels of protection afforded to protected species and habitats are not changed by use of this or any other metric. Statutory obligations will still need to be satisfied. The **Ecological Constraints Walkover Survey** details the presence of protected and/or notable species, sites and habitats, and assesses potential impacts and outlines suitable mitigation measures to address these. Please see **2488701 D01 – Baysgarth School – Ecological Constraints Walkover Survey Rev00** for the full details (RSK Biocensus, 2025).
Principle 3: The biodiversity metric should be used in accordance with established good practice guidance and professional codes.	The mitigation hierarchy has been applied to the design of the Proposed Development. The area of permanent habitat loss has been kept to a minimum without comprising the development. The habitats that will be created and enhanced within the Application Site will be appropriate, and of the suitable distinctiveness, to compensate for the habitats that will be impacted.
Principle 4: The Metric is not a complex or comprehensive ecological model and is not a substitute for expert ecological advice.	RSK Wilding acknowledges that the Metric has been kept deliberately simple to be of practical use. The calculations have been undertaken by specialists and input is underpinned by robust baseline evidence and ecological knowledge and experience.
Principle 5: BUs are a proxy for biodiversity and should be treated as relative values.	RSK Wilding acknowledges that the Defra Metric is tool to be used as a means of assessing changes in biodiversity value (losses or gains) brought about by the proposed development and is a habitat-based approach to determining a proxy biodiversity value within the Order Limits and the output does not represent absolute values.
Principle 6: The Metric is designed to inform decisions in conjunction with locally relevant evidence, expert input, or guidance.	Locally relevant evidence to inform this assessment was sourced from the Ecological Constraints Walkover. Please see **2488701 D01 – Baysgarth School – Ecological Constraints Walkover Survey Rev00** for the full details (RSK Biocensus, 2025).

Principle	Justification of how principle has been applied
Principle 7: Habitat interventions need to be realistic and deliverable within a relevant project timeframe.	The habitats chosen for creation and enhancement have been done so based on the existing on-site conditions and local context, not purely to achieve the greatest possible BNG result using the Metric. The post-development habitats will be created, enhanced. managed and maintained in accordance with the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP). This document will be produced as part of the application, likely to discharge planning conditions.
Principle 8: Created and enhanced habitats should be, where practical and reasonable, local to any impact and deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation.	The created and enhanced habitats to achieve the BNG requirements are all being delivered within the Local Planning Authority boundary, as well as within the National Character Area of the Proposed Development, and are therefore local to the impacts. The post-development habitat creation and enhancement suggestions have been designed to be in keeping with the local character of the area whilst also being in accordance with the Lawton principles of 'bigger, better, more and joined up'.
Principle 9: The 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 • ensure that proposed or retained habitat parcels are of sufficient size for ecological function	Where possible, in the first instance the same habitat type of better condition will be created. If conditions do not allow for the same habitat type to be created, consideration will be given to the creation of different habitats of the same broad type or higher and of better condition.

2.1 Irreplaceable Habitats and Very High Distinctiveness Habitats

2.1.1 No impacts to irreplaceable or very high distinctiveness habitats are anticipated because of the Proposed Development.

2.2 Assumptions and Limitations

2.2.1 Habitat surveys represent a snapshot of conditions at a specific point in time and may not fully account for rare or cryptic plant species that were not readily detectable during the survey period.

2.2.2 The following habitats, if present, have been considered in the following modules using Geographic Information Systems (GIS):

- All area habitats mapped with ArcGIS with a polygon have been assessed in the habitat module; and

- All individual trees mapped with ArcGIS with a point have been converted using the tree helper in the Metric and assessed in the habitat module.

2.2.3 The post-development assessment is based on the latest landscape proposals provided by RSK Environment. This plan was converted to GIS UKHab data for entry into the Metric for the post-development assessment. *Developed land; sealed surface* was assumed for the areas where the racetrack is to be developed.

2.2.4 In the absence of a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) by North Lincolnshire Council, this assessment has applied a precautionary approach by assigning a 'low' strategic significance to all habitats in both the baseline and post-development scenarios. While the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) provides some relevant guidance, it is not considered sufficiently robust to inform a higher strategic significance rating in the context of the Metric. Once an LNRS becomes available, future assessments should revisit and revise the strategic significance of habitats accordingly.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 To calculate the overall biodiversity net change for the Proposed Development, the BU values for the existing habitats (pre-development) and the proposed created/enhanced habitats (post-development) need calculating.

3.1.2 The full results of this assessment are summarised in Appendix A, with the habitat condition sheets presented in Appendix B (pre-development) and Appendix C (post-development). The full Statutory Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet is presented separately in **3480247-D01 (00) - Baysgarth School Racetrack - BNG Metric.**

3.2 Onsite Pre-development

3.2.1 The Application Site comprises a playing field and associated hardstanding as well as nine scattered trees on the eastern boundary.

3.2.2 The UKHab Plan (Figure 3) has been used to determine all the habitats present within the Application Site before construction.

Area Habitats

3.2.3 The following baseline habitats were recorded onsite during the Ecological Constraints Walkover (RSK Biocensus, 2025).

Modified grassland (g4)

3.2.4 The playing field consisted of *Modified grassland* comprising a typical sports field species mix. The sward was dominated by Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), with some Greater Plantain (*Plantago major*), Daisy (*Bellis perennis*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). The grassland was heavily damaged because of usage and the sward was short from regular mowing. The grassland was assessed as being in “Poor” condition due to the low number of species per metre squared and the high levels of physical damage from its function as amenity grassland.

Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)

3.2.5 A tarmac footpath was present in the north of the Application Site. This habitat type has a pre-determined condition in the Metric.

Urban trees

3.2.6 The Application Site contained nine *Urban trees* with species including a non-native cultivated hybrid of Weeping Willow (*Salix × sepulcralis*), Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*), Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The trees were all medium sized with Diameter at Breast Heights (DBH) of between 50 and 60

cm. The trees were all in “Good” condition, except for the Weeping Willow (T_005) which is non-native and had previously been pruned of three significant limbs. This was therefore classed as “Moderate”. The Weeping Willow (T_005) is to be removed as part of the Proposed Development.

3.2.7 Each area habitat recorded within the Application Site before construction, its condition (i.e. its current status), and its BU value, is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Baseline biodiversity unit values for each habitat recorded within the Application Site before construction

Habitat type (UKHab classification)	Baseline habitat condition	Area (ha)	Baseline biodiversity unit value (BU)
Modified grassland	Poor	1.00	2.00
Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other	0.05	0.00
Urban tree	Good	0.1303	1.56
	Moderate	0.0163	0.13
Total	**Area with individual trees**	**1.20**	**3.69**
	Area without individual trees	**1.05**	

3.2.8 The total area of each existing area habitat that will be lost, retained or enhanced within the Application Site, and the associated BU value, is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Extent of baseline area habitats being lost, retained and enhanced within Application Site along with their associated biodiversity unit values

Habitat type	Baseline habitat condition	Area lost (ha)	Area retained (ha)	Area enhanced (ha)	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) lost	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) retained	Baseline biodiversity units (BU) enhanced
Modified grassland	Poor	0.09	0.90	0.01	0.18	1.80	0.02
Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban tree	Good	0.00	0.1303	0.00	0.00	1.56	0.00
	Moderate	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00

Habitat type	Baseline habitat condition	Area lost (ha)	Area retained (ha)	Area enhanced (ha)	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) lost	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) retained	Baseline biodiversity units (BU) enhanced
Total		**0.11**	**1.05**	**0.01**	**0.31**	**3.36**	**0.02**

3.3 Onsite Post-development

3.3.1 The landscape plan (Figure 2) has been used to classify all the habitats that will be created, enhanced or retained within the Application Site after construction (Figure 4).

Area Habitats

3.3.2 Each proposed area habitat, created or enhanced post-development within the Application Site, its proposed condition, and the BUs it delivers is presented in Table 5.

3.3.3 Proposals onsite in the post-development scenario include the enhancement of *Modified grassland* in "Poor" condition to *Other neutral grassland* in "Moderate" condition. Appendix C presents an indicative habitat condition assessment for this habitat. This habitat will be located on a steep bank to the south of the proposed racetrack (Figure **4**). This will be achieved through scarification, overseeding with an appropriate seed mix (Appendix D) and a relaxed mowing regime. Full details are anticipated to be included in a HMMP to be produced post-planning.

Table 5 – Indicative area habitat biodiversity units delivered within the Application Site based on the current design

Habitat type	Forecast habitat condition	Habitat intervention	Forecast area (ha)	Forecast biodiversity unit (BU) delivered
Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other	Created	0.09	0.00
		Retained	0.05	0.00
Modified grassland	Poor	Retained	0.90	1.80
Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Enhanced	0.01	0.06
Urban tree	Good	Retained	0.1303	1.56
Total		**Area with individual trees**	1.18	3.42
		Area without individual trees	1.05	1.86

3.4 Onsite summary

3.4.1 The habitat creation and enhancement proposals as per the post-development habitat plans (Figure 4) is anticipated to result in a net decrease of area habitat BUs. This is summarised in

3.4.2 Table 6 below.

Table 6 – Change in biodiversity units as a result of the Proposed Development

Post-development area habitat biodiversity units (BU)		Baseline area habitat area biodiversity units (BU)		Change in area habitat biodiversity units (BU)	Percentage change (%)
3.42	-	3.69	=	-0.27	-7.31

3.4.3

3.4.4 Table 6, indicates that post-development there would be an onsite **decrease** of **0.27** area habitat BUs. This equates to a **-7.31%** net loss in area habitats. The trading rules associated with the Metric have not been met onsite for area habitats as a result of the Proposed Development due to the loss of 0.20 low distinctiveness units (*Modified grassland*) and 0.13 medium distinctiveness units (*Urban trees*). As the baseline value of the Application Site is 3.69 area habitat BUs, 4.06 BUs are required.

3.4.5 Onsite habitat provision is unable to achieve 10% BNG therefore offsite biodiversity provision is needed. Baysgarth School have identified suitable areas outside of the Application Site for habitat enhancement and creation to offset the Proposed Development.

3.5 Offsite Pre-development

3.5.1 The offsite areas comprise *Modified grassland* and *Allotments.* These two locations are located across two sites. One is around the allotment area of Baysgarth School (central grid reference TA 03759 21691), and the other is within the grounds of Castledyke School (TA 02668 22401).

3.5.2 The UKHab Plan (Figure 5) presents the baseline habitats within the offsite areas before habitat enhancement works.

Area Habitats

3.5.3 The following baseline habitats were recorded within the offsite areas

Modified grassland (g4)

3.5.4 The Baysgarth School parcels consisted of *Modified grassland* comprising a typical sports field species mix. The sward was dominated by Perennial Rye-grass , with Greater Plantain and White Clover. The grassland was assessed as being in “Poor” condition due to the low number of species per metre squared and the uniform sward height.

3.5.5 A further section of *Modified grassland* was adjacent to the car park, forming a road verge. This grassland was dominated by Perennial Rye-grass, with occasional Corn Poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*), Scarlet Pimpernel (*Lysimachia arvensis*), Meadow Buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), Black Medick (*Medicago lupulina*), Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*), Common Mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*) and locally frequent Germander Speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*). This grassland was assessed in "Moderate" condition due to having between six and eight species per metre squared.

3.5.6 The *Modified grassland* within Castledyke School consisted of Perennial Rye-grass, Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Daisy and Dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.). This grassland was assessed in "Poor" condition due to the low species-richness, the uniform sward height and the high amount (>5%) of bare ground.

Built up areas and gardens (u1 – 616 Allotments)

3.5.7 The Baysgarth School parcel also contained an area of allotments. This was assessed as being in "Moderate" condition as it was limited by the vegetative structure.

3.5.8 Each area habitat recorded within the offsite areas before habitat enhancement works, its condition (i.e. its current status) and its BU value, is presented in Table 7 below.

Table 7 – Baseline biodiversity unit values for each habitat recorded within the offsite areas before habitat enhancement works

Offsite reference	Habitat type	Baseline habitat condition	Area (ha)	Baseline biodiversity unit value (BU)
Baysgarth School Allotment Area	*Modified grassland*	Poor	0.07	0.14
	Modified grassland	Moderate	0.09	0.37
	Allotments	Condition Assessment N/A	0.15	0.60
Castledyke School	*Modified grassland*	Poor	0.04	0.09
Total			**0.36**	**1.20**

3.5.9 The total area of each existing area habitat that will be lost, retained or enhanced within the offsite areas and the associated BU value, is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 8 – Extent of baseline area habitats being lost, retained and enhanced within offsite areas along with their associated biodiversity unit values

Offsite reference	Habitat type	Baseline habitat condition	Area lost (ha)	Area retained (ha)	Area enhanced (ha)	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) lost	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) retained	Baseline biodiversity units (BU) enhanced

Offsite reference	Habitat type	Baseline habitat condition	Area lost (ha)	Area retained (ha)	Area enhanced (ha)	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) lost	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) retained	Baseline biodiversity units (BU) enhanced
Baysgarth School Allotment Area	*Modified grassland*	Poor	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.14
	Modified grassland	Moderate	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.37
	Allotments	Condition Assessment N/A	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00
Castledyke School	*Modified grassland*	Poor	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.09
Total			0.00	0.15	0.21	0.00	0.60	0.60

3.6 Offsite Post-development

3.6.1 The Metric has been used to calculate the required BUs that will be created, enhanced or retained within the offsite areas after habitat enhancement works.

Area Habitats

3.6.2 Each proposed area habitat, created or enhanced post-development within the offsite areas, its proposed condition, and the BUs it delivers is presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**.

3.6.3 In the post-development scenario, offsite proposals include the enhancement of *Modified grassland* (currently in "Moderate" condition) to *Other neutral grassland* of the same condition. An indicative habitat condition assessment is provided in Appendix C. This enhancement will take place on the car park verge north of the allotment area at Baysgarth School (Figure 6), and will be delivered through a combination of scarification, overseeding with a suitable seed mix (Appendix D), and the implementation of a relaxed mowing regime.

3.6.4 Additionally, two areas of *Modified grassland* in "Poor" condition, located at the Baysgarth School allotment area and Castledyke School, will be enhanced to *Traditional orchard* habitat in "Moderate" condition. This will involve the same management approach as for Other neutral grassland, supplemented by the planting of fruit trees in an orchard layout (Appendix D).

3.6.5 A full Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP), detailing these measures, will be prepared post-planning.

Table 9 - Indicative area habitat biodiversity units delivered by the offsite areas

Offsite reference	Habitat type	Forecast habitat condition	Habitat intervention	Forecast area (ha)	Forecast biodiversity units (BU) delivered
Baysgarth School Allotment Area	*Traditional orchard*	Moderate	Enhanced	0.07	0.36
	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Enhanced	0.09	0.62
	Allotments	Moderate	Retained	0.15	0.06
Castledyke School	*Traditional orchard*	Moderate	Enhanced	0.04	0.23
	Urban trees	Moderate	Created	0.0326	0.10
Total			**Area with individual trees**	0.38	1.37
			Area without individual trees	0.35	1.27

3.7 Offsite summary

3.7.1 The habitat creation and enhancement proposals as per the post-development habitat plans (Figure 6) is anticipated to result in a net increase of area habitat BUs. This is summarised in Table 10 below.

Table 10 – Change in biodiversity units as a result of the Proposed Development

Post-development area habitat biodiversity units (BU)		Baseline area habitat area biodiversity units (BU)		Change in area habitat biodiversity units (BU)	Percentage change (%)
1.90	-	1.20	=	0.71[3]	59.06

3.7.2 Table 10, indicates that post-development there would be an offsite **increase** of **0.71** area habitat BUs. This equates to a **59.06%** net gain in area habitats. The trading rules associated with the Metric have been met offsite for area habitats as a result of the Proposed Development.

3.8 Overall BNG Summary

3.8.1 The combined onsite and offsite change in biodiversity units is presented in

[3] The result from the Metric is presented here (0.71) instead of the table (0.70). Minor discrepancies between the reported areas and biodiversity unit values arise from rounding errors. This occurs because underlying calculations are performed with greater decimal precision than what is displayed within the Metric (i.e., this document only reports figures to two decimal places for all habitats except for individual trees). When intermediate values are rounded at distinct stages of the calculation, discrepancies can emerge in the final presented figures.

3.8.2 Table 11.

Table 11 - Overall change in biodiversity unit values for the Proposed Development

Biodiversity unit type	Post-development habitat biodiversity units (BU)		Baseline habitat biodiversity units (BU)		Change in habitat biodiversity units (BU)	Percentage change (%)
Area habitats	5.33	-	4.89	=	0.44	11.82%

3.8.3 The indicative change in biodiversity value for whole of the Proposed Development (both onsite and offsite areas)as set out in

3.8.4 Table 11, shows that there would be an increase of **0.44** area habitat BUs which equates to a **11.82%** net gain in area habitats. The trading rules associated with the Metric have been met for area habitats as a result of the Proposed Development.

4.0 OUTLINE BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.1.1 It is anticipated that a HMMP will be required to secure the onsite and offsite biodiversity gains. This is expected to be required post-planning consent alongside a Biodiversity Gain Plan, to discharge planning conditions.

4.1.2 The HMMP will detail the required habitat enhancement through management and monitoring. Detailed habitat prescriptions will describe the means required to ensure the habitats reach their desired condition within the 30-year period.

4.1.3 The proposed habitat management and monitoring activities will be the responsibility of Baysgarth School to complete, or by using suitably qualified professionals under their instruction. This will be confirmed post-planning within the HMMP. These works are anticipated to be secured with a Section 106 agreement with North Lincolnshire Council.

5.0 EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Biodiversity Net Gain

5.1.1 The Proposed Development will lead to the loss of *Modified grassland* and an *Urban tree*. However, to compensate and offset for these impacts the Proposed Development will create *Urban trees* and also result in the enhancement of *Modified grassland* to *Traditional orchard* and *Other neutral grassland*.

5.1.2 Onsite, the Proposed Development will result in an 7.31% net loss in area habitat BUs. No hedgerow or watercourse modules are present onsite.

5.1.3 When offsite habitat interventions are considered, the Proposed Development delivers a 11.82% net gain in area habitat BUs.

5.1.4 The trading rules associated with the Metric have therefore been met for area habitats.

5.1.5 Detailed information on habitat management and monitoring will be set out in a HMMP, which will be prepared following the grant of planning permission. Accordingly, this BNG assessment does not include specific management proposals for retained, created, or enhanced habitats at this stage.

REFERENCES

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FIGURES

Figure 1. Site Location Plan

Figure 2. Proposed Development Plan

Figure 3. UKHabitat Classification Plan

Figure 4. Post-development Habitat Plan

Figure 5. Offsite UKHabitat Classification Plan

Figure 6. Offsite Post-Development Habitat Plan

Legend:

Site boundary

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	07/04/2025	3480247	HD	RH	CRM

Baysgarth School Planning Application

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 1:

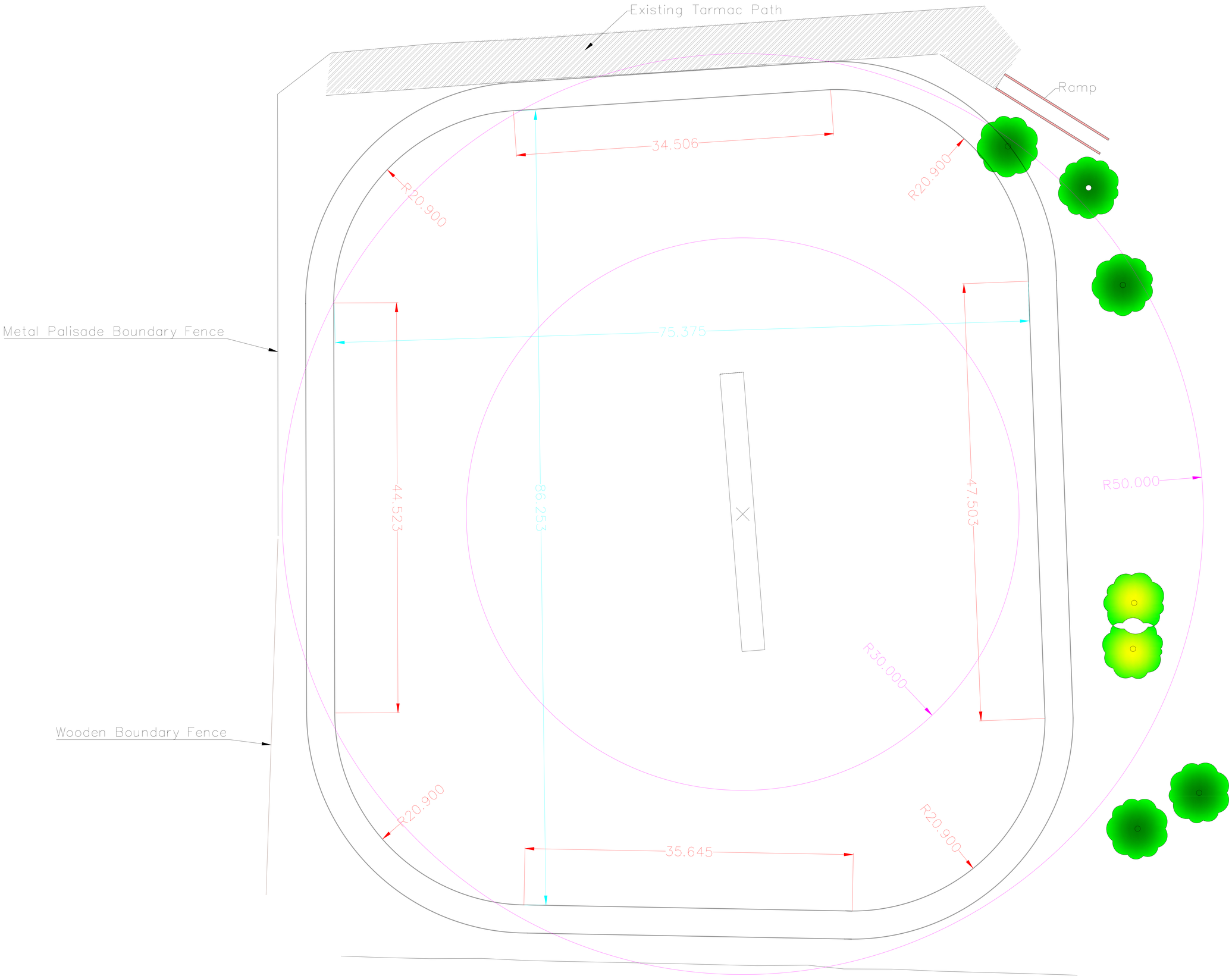
Site Location Plan

0 100 200 300
Metres
SCALE: 1:10,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\Users\Hannah.Dennison\OneDrive - RSK Group\RSK Biocensus - 08 GIS - 3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application\02 - APRX\3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application - Figure 1 - Site Location Plan.aprx



Rev	Date	By	Description

PROJECT
Baysgarth School Test Track

TITLE
Track General Arrangement

CLIENT

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE

SCALE (@ A1)	PROJECT NUMBER

DRAWING NUMBER	REV

503380 503400 503420 503440 503460 503480 503500 503520 503540 503560 503580 503600 503620

421660 421640 421620 421600 421580 421560 421540 421520 421500 421480

108, 814

T006

108, 814, 820

Legend:

- Site boundary

UKHab Habitat

- Modified grassland
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Fence
- Urban tree
- Secondary code

Code	Habitat Name
108	Frequently mown
814	Educational premises open space
820	Natural sports pitches

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	04/06/2025	3480247	HD	RH	CRM

Baysgarth School Planning Application

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 3:

UKHab Habitat Classification Plan

0 10 20 30

Metres

SCALE: 1:750 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\Users\Hannah.Dennison\OneDrive - RSK Group\08 GIS - 3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application\02 - APRX\3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application - Figure 3 - UKHab Habitat Classification Plan.aprx

503380 503400 503420 503440 503460 503480 503500 503520 503540 503560 503580 503600 503620

421660 421640 421620 421600 421580 421560 421540 421520 421500 421480

108, 814

108, 814, 820

Legend:

- Site boundary

Post Development Habitats

- Modified grassland
- Other neutral grassland
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Fence
- Urban tree
- Secondary code

Code	Habitat Name
108	Frequently mown
814	Educational premises open space
820	Natural sports pitches

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	04/06/2025	3480247	HD	RH	CRM

Baysgarth School Planning Application

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 4:

Post-development Habitat Plan

0 10 20 30

Metres

SCALE: 1:750 @ A3

N W E S

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Document Path: C:\Users\Hannah.Dennison\OneDrive - RSK Group\08 GIS - 3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application\02 - APRX\3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application - Figure 4 - Post-development Habitat Plan.aprx

503400 503450 503500 503550 503600 503650 503700 503750 503800 503850

421850 421800 421750 421700 421650 421600 421550 421500

Castledyke School

801 108, 500, 801

27, 814 108, 814

616, 814

Baysgarth School Allotment Area

801 108, 500, 801

Legend:

- Site boundary
- Offsite boundary

UKHab Habitats

- Modified grassland
- Built-up areas and gardens
- Fence
- Secondary code

Code	Habitat Name
108	Frequently mown
500	Dry
616	Allotments
801	Road verge or island
814	Educational premises open space

Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	04/06/2025	3480247	HD	RG	CRM

Baysgarth School Planning Application

RSK biocensus EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 5:

Offsite UKHab Habitat Classification Plan

0 20 40 60

Metres

SCALE: 1:1,500 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\Users\Hannah.Dennison\OneDrive - RSK Group\08 GIS - 3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application\02 - APRX\3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application - Figure 5 - Offsite UKHab Habitat Classification Plan.aprx

503400 503450 503500 503550 503600 503650 503700 503750 503800 503850

421850 421800 421750 421700 421650 421600 421550 421500

Castledyke School

27

801

27, 814

616, 814

801

Baysgarth School
Allotment Area

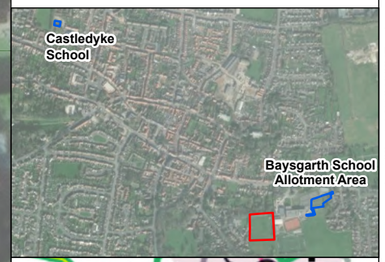
Legend:

- Site boundary
- Offsite boundary

Post Development Habitats

- Other neutral grassland
- Built-up areas and gardens
- Fence
- Secondary code

Code	Habitat Name
27	Traditional orchards
616	Allotments
801	Road verge or island
814	Educational premises open space



Rev	Date	Project Code	Drn	Chk	App
00	04/06/2025	3480247	HD	RG	CRM

Baysgarth School Planning Application

RSK biocensus
EXPERTS IN ECOLOGY

TITLE: Figure 6:

Offsite Post-development Habitat Plan

0 20 40 60
Metres
SCALE: 1:1,500 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: C:\Users\Hannah.Dennison\OneDrive - RSK Group\08 GIS - 3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application\02 - APRX\3480247 - Baysgarth School Planning Application - Figure 6 - Offsite Post-development Habitat Plan.aprx

APPENDIX A – BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

Please note that the full, detailed BNG calculations are provided within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet for the project, which is presented separately in **3480247-D01 (00) - Baysgarth School Racetrack - BNG Metric**.

A. Pre-construction calculations

Onsite

Area Habitats

	Existing area habitats				Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline							
Ref	Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Irreplaceable habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance		Total habitat units	Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area habitat lost	Units lost
1	Grassland	Modified grassland	No	1	Low	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	2.00	0.9	0.01	1.80	0.02	0.09	0.18
2	Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	No	0.05	V.Low	N/A - Other	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Compensation Not Required	0.00	0.05	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Individual trees	Urban tree	No	0.1303	Medium	Good	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (≥)	1.56	0.1303	0	1.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Individual trees	Urban tree	No	0.0163	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (≥)	0.13			0.00	0.00	0.02	0.13
5															
6															
7															
8															
			Total habitat area	1.20					3.69	1.08	0.01	3.36	0.02	0.11	0.31
		Site Area (Excluding area of individual trees, green walls, intertidal hard structures)		1.05											

Offsite

Area Habitats

	Existing area habitats				Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Spatial risk multiplier	Ecological baseline						
Ref	Broad habitat	Habitat type	Irreplaceable habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance		Spatial risk category	Total habitat units	Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area lost	Units lost
1	Grassland	Modified grassland	No	0.07	Low	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required >	Compensation inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.14		0.07	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00
2	Grassland	Modified grassland	No	0.044	Low	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required >	Compensation inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.09		0.044	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00
3	Grassland	Modified grassland	No	0.092	Low	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required >	Compensation inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.37		0.092	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.00
4	Urban	Allotments	No	0.15	Low	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required >	Compensation inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.60	0.15		0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
5																
6																
			Total habitat area	0.36						1.20	0.15	0.21	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00
		Area (Excluding area of individual trees, green walls, intertidal hard structures)		0.36										Total area lost (excluding area of individual trees, green walls and intertidal hard structures)	0.00	

B. Post development calculations

Onsite

Area Habitats

Project Name: Baysgarth School Racetrack Map Reference:

A-2 On-Site Habitat Creation

Condense / Show Columns | Condense / Show Rows | Main Menu

Area habitat summary	
Total Net Unit Change	0.44
Total Net % Change	11.82%
Trading Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓
Area Check	Area Acceptable ✓

				Post intervention habitats							
				Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Temporal multiplier		Difficulty	
Ref	Broad Habitat	Proposed habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Final time to target condition (years)	Final difficulty of creation	Habitat units delivered
1	Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	0.09	V.Low	N/A - Other	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Standard time to target condition applied	0	Low	0.00
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
		Total habitat area	0.09							0.00

ct Name: Baysgarth School Racetrack Map Refere

A-3 On-Site Habitat Enhancement

Condense / Show Columns | Condense / Show Rows | Main Menu

Area habitat summary	
Total Net Unit Change	0.44
Total Net % Change	11.82%
Trading Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓

						Post intervention habitats									
	Baseline habitats	Proposed Habitat (Broad habitat pre-populated but can be overridden)		Change in distinctiveness and condition					Strategic significance	Temporal risk multiplier		Difficulty risk multipliers	
Baseline ref	Baseline habitat	Proposed Broad Habitat	Proposed habitat	Distinctiveness change	Condition change	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Final time to target condition (years)	Final difficulty of enhancement	Habitat units delivered
1	Grassland - Modified grassland	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	Low - Medium	Lower Distinctiveness Habitat - Moderate	0.01	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Check details- Delay in starting habitat in required condition? ⚠	11	Low	0.06
					Total habitat area	0.01							0.06

Offsite

Area Habitats

Project Name: Baysgarth School Racetrack Map Reference:

D-2 Off-Site Habitat Creation

Condense / Show Columns | Condense / Show Rows | Main Menu

Area habitat summary	
Total Net Unit Change	0.44
Total Net % Change	11.82%
Trading Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓
Area Check	Area Acceptable ✓

	Post intervention habitats											
Ref	Broad Habitat	Proposed habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Temporal risk multiplier: Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Temporal risk multiplier: Final time to target condition (years)	Difficulty risk: Final difficulty of creation	Spatial risk multiplier: Spatial risk category	Habitat units delivered
1	Individual trees	Urban tree	0.0326	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no	Check details - Delay in starting	28	Low	Compensation inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.10
2											
3											
4											
5											
		Total habitat area	0.03								0.10
		Site Area (Excluding area of individual trees, green walls, intertidal hard structures)	0.00								

Project Name: Baysgarth School Racetrack Map Reference

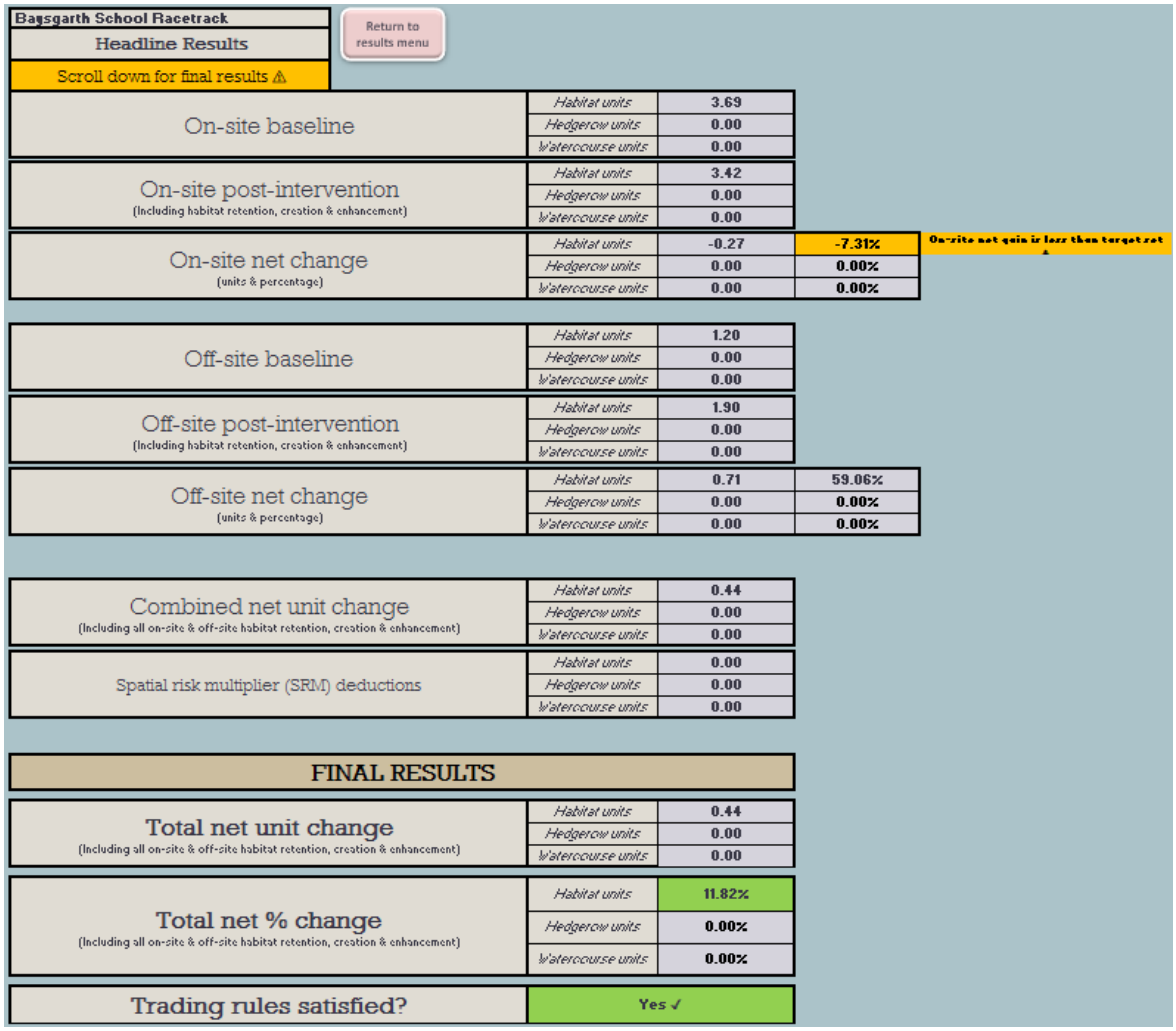
D-3 Off-Site Habitat Enhancment

Condense / Show Columns | Condense / Show Rows | Main Menu

Area habitat summary	
Total Net Unit Change	0.44
Total Net % Change	11.82%
Trading Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓

	Baseline habitats		Proposed Habitat (Broad habitat pre-populated but can be overridden)		Change in distinctiveness and condition		Post intervention habitats: Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Temporal multiplier: Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Temporal multiplier: Final time to target condition (years)	Difficulty multiplier: Difficulty	Spatial risk multiplier: Spatial risk category	Habitat units delivered
Baseline ref	Baseline habitat		Proposed Broad Habitat	Proposed Habitat	Distinctiveness change	Condition change									
1	Grassland - Modified grassland		Grassland	Traditional orchards	Low - High	Lower Distinctiveness Habitat - Moderate	0.07	High	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no	Check details - Delay in starting habitat is required condition? ✓	21	Medium	Compensation inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.36
2	Grassland - Modified grassland		Grassland	Traditional orchards	Low - High	Lower Distinctiveness Habitat - Moderate	0.044	High	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no	Check details - Delay in starting habitat is required condition? ✓	21	Medium	Compensation inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.23
3	Grassland - Modified grassland		Grassland	Other neutral grassland	Low - Medium	Lower Distinctiveness Habitat - Moderate	0.092	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no	Check details - Delay in starting habitat is required condition? ✓	11	Low	Compensation inside LPA boundary or NCA of impact site	0.62
						Total habitat area	0.21								1.21

C. Summary Results



Baysgarth School Racetrack

Headline Results

Scroll down for final results ⚠

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	*Habitat units*	3.69		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	3.42		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site net change (units & percentage)	*Habitat units*	-0.27	-7.31%	On-site net gain is less than target ▲
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	
Off-site baseline	*Habitat units*	1.20		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	1.90		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	*Habitat units*	0.71	59.06%	
	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*	0.44		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	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	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	11.82%
	Hedgerow units	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

APPENDIX B – PRE-DEVELOPMENT HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

Table 12 - Habitat condition assessment survey results - *Modified grassland*

Source of condition assessment criteria: Defra Metric Technical Annex 1		
Date of survey		
03/04/2025		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Pass/Fail**
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m2 please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	Fail
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Fail
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Pass
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Fail
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Fail
F	Cover of bracken Pteridium aquilinum is less than 20%.	Pass
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	Pass
Overall Condition Assessment		
Poor		

Photograph


Table 13 - Habitat condition assessment survey results - *Individual trees*

Source of condition assessment criteria: Defra Metric Technical Annex 1		
Date of survey		
03/04/2025		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Pass/Fail**
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Pass (all trees except T_006)
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Pass (all trees)
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	Pass (all trees except T_005)
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Pass (all trees except T_006)
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Pass (all trees)
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Pass (all trees)
Overall Condition Assessment		
Good (except T_006 which was Moderate)		
Photograph		

APPENDIX C – TARGET POST-DEVELOPMENT HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

This appendix presents the assessment of the condition of the post-development habitats against the condition sheets in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric technical supplement (Defra, 2024).

Table 14 - Indicative post-development habitat condition assessment - *Other neutral grassland* (Moderate condition)

Source of condition assessment criteria: Defra Metric Technical Annex 1		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted?**
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Yes
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Yes
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	No
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m^2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	No
Target condition		
Moderate		

Table 15 - Indicative post-development habitat condition assessment – *Traditional orchard* (Moderate condition)

Source of condition assessment criteria: Defra Metric Technical Annex 1		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted?**
A	Presence of ancient[1] and or veteran[1] trees. **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.**	No
B	Presence of deadwood in or on trees, or on the ground: at least 20% of mature trees have deadwood associated with them. Some examples of deadwood are standing, attached and fallen trees or limbs; dead stems; branches and branch stubs greater than 10 cm diameter; and internal cavities. The types and distribution of deadwood provide a range of habitats suitable to support a wide assemblage of saproxylic invertebrates. **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.**	No
C	Less than 5% of fruit trees are smothered by scrub. Small patches of dense scrub and or scattered scrub growing between trees can be beneficial to biodiversity, however these occupy less than 10% of ground cover.	Yes
D	There is evidence of formative and or restorative pruning to maintain longevity of trees.	Yes
E	At least 95% of the trees are free from damage caused by humans or animals, for example browsing, bark stripping or rubbing on non-adjusted ties.	Yes
F	Grassland is not overgrazed, poaching is not evident around the trees, with no more than 10% of trees poached under the canopy.	Yes
G	Species richness of the grassland is equivalent to a medium, high, or very high distinctiveness grassland.	No
H	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[2] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[3]) and species indicative of suboptimal condition[4] make up less than 10% of ground cover.	Yes
Target condition		
Moderate		

Table 16 - Indicative post-development habitat condition assessment – *Urban trees* (Moderate condition)

Source of condition assessment criteria: Defra Metric Technical Annex 1		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Targeted?**
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	No
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes
Target condition		
Moderate		

APPENDIX D – INDICATIVE SPECIES MIXES

Table 17 - Indicative species mix for *Other neutral grassland* (Moderate condition)

Common name	Scientific name	Proportion
Wildflowers (20%)		
Yarrow	*Achillea millefolium*	5%
Common Knapweed	*Centaurea nigra*	8%
Wild Carrot	*Daucus carota*	8%
Lady's Bedstraw	*Galium verum*	8%
Rough Hawkbit	*Leontodon hispidus*	1%
Oxeye Daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*	8%
Ribwort Plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*	5%
Cowslip	*Primula veris*	1%
Self-Heal	*Prunella vulgaris*	9%
Meadow Buttercup	*Ranunculus acris*	8%
Yellow Rattle	*Rhinanthus minor*	7%
Common Sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*	8%
Salad Burnet	*Sanguisorba minor*	8%
White Campion	*Silene latifolia*	8%
Red Campion	*Silene dioica*	8%
Grasses (80%)		
Crested Dogstail	*Cynosurus cristatus*	15%
Common Bent	*Agrostis capillaris*	5%
Hard Fescue	*Festuca trachyphylla*	20%
Slender Creeping Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra ssp. litoralis*	20%
Strong Creeping Red Fescue	*Festuca rubra ssp. rubra*	20%

Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass	*Poa pratensis*	20%

Source: Naturescape (2025)

Table 18 - Indicative species mix for *Traditional orchard* (Moderate condition)

Common name	Scientific name	Proportion
Apple	*Malus domestica*	33%
Plum	*Prunus domestica*	33%
Pear	*Pyrus communis*	33%