

Biodiversity Net Gain Statement

Communal Polytunnel Barton Upon Humber Allotments

Planning Application Ref: PA/2026/139

Introduction

This statement has been prepared in support of the planning application for the erection of a communal polytunnel on Plot 47 at Barton Upon Humber Allotments. It sets out how the proposal complies with the statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirement.

Biodiversity Metric Assessment

A Small Sites Biodiversity Metric (Version 1.2.3, July 2025) has been completed for the proposal and the assessment demonstrates a net gain of +33.89% in area habitats, exceeding the mandatory minimum requirement of 10%.

The completed spreadsheet is submitted in support of this application (Appendix 6).

On-Site Biodiversity Enhancement

The biodiversity net gain will be delivered through the creation of a dedicated wildlife garden and composting area measuring approximately **4.2 metres by 6 metres (25 square metres)**.

This area will be located between the rear of the proposed polytunnel and the existing western boundary hedge, as shown on the submitted Appendix 3 Proposed Block Plan.

The area will comprise:

- Pollinator-friendly planting including flowering perennials, herbs, and wildflowers,
- Structural planting to provide shelter and habitat for invertebrates and small wildlife,
- An integrated composting corner to support soil health and invertebrate populations.

This combined approach will provide year-round nectar, pollen, and habitat, while supporting sustainable site management.

Management and Maintenance

The wildlife garden and composting area will be maintained by the 'Plot 47 Growers' as part of the Barton Upon Humber Allotment Society plot management arrangements.

Maintenance will include:

- Seasonal planting and replanting;
- Ongoing compost management;
- Control of invasive or undesirable species;
- Retention of the area for biodiversity purposes.

This dedicated wildlife garden and composting area will not be subject to future development or hard surfacing and will be retained as part of the long-term management of Plot 47.

Conclusion

The proposal demonstrates full compliance with statutory Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.

A measurable net gain of biodiversity will be delivered on-site through the creation and long-term management of a wildlife garden and composting area, integrated with the objectives of this community proposal.

This approach provides a proportionate, practical, and sustainable method of delivering biodiversity enhancement within the allotment setting.

Kevin Sharp

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