

EEL1052 The Paddock, Brinkworth – Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment

Ellendale Environmental Limited was commissioned by LPC (Trull) Ltd., on behalf of their client Mr. R Martin, to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for an area of land at The Paddock, Swindon Road, Brinkworth, Little Somerford, Wiltshire, SN15 5DD ('the site'). This has been undertaken in support of a retrospective planning application to retain a barn on the site ('the proposed development').

Using current information on the proposed development, this assessment estimates the BNG anticipated to be achieved through the site plans and has been undertaken with reference to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool¹. This is a biodiversity accounting tool used for the purposes of calculating biodiversity net gain for a site and is based on 'biodiversity units' calculated according to the habitats present and their size, distinctiveness and condition. This enables the quantitative calculation of the predicted change in biodiversity value as a result of a development, with the objective of achieving a net gain in biodiversity.

In England, BNG is mandatory² under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) and developers must deliver a BNG of 10%. This means a development will result in more or better-quality natural habitat than there was before development. Positive effects for biodiversity are encouraged in new developments by contributing to the enhancement of biodiversity, restoring degraded habitats and building and strengthening nature networks.

The site is located to the west of Brinkworth and to the south of the B4042 (Swindon Road), comprising an area of land approximately 0.19ha in size. It was purchased by Mr. R Martin in 2003 and was largely cleared prior to this purchase.

¹ [Natural England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

² From 12th February 2024.

Photograph 1: showing a view of the site in 1st October 2020 (supplied by Mr. R Martin)



The site currently comprises an agricultural barn with areas of bare ground used for the storage of farm and work vehicles, alongside piles of rubble and equipment; this bare ground is not considered to be a priority habitat.

It is understood that three large ash trees were removed due to ash dieback and five smaller trees were removed at the south-east of the site when the agricultural barn was erected.

Photograph 2: showing a view of the site in January 2026



Based on this, the pre-development site habitat units have been determined using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool and using Google Earth to measure the associated habitat areas. This is summarised in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Site habitat creation (pre-development)

BROAD HABITAT	HABITAT TYPE	AREA (HA)	CONDITION	TOTAL HABITAT UNITS LOST	COMMENTS
Urban	Bare ground	0.1853	Poor	0.21	Area of bare ground created following clearance of the site by the previous owner. Purchased in 2003.
Individual trees	Rural tree	0.1099	Poor	0.44	Three large ash trees removed due to ash dieback.
Individual trees	Rural tree	0.0814	Poor	0.33	Five smaller trees removed within the site.
Grassland	Other neutral grassland	0.09265	Poor	0.37	Area of modified grassland.

The post-development site habitat units have been determined using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool and this is summarised in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Site habitat creation (post-development)

BROAD HABITAT	HABITAT TYPE	AREA (HA)	CONDITION	TOTAL HABITAT UNITS	COMMENTS
Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	0.023582	N/A - Other	0.00	Agricultural shed constructed on the site.
Grassland	Other neutral grassland	0.081718	Moderate	0.55	Area of grassland habitat to be created around the site.
Individual trees	Rural tree	0.097700	Moderate	0.33	10 medium trees to be planted to the south-east of the barn adjacent to the existing woodland.
Individual trees	Rural tree	0.146600	Moderate	0.45	Four large trees (oak/beech) to be planted along the hedgerow to the north.

Based on this, the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool indicates that the development will result in a net gain of **12.32%** for non-linear habitats, thus complying with local and national planning policies for biodiversity net gain.

There are no non-linear habitats within the site, and none were present prior to the development of the site.