
Land at Lordswood House, Sherston

Biodiversity Net Gain Statement – Statutory Biodiversity Metric

November 2025

Client: Mr James Gay
Report Ref: SEB3139_01 v3
Author: Emma Shaw
Reviewer: Kate Hayward
www.seasonsecology.co.uk



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1. Identification of Interventions

- 1.1.1 Seasons Ecology was instructed by Mr James Gay, the landowner, to produce a statement on biodiversity net loss/gain in relation to the development of Land at Lordswood House, Commonwood Lane, Sherston, Malmesbury, SN16 0PX (central grid reference: ST 86122 83879).
- 1.1.2 The site is the subject of a planning proposal for the construction of a private tennis court and a retrospective change of use application for the parcel of grassland across the east of the Lordswood House curtilage, to the west of the fenceline.

2. Biodiversity Net Gain Calculation Method

- 2.1.1 Anticipated biodiversity net loss or gain across the site has been calculated through use of The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (DEFRA, 2024).
- 2.1.2 Calculations have been made based on measurements and habitats shown on the baseline plans (UKHab Habitat Map) and the latest landscaping scheme, and discussions with the applicant and wider design team. The baseline UKHab BNG Habitat Plan is provided at Annex 1 and the post-development UKHab Habitat Map is provided at Annex 2. A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan including management prescriptions and an annual programme is provided at Annex 3. Site Photographs are provided at Annex 4.
- 2.1.3 The site was visited on 11th September 2025 by Consultant Ecologist, Emma Shaw, to map the baseline habitats on site and assess their condition.

3. Identification of Baseline Metric Components

- 3.1.1 The site occupies part of the residential curtilage of Lordswood House, as well as an area of the adjacent pasture field unit (east). The baseline site boundary contains modified grassland (both amenity lawn and agricultural land), developed land sealed surfaces and artificial unvegetated, unsealed surfaces. The area of amenity modified grassland across the east fringe of the site, on the west side of the fenceline, is the subject of a retrospective change of use application to include this area within the residential curtilage of Lordswood House.

3.2 Habitat Units

- 3.2.1 *Modified grassland* – The south-east fringe of the site is formed by an area of modified grassland amenity lawn. At the time of survey this area has been recently managed to a homogenous short sward. Species diversity is low with grass species including dominant perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, abundant Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* and occasional cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* with a low cover of herbs including dominant greater plantain, dandelion *Taraxacum* species and white clover *Trifolium repens*, as well as bristly ox-tongue *Helminthotheca echioides*, common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, common cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, common field-speedwell *Veronica persica* and petty spurge *Euphorbia peplus*. The north-east boundary of this area of grassland is delineated by a dry bare ground ditch augmented by a timber-post livestock fence across the north-east edge, both boundary features being outside of the site boundary (off-site). Approximately 0.3139 hectares (ha) of the modified grassland amenity lawn is included within the site boundary, of which approximately 0.2551ha will be retained post-development.

A second area of modified grassland is included within the site boundary, formed by the adjacent east agricultural field unit. This grassland appeared at a short to moderate sward height at the time of survey. Species composition across the grassland is the same as the amenity lawn with further species including dominant broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, occasional oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and rare occurrence of common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, and smooth hawkbit *Leontodon taraxacoides*. Approximately 0.0696ha of the agricultural land is included within the site boundary, of which all will be retained post-development and as this area will be subject to individual tree planting.

- 3.2.2 *Developed land; sealed surface* – This habitat type includes the existing hard standing access track to Lordswood House, extending from the west boundary of the curtilage eastward towards the property. Also included is the footprint of an existing outbuilding, currently in use as a chicken coop, central to the site across the west boundary of the amenity modified grassland. This habitat is approximately 0.1148ha, of which all will be retained post-development.
- 3.2.3 *Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface* - An area of loose gravel landscaping is present immediately adjacent to the north elevation of Lordswood House. This baseline habitat forms a vehicle parking and turning area for the property. This habitat is approximately 0.0727ha, of which all will be retained post-development.

Excluded Habitats

- 3.2.4 *Individual trees* – There are 12 individual trees present within the site boundary. These consist of two immature ornamental tree species located within the northern length of hedgerow H1, and ten immature orchard trees, of the apple *Malus* variety, across the north-east corner of the amenity modified grassland. All 12 trees have been excluded from the BNG metric as they measured less than 7.5cm in diameter at breast height (DBH) at the time of survey. Although excluded from the BNG metric, these trees will be retained post-development.

3.3 Hedgerow and Line of Tree Units

Excluded Habitats

- 3.3.1 *Non-native and ornamental hedgerows* - There are two hedgerows included within the site boundary, H1 and H2. Further details of each hedgerow, and why they are excluded from the BNG metric, are provided below:
- *Hedgerow H1* - H1 is a newly planted ornamental yew *Taxus baccata* hedgerow located across the centre and south of the amenity modified grassland. This hedgerow has been excluded from the BNG metric as it was planted in Autumn/Winter 2024 and currently does not function as a hedgerow, with no dense shrubby structure, appearing as individual immature yew shrubs amongst loose bark mulch. Although not included within the BNG metric, this hedgerow will be retained post-development and from the north and west boundaries of the proposed tennis court.
 - *Hedgerow H2* – H2 is a newly planted non-native, ornamental rhododendron *Rhododendron* species hedgerow located across the north of the amenity modified grassland. This hedgerow has been excluded from the BNG metric as it was planted in Autumn/Winter 2024 and currently does not function as a hedgerow, with no dense shrubby structure, appearing as individual immature rhododendron species shrubs amongst loose bark mulch. Although not included within the BNG metric, this hedgerow will be retained post-development.

3.4 Watercourse Units

- 3.4.1 There are no watercourses present on site; therefore, there are no baseline units within this category.

3.5 Irreplaceable Habitats

- 3.5.1 There are no irreplaceable habitats present on or adjacent to the site, therefore impacts on these types of habitats do not need to be considered for this proposal.

4. Identification of Post-Development Metric Components

4.1 Habitat Units

- 4.1.1 *Developed land; sealed surface* – A tennis court is proposed across the south-east fringe of the amenity modified grassland. The new developed sealed surface, forming the tennis court, will measure approximately 0.0588ha.
- 4.1.2 *Individual trees (rural)* – To mitigate for the loss of modified grassland to form the footprint of the proposed tennis court, 15 small-sized native broadleaved trees will be planted across the adjacent agricultural field unit, to the north and east of the fenceline separating the amenity and agricultural grassland. Species will include English oak *Quercus robur*, field maple *Acer campestre*, small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*, crab apple *Malus sylvestris*, wild service tree *Sorbus torminalis* and hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

4.2 Hedgerow and Line of Tree Units

- 4.2.1 *Native hedgerows* – One native hedgerow, H3, is proposed on site, allocated as being planted 1 year in advance as planting was carried out in Autumn/Winter 2024. This hedgerow is entirely beech *Fagus sylvatica* and follows the east side of the fenceline separating the amenity grassland and agricultural grassland in the east fringe of the site. Each beech sapling has been planted with a 600mm high spiral tree guard and stake. The hedgerow measures approximately 0.0607km in length, and extends further off-site outside the development boundary.

4.3 Watercourse Units

- 4.3.1 There are no watercourses proposed on site; therefore, there are no post-development units within this category.

5. Baseline Habitat Condition Assessments

5.1 Baseline Habitat Condition Assessments

Modified Grassland

- 5.1.1 A habitat condition assessment for 'Grassland – Modified Grassland' has been provided below in Table 1, to assess the condition of the two areas of baseline modified grassland on site. The two areas include amenity lawn modified grassland across the centre and south-east of the site (**G1**), measuring approximately 0.3139ha of which 0.2551ha will be retained. The second area is within the adjacent eastern agricultural field unit (**G2**), measuring approximately 0.0607ha of which all will be retained post-development, and subject to tree planting.

Table 1: Condition Assessment: Grassland – Modified Grassland

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criteria Passed or Failed		Evidence
	G1	G2	
There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition).	x*	x*	The existing grassland across areas G1 and G2 contain less than 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² , meaning this criterion is failed.
Sward height is varied creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	x	✓	The grassland across G1 is regularly managed to a homogenous short sward, and therefore fails this criterion. The grassland across G2 appeared as a varied short to medium sward height at the time of survey, and therefore is considered to pass this criterion.
Some scattered scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area.	✓	✓	Due to the regular management of the G1 grassland, there are no scrub species present within the sward. Therefore, this criterion is passed. No scrub species or encroachment was apparent in the area of grassland G2 included within the site boundary, therefore passing this criterion.
Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. E.g., excessive poaching, damage from machinery use/storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	✓	✓	There no evidence of physical damage within both grassland areas (G1 and G2) at the time of survey, therefore this criterion is passed.
Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	✓	✓	There is less than 10% bare ground cover within both the G1 and G2 grassland areas, therefore this criterion is passed.
Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	✓	✓	There is no bracken present in the existing grassland across G1 and G2, and this species is not present within the immediate vicinity of the site. Therefore, it is unlikely the species will encroach on the grasslands and this criterion is passed.
There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	✓	✓	There are no invasive non-native plant species in the G1 and G2 grassland areas that are listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, and these species are not present within the immediate vicinity of the site. Therefore, it is unlikely any of these species will encroach on the grassland and this criterion is passed.
Condition Assessment: G1 - Poor, passed 5 criteria (excluding the criterion essential for achieving moderate or good condition*). G2 - Poor, passed 6 criteria (excluding the criterion essential for achieving moderate or good condition*).			

6. Strategic Significance

6.1 Summary of Relevant Local Strategies

Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015 to 2026

6.1.1 Core Policy 50. Biodiversity and Geodiversity:

Core Policy 50 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy requires all development to demonstrate no net loss of biodiversity and for major applications the expectation is that development will deliver a net gain.

Development proposals must demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation and geological value as part of the design rationale. There is an expectation that such features shall be retained, buffered, and managed favourably in order to maintain their ecological value, connectivity and functionality in the long-term. Where it has been demonstrated that such features cannot be retained, removal or damage shall only be acceptable in circumstances where the anticipated ecological impacts have been mitigated as far as possible and appropriate compensatory measures can be secured to ensure no net loss of the local biodiversity resource, and secure the integrity of local ecological networks and provision of ecosystem services.

All development should seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Major development in particular must include measures to deliver biodiversity gains through opportunities to restore, enhance and create valuable habitats, ecological networks and ecosystem services. Such enhancement measures will contribute to the objectives and targets of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or River Basin/ Catchment Management Plan, particularly through landscape scale projects, and be relevant to the local landscape character.

7. Assessment of Results

- 7.1.1 The biodiversity net gain calculations have revealed a total net gain of 0.09 habitat units and a total net percentage gain of 11.46% habitat units. There are no hedgerow and line of tree units included within the metric at the baseline; however, a total net gain of 0.21 hedgerow units is proposed. No watercourses are present on site at the baseline or post-development, therefore there is no unit or percentage change in this category.
- 7.1.2 Full calculations are submitted with this report and the headline results are provided below.

7.2 Headline Results

FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Habitat units	0.09	
		Hedgerow units	0.21	
		Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Habitat units	11.46%	
		Hedgerow units	N/A	
		Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?		Yes ✓		
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	0.77	0.84	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

7.3 Summary of Results

- 7.3.1 The site occupies part of the residential curtilage of Lordswood House, as well as an area of the adjacent agricultural field unit (to the east). To compensate for the loss of an area of modified grassland, to form the footprint of the proposed tennis court, 15 small-sized native broadleaved trees are proposed across the adjacent agricultural field unit, in the north and east of the site. This location for tree planting has been chosen as the area of amenity modified grassland proposed for the construction of a tennis court is the subject of a retrospective change of use application to include this area within the residential curtilage of Lordswood House. Habitat creation cannot be secured across residential curtilages in line with BNG User Guidance. The adjacent field unit will remain as allocated agricultural land and therefore habitat creation can be secured for the 30-year period associated with BNG. A native beech hedgerow has been planted 1 year in advance of the development (Autumn/Winter 2024) across the east fringe of the site, outside of the residential curtilage. The proposed habitat creation is deemed appropriate to the location, setting and scale of the proposal.

8. Post-Development Condition Assessments

8.1 Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessments

Individual Trees

- 8.1.1 15 small-sized broadleaved native trees are proposed across the modified grassland agricultural land on site. The 15 trees will be planted evenly spaced across the north and east boundary of the site, outside of the residential curtilage of Lordswood House. Species will include English oak, field maple, small-leaved lime, crab apple, wild service tree and hawthorn. Each tree will be planted with a stake and a 1.2m height tree guard to protect against deer, rabbit and small mammal browsing. A habitat condition assessment for 'Individual Trees – Rural' has been provided below in Table 2, to show how the condition of these 15 trees will be achieved.

Table 2: Condition Assessment: Individual Trees – Rural

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criteria Passed or Failed	Evidence
The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	✓	Of the 15 new trees to be planted on site, all will be of a native broadleaved species. Therefore, this criterion is passed.
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).	✓	The new trees are all classified as individual trees, and therefore automatically pass this criterion.
The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	✗	The newly planted trees will be small-sized and young at the time of planting and therefore, this criterion is failed.
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 the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	✓	All newly planted trees will be checked to ensure they are in a healthy condition at the time of planting. Correct management and monitoring over the 30-year period associated with BNG, detailed in Annex 3, will ensure that no adverse impacts on tree health occur, or if they do that remedial action is taken. Therefore, this criterion is passed.
Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	✗	The newly planted trees will be immature at the time of planting and therefore are unlikely to contain any of the ecological niches listed, therefore this criterion is failed. There is potential for natural ecological niches to develop within the newly planted trees over the 30-year period associated with BNG.
More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	✓	The newly planted trees will be surrounded in all directions by retained modified grassland; therefore, this criterion is passed.
Condition Assessment: Moderate, passes 4 criteria.		

- 8.1.2 The 15 newly planted trees are predicted to achieve moderate condition, with the potential to achieve good condition as the trees mature and develop natural ecological niches over the 30-year period associated with BNG. Correct management and monitoring, detailed in Annex 3, will ensure the long-term security of these trees to at least moderate condition in a rural setting, with all management activities to be carried out by the landowner, with the assistance of specialist contractors where necessary.

8.2 Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessments

Native Hedgerow

- 8.2.1 A native hedgerow, H3, has been planted 1 year in advance of the development, across the east fringe of the site. The hedgerow measures approximately 0.0607km in length and is entirely beech. Each beech sapling has been planted with a 600mm high spiral tree guard and stake A condition assessment for hedgerow H3 is provided in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Condition Assessment: Hedgerow – Native Hedgerow

Attributes and Functional Grouping with Condition Assessment Criteria	Criteria Passed or Failed	Evidence
	H3	
A1. Height: >1.5 m average along length	✗	Hedgerow H3 will be managed to a height of at least 1.5m, however at the time of planting was less than 1.5m across the entire length, therefore failing this criterion.
A2. Width: >1.5 m average along length	✗	Hedgerow H3 will be managed to a width of at least 1.5m, however at the time of planting was less than 1.5m width across the entire length, therefore failing this criterion.
B1. Gap – Hedge base: Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5m for >90% of length.	✓	Successful management of this new hedgerow will ensure the gap between ground level and the base of the hedgerow is less than 0.5m for the entire length.
B2. Gap – Hedge canopy continuity: Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5m.	✓	Any gaps within the hedgerow which appear within the establishment period will be planted with new shrub saplings. Should larger gaps appear overtime, it is recommended that the hedgerow be laid.
C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation: >1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length measured from outer edge of hedgerow and is present on one side of the hedge (at least).	✓	Retained modified grassland is located across both sides of the hedgerow within 1m, providing enough undisturbed ground to pass the criterion.
C2. Undesirable perennial vegetation: Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	✗	The undisturbed ground adjacent to and beneath hedgerow H3 is retained modified grassland, this habitat is dominated by plant species indicative of nutrient enriched soils, therefore this criterion is failed.
D1. Invasive and Neophyte species: >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and neophyte species.	✓	No invasive species are evident within or adjacent to the hedgerow at the time of survey, and effective monitoring of the habitat will ensure these species do not encroach over the 30-year BNG period.
D2. Current damage: >90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	✓	Effective management and monitoring of the hedgerow will ensure that no damage happens, and that if it does remedial action is taken.

Condition Assessment: H3 - Moderate, fails both criteria in one functional group (A1 and A2) and fails 3 criteria overall.

- 8.2.2 The native hedgerow is predicted to achieve moderate condition. Correct management and monitoring of this hedgerow, detailed in Annex 3, will ensure long-term security of the hedgerow in a rural setting, with all management activities to be carried out by the landowner, with the assistance of specialist contractors where necessary.

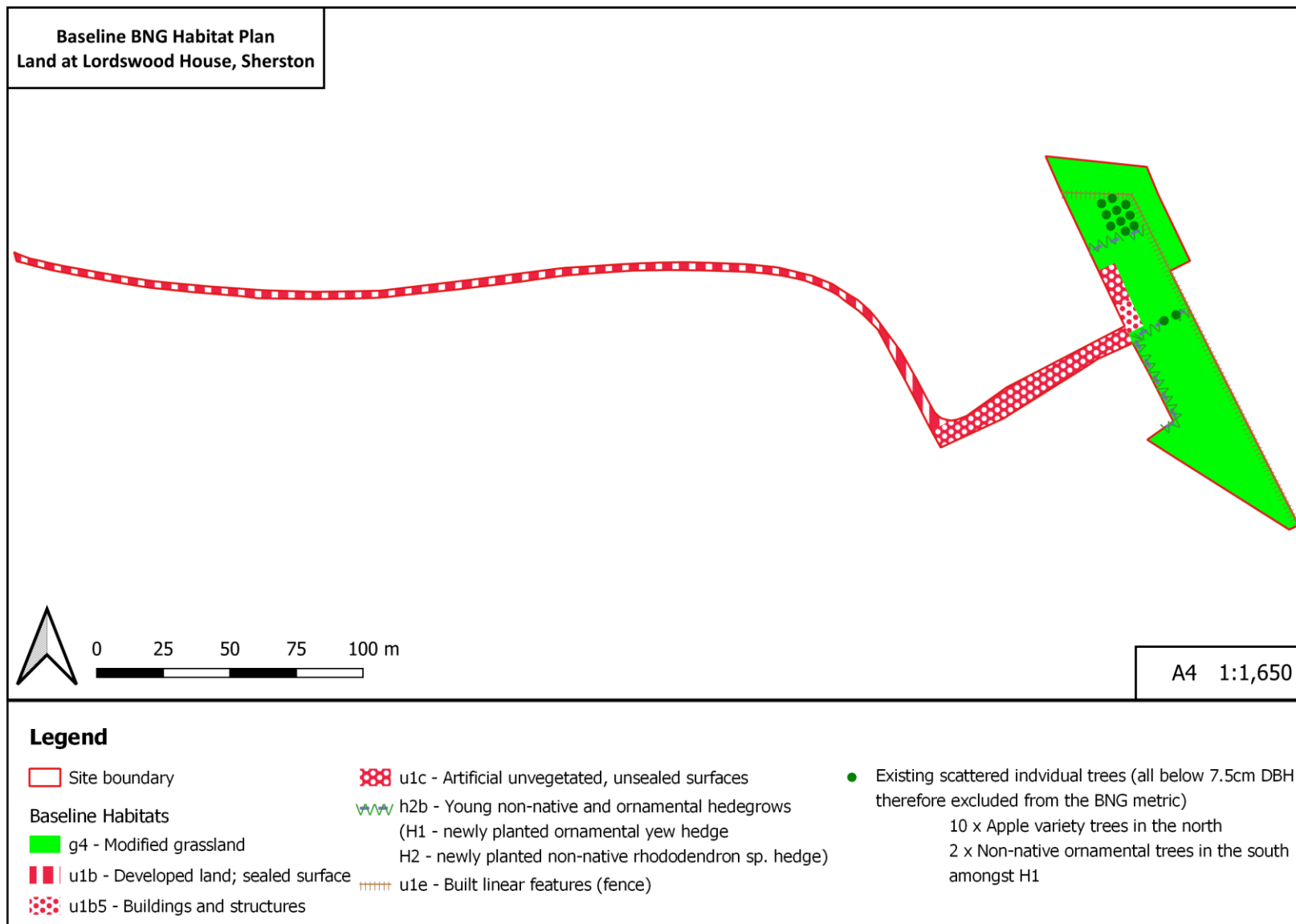
8.3 Mitigation Hierarchy

- 8.3.1 In terms of the mitigation hierarchy, the proposal has been designed to compensate for the unavoidable loss of a 0.0558ha area of modified grassland forming the footprint of the proposed tennis court, through the planting of 15 small-sized native broadleaved trees on site. The majority of existing modified grassland, the 12 individual trees and two non-native/ornamental hedgerows (the latter two excluded from the BNG metric) will be retained and sufficiently protected throughout the works. The proposal meets the aims of the BNG mitigation hierarchy by providing all mitigation habitats on site and achieving the required +10% gain (11.46%) through the on-site approach. The proposal also provides additional native hedgerow habitat across the east fringe of the site, through a beech hedgerow planted 1 year in advance.

8.4 Summary of the Strategic Significance of the Site

- 8.4.1 With reference to the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015 to 2026, the proposal achieves a net gain in habitat units, achieving a 11.46% gain overall. The development layout provides new features of ecological value through the planting of 15 native broadleaved individual trees and a 0.0607km length of native beech hedgerow. Whilst there is habitat loss of a 0.0558ha area of modified grassland, negatively impacting the nature conservation value, the baseline grassland is assessed as poor condition and it is therefore considered that the proposed tree planting provides higher ecological value to the site and surrounding area. The proposal therefore contributes to biodiversity enhancement on site which have a positive impact on the wider environment through habitat connectivity, and therefore also positively impacting the wider ecological network and ecosystem services.

Annex 1: Baseline UKHab BNG Habitat Plans (September 2025)



Baseline BNG Habitat Plan
Land at Lordswood House, Sherston

H2

H1

G2

G1

G1

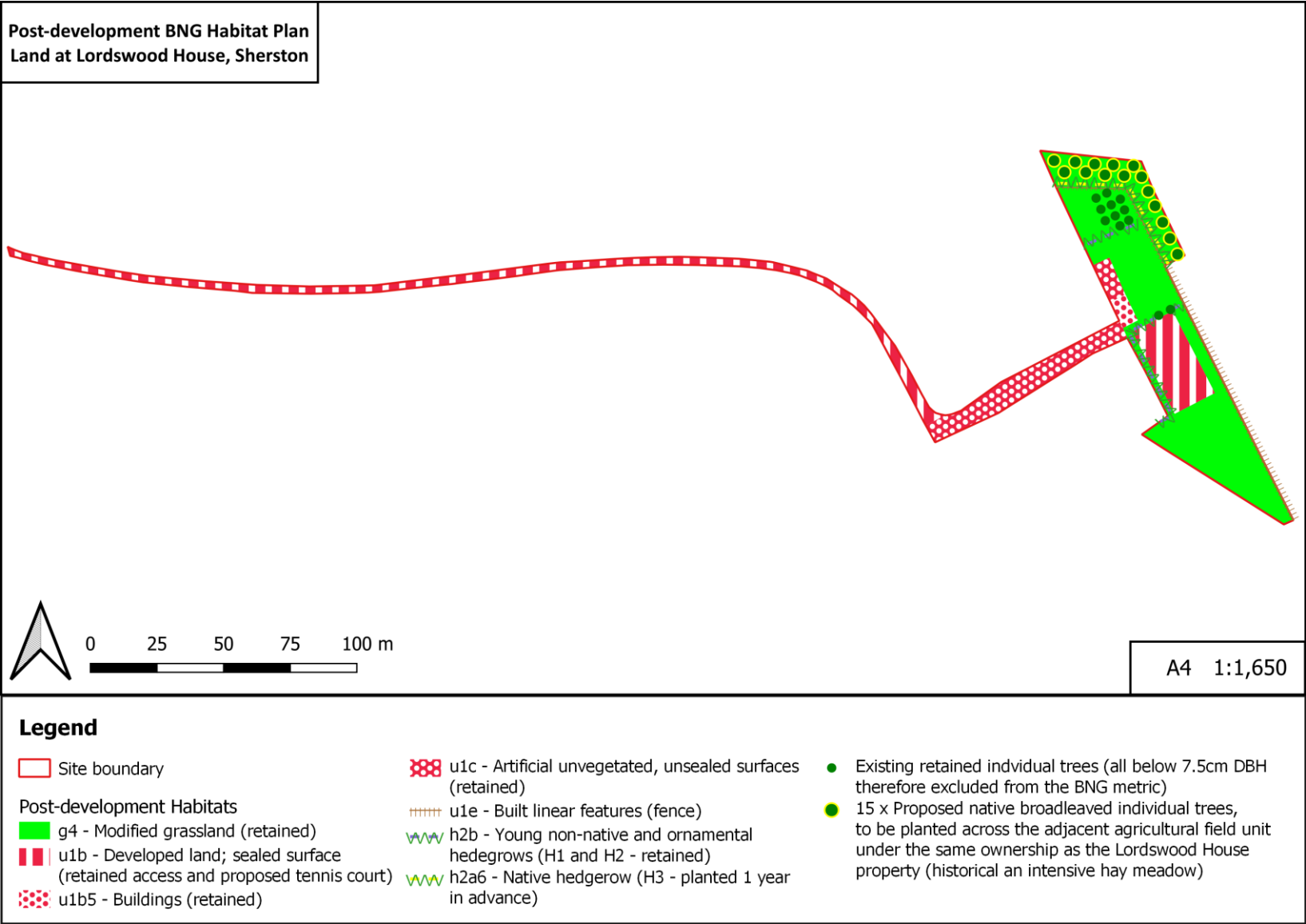
0 25 50 75 100 m

A4 1:900

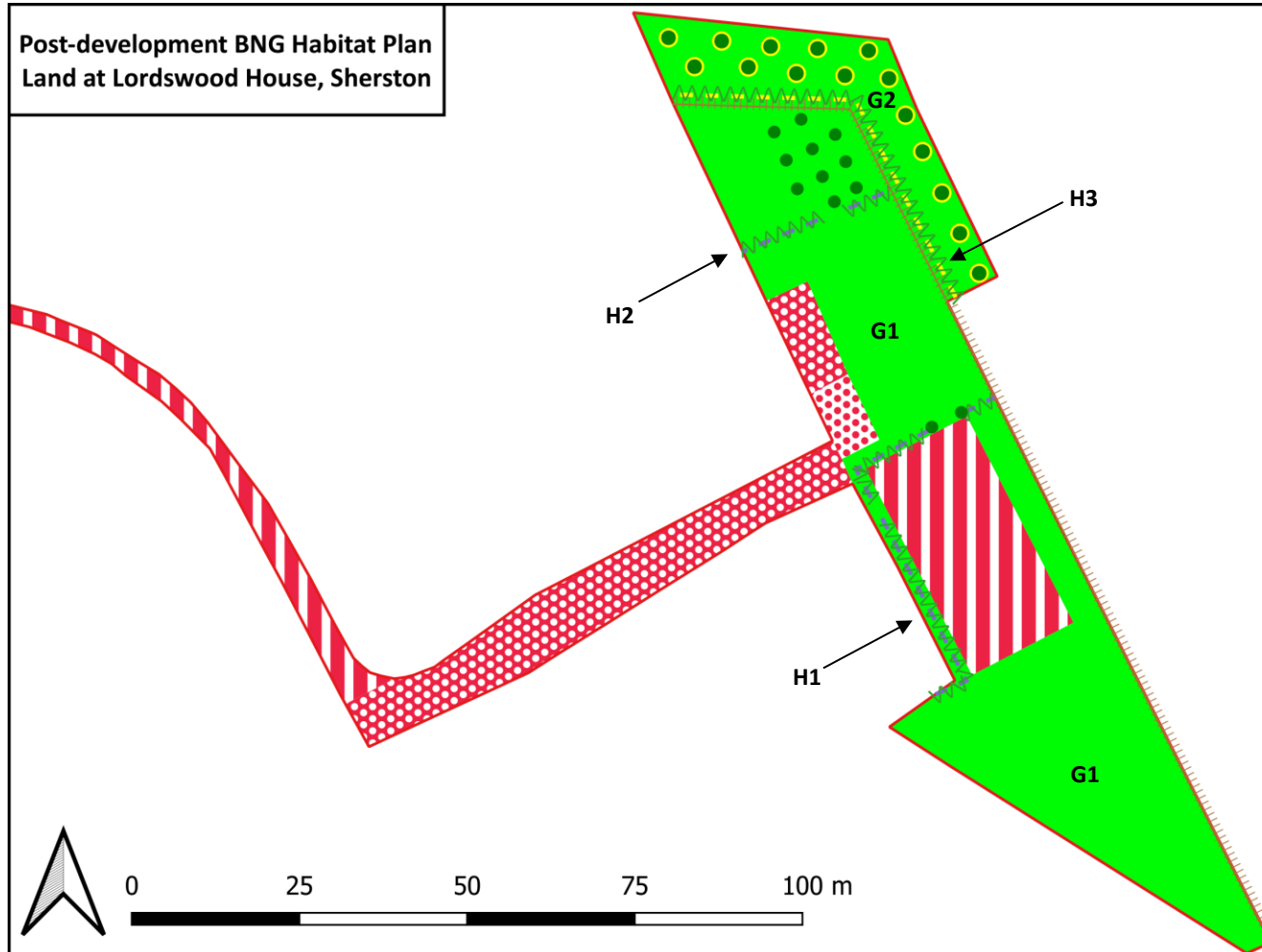
Legend

	Site boundary		u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surfaces		Existing scattered individual trees (all below 7.5cm DBH therefore excluded from the BNG metric)
Baseline Habitats					
	g4 - Modified grassland		h2b - Young non-native and ornamental hedegrows (H1 - newly planted ornamental yew hedge H2 - newly planted non-native rhododendron sp. hedge)		10 x Apple variety trees in the north 2 x Non-native ornamental trees in the south amongst H1
	u1b - Developed land; sealed surface		u1e - Built linear features (fence)		
	u1b5 - Buildings and structures				

Annex 2: Post-Development UKHab BNG Habitat Plan (November 2025)



**Post-development BNG Habitat Plan
Land at Lordswood House, Sherston**



A4 1:900

Legend

Site boundary

Post-development Habitats

g4 - Modified grassland (retained)

u1b - Developed land; sealed surface
(retained access and proposed tennis court)

u1b5 - Buildings (retained)

u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surfaces
(retained)

u1e - Built linear features (fence)

h2b - Young non-native and ornamental
hedgerows (H1 and H2 - retained)

h2a6 - Native hedgerow (H3 - planted 1 year
in advance)

Existing retained individual trees (all below 7.5cm DBH
therefore excluded from the BNG metric)

15 x Proposed native broadleaved individual trees,
to be planted across the adjacent agricultural field unit
under the same ownership as the Lordswood House
property (historical an intensive hay meadow)

Annex 3: Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan – Management Prescriptions and Annual Programme

Table 4: Management Prescriptions for Individual Trees and Native Hedgerows

Feature	Management/monitoring	Timing	Frequency
Individual Trees (<i>newly planted</i>)	Weed control – An area 1m across will be cleared of vegetation and maintained around new trees until established. Mulches can be effective at suppressing weeds and will be applied to a minimum depth of 100mm.	All year	Annually for first 5 years
	Replace dead trees. If an older tree dies and it is safe to leave it in place, standing deadwood provides good habitat for birds, bats and invertebrates. Contact licensed bat ecologist for advice if removal is required.	November to March	Years 1 and 2
	Tree guards should be used to protect new saplings from wild herbivores, remove tree guards when plants are well established.	All year	Year 3-5 as appropriate
	Monitor trees for any sign of defects or poor health every two years. Report any signs of ill health or damage and take remedial action when required.	October to February	Biannually
	Pruning of mature trees should be carried out to promote well balanced, natural canopy, as required.	October to February	Annually
	Fungal bodies and deadwood should be left in-situ where possible, unless it is posing a health and safety risk. If removed it should be placed in areas of grassland at the edge of the site, ideally near a hedgerow.	October to February	Annually

Feature	Management/monitoring	Timing	Frequency
Native Hedgerows (<i>newly planted</i>)	Weed control - three checks should be carried out during the growing season within the first year (annually after) to ensure that injurious weeds do not take over.	July to August	Three times in Year 1 then annually
	Replace dead plants.	November to March	Annually for first 5 years
	Remove tree guards when plants are well established.	All year	Years 3 to 5 as required
	Annually trim new hedgerows to encourage the development of a dense structure until established (aiming to maintain a height of approximately 1.5m).	October to February	Annually until established
	Once established (after Year 5), monitor hedgerow for any sign of defects or poor health every two years. Report any signs of ill health or damage and take remedial action when require (frequency may increase as trees mature). Consider pruning of mature trees to promote well balanced, natural canopy, as required.	October to February	Biannually
	Once established (after Year 5), trim every three years, varying height from one year to another and cutting on a rotational basis i.e. ensuring not all hedgerows on-site are cut in the same year, or cut only one side of a hedge at a time. Do not cut to the same height every time, allow incremental growth in height and width. Avoid using a mechanical flail if possible and leave any strong saplings to grow into hedgerow trees. Coppicing or laying the hedgerows may be necessary if they become gappy or lack dense branches at their bases.	October to February	Every 3 years

Table 5: Annual Programme to cover 30-year period for Biodiversity Net Gain

Key to timing of management/monitoring: ☒ = appropriate time / ☐ = inappropriate time

Feature	Management/monitoring	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Individual Trees (newly planted)	Weed control – An area 1m across will be cleared of vegetation and maintained. Mulches can be effective at suppressing weeds and will be applied to a minimum depth of 100mm.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Replace dead plants	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓
	Remove tree guards when plants are well established.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Monitor trees for any sign of defects or poor health twice yearly. Report any signs of ill health or damage and take remedial action when required.	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
	Pruning of mature trees should be carried out to promote well balanced, natural canopy, as required.	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
	Fungal bodies and deadwood should be left in situ where possible, unless it is posing a health and safety risk. If removed it should be relocated to similar habitat where it does not pose a risk.	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
Native Hedgerows (newly planted)	Weed control – An area 1m across will be cleared of vegetation and maintained. Mulches can be effective at suppressing weeds and will be applied to a minimum depth of 100mm.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Replace dead plants.	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓
	Remove tree guards when plants are well established.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Annually trim new hedgerows to encourage the development of a dense structure until established (aiming to maintain a height of approximately 1.5m).	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
	Coppicing or laying the native hedgerows if they become gappy or lack dense branches at their bases.	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓

Annex 4: Site Photographs (September 2025)

Photograph 1. View of the south end of the amenity modified grassland (proposed for construction of the tennis court) facing north. Also showing artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (left) surrounded by an immature yew hedgerow (H1).



Photograph 2. View of the north end of the amenity modified grassland facing north, also showing artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (left) containing a green house and chicken coop, and the 10 immature apple variety trees in the background.



Photograph 3. View of the adjacent agricultural field unit, facing north-east. Showing the modified grassland in the foreground and existing newly planted native broadleaved trees scattered across the background.

