



Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Land at Spin Hill, Market Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4NS

John Price

Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	V0.1	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE MRSB, Consultant Ecologist	26-10-2024
Final	V1.0	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE MRSB, Consultant Ecologist	28-10-2024
Amendments	V2.0	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE MRSB, Consultant Ecologist	09-04-2026

Arbtech Consultant's Contact Details:

Jade Lemm
Consultant Ecologist
Email: jadelemm@arbtech.co.uk
<https://arbtech.co.uk>

Limitations and Copyright

Arbtech Consulting Limited has prepared this report for the sole use of the above-named client or their agents in accordance with our General Terms and Conditions, under which our services are performed. It is expressly stated that no other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or any other services provided by us. This report may not be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of Arbtech Consulting Limited. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are based upon information provided by third parties. Information obtained from third parties has not been independently verified by Arbtech Consulting Limited.

© This report is the copyright of Arbtech Consulting Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited.

Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Construction Industry Research and Information Association & Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2019). Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Development.

Proportionality

The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate.

The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.

(BS 42020, 2013)

Executive Summary

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by John Price to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at Land at Spin Hill, Market Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4NS (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The assessment was required to inform a planning application for the use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential use and the laying of hardstanding and erection of a dayroom ancillary to that use (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

The proposed plan results in a -50.87% net loss in habitat units (0.69 habitat unit deficit) and a 27.12% net gain in hedgerow units. This is less than the 10% target of biodiversity net gain for habitat units. The habitats currently proposed to be created are maximised in terms of their target condition. Alterations to the landscaping proposals are unlikely to yield significant changes to the results as the proposed development will remove large areas of medium distinctiveness habitat, and trading rules are not satisfied.

In order to achieve the required minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity as a result of the proposed development, the provision of additional or alternative landscaping should be explored and the proposed plans amended accordingly to either achieve a 10% net gain on-site or to reduce off-site compensation requirements that may be required to achieve a 10% net gain.

Contents

1.0 Introduction and Context 7

1.1 Background 7

1.2 Site Location, Geology and Landscape Context 7

1.3 BNG Informative..... 7

2.0 Methodology 8

2.1 Baseline Biodiversity Value 8

2.2 Post Development Biodiversity Value..... 8

2.3 Limitations..... 9

3.0 Results..... 10

3.1 Baseline Habitats..... 10

3.2 Post Development Habitats 12

3.3 Change in Biodiversity Value of the Site 14

4.0 Recommendations to Deliver BNG 15

4.1 Discussion..... 15

4.2 Biodiversity Offsetting..... 15

4.3 Pre-Commencement 15

5.0 Bibliography 16

Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan..... 17

Appendix 2: Site Location Plan 18

Appendix 3: Baseline Habitat Plan..... 19

Appendix 4: Post Development Habitat Plan 20

Appendix 5a: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets - Baseline 21

Appendix 5b: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets - Proposed28

Appendix 6: Headline BNG Results34

1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by John Price to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at Land at Spin Hill, Market Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4NS (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The assessment was required to inform a planning application for the use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential use and the laying of hardstanding and erection of a dayroom ancillary to that use (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”). A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric.
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment of Land at Spin Hill, Market Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4NS.

1.2 Site Location, Geology and Landscape Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SU 00601 54871 and has an area of approximately 0.16ha comprising grassland, hardstanding, scrub, buildings and tall forbs. It is surrounded by deciduous woodland to the south (~35m), residential dwellings to the east and agricultural fields in all other directions. The wider landscape comprises pockets of woodland to the south and agricultural fields in all other directions. The soil within the site is slightly acidic and loamy. A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

1.3 BNG Informative

BNG is a specific, measurable outcome of project activities that deliver demonstrable and quantifiable benefits to biodiversity compared to the baseline situation. In order to achieve BNG, a project must be able to demonstrate that it has followed all 10 of the Principles of Biodiversity Net Gain (as outlined in the *British Standard 8683:2021 Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain*).

The legalised Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 6) Regulations 2023 requires developments in England to demonstrate a measurable net gain in biodiversity and sets a target of a minimum of 10% BNG for all developments. It also stipulates that a management plan with a minimum 30-year term, should be adopted to ensure biodiversity net gain can be delivered. The requirement for biodiversity net gain is enshrined within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023). Furthermore, BNG is a requirement of Policy 50 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted in 2015).

The DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric is the widely accepted tool used to calculate BNG. It enables the calculation of habitat value pre- and post-development in order to determine the overall change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposed development. The Biodiversity Metric has separate BNG assessments for areas of habitat, hedgerows and watercourses.

The biodiversity value of a site should be maximised. However, it may not always be possible to achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain within a site and therefore the Statutory Biodiversity Metric can also account for offsite habitat creation, where land is available. Alternatively, developers can seek to provide an agreed financial contribution to an appropriate third party (such as the Local Authority, the UK Government or another landowner) to deliver the required biodiversity net gain elsewhere on their behalf.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Baseline Biodiversity Value

The baseline BNG Calculation was informed by Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment of Land at Spin Hill, Market Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4NS (Arbtech, 2024). A baseline habitat plan is provided in Appendix 3.

Habitat Classification

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment of Land at Spin Hill, Market Lavington, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 4NS classified the habitats on site according to The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023).

Habitat Area/Length

The area or length of each habitat was calculated using qGIS software. In calculating the area or length of each habitat, habitats which occur as two or more isolated parcels across the site were combined, where they were deemed to be of a similar composition and condition. Distinctions were made between habitats to be retained (i.e. left as found in baseline), enhanced (i.e. improved condition) or lost (i.e. destroyed by proposed development).

Areas of scattered trees were calculated using the Tree Helper tool within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Class sizes for urban trees are set out in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2024).

Habitat Condition

Habitat condition was assessed using the relevant condition assessment sheets found in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2024).

Strategic Significance

Strategic significance was assigned for each habitat based upon a review of the following:

- Ecological value
- Function within the landscape
- Any site or habitat allocations under the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

2.2 Post Development Biodiversity Value

The post development BNG Calculation was informed by '22_1260_003 Proposed Site Plan P02' which is included in Appendix 1. A post development habitat plan is provided in Appendix 4.

Habitat Classification

Proposed habitats were translated to their equivalents in the UK Habitat Classification using The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023) and the information provided within the '22_1260_003 Proposed Site Plan P02'.

Habitat Area/Length

The area or length of each proposed habitat was calculated using qGIS software. In calculating the area or length of each habitat, habitats which occur as two or more isolated parcels across the site were combined, where they were deemed to be of similar composition and condition. Distinctions were made between habitats to be retained (i.e. left as found in baseline), enhanced (i.e. improved condition) or newly created.

Areas of scattered trees were calculated using the Tree Helper tool within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Class sizes for urban trees are set out in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2024).

Habitat Condition

Target habitat condition for each proposed habitat was determined assessed using the Temporal Multipliers Tool and the Enhancement Temporal Multipliers Tool included in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet as well as the relevant condition assessment sheets found in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2024). This is based on the assumption that a 30-year management plan will be adopted for the site.

Strategic Significance

Strategic significance was assigned for each proposed habitat based upon a review of the following:

- Likely ecological value
- Function within the landscape
- Any site or habitat allocations under the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

2.3 Limitations

No limitations were identified.

3.0 Results

3.1 Baseline Habitats

Table 1 details the baseline habitats present within the site along with their area/length, condition and strategic significance. A full condition assessment for each habitat (where relevant) is provided in Appendix 5a.

Table 1: Baseline Biodiversity Value

Habitat	Area / Length	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Other neutral grassland	0.0879 ha	A large area of the site was deschampsia-neutral grassland with tall forbs, a line of trees and scattered trees. The species are a poor representation of the grassland categorisation, with no areas of bare ground, invasive species and bracken. The sward height was varied throughout the site (1cm – 70cm). Large areas of scrub were throughout the grassland (~40%). Species composition includes tufted hair-grass (A), Yorkshire fog (A), white clover (A), false oat grass (F), ribwort plantain (F), broadleaved dock (F), silverweed (F), common hogweed (F), common bent grass (O), common broom (O), field sagewort (O), common nettle (O), white dead nettle (O), creeping thistle (O), creeping buttercup (O), wild strawberry (O) and large-flowered primrose (R).	Moderate The condition assessment was moderate due to the lack of physical damage and diverse sward height.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Bramble scrub	0.0090 ha	Areas of bramble scrub were found along the northern and western boundaries. The habitat does not have a condition score.	Condition Assessment N/A Bramble scrub is excluded from habitat condition assessments.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Tall forbs	0.0593 ha	Areas of tall forbs were present on the western, northern and eastern boundaries. The species included rosebay willowherb (A), common nettle (A), thistle (O), and common hogweed (O). No Invasive species or varied vegetational structures were noted.	Moderate The condition assessment was assessed as moderate due to the ecological structure and lack of invasive species.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).

Developed land sealed surface	0.0197 ha	The site has areas of concrete hardstanding. One permanent building (B1) and one temporary structure (B2) are on the site.	Condition Assessment N/A Developed land-sealed surface is excluded from habitat condition assessments.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.0149	The site had an area of hardcore.	Condition Assessment N/A Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface is excluded from habitat condition assessments.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Individual urban trees	0.0204 ha	The grassland had nine immature scattered trees (T1, G2, G3, T4 – T6). Tree T1 was a semi-mature hawthorn (good health and ~20cm DBH) with no ecological niches and no evidence of human disturbance. Below the trees, there was scrub (>20% oversailing vegetation). Group of trees G2 were three immature (self-seeded) oak trees (good health and <7cm DBH) with no ecological niches and evidence of human disturbance. There was grassland below the tree (>20% oversailing vegetation). Group of trees G3 were two immature leylandii trees (good health and ~7cm DBH) with no ecological niches and evidence of human disturbance. Below the trees, there was grassland (>20% oversailing vegetation). Tree T4 was an immature oak (good health and ~10cm DBH) with no ecological niches and no evidence of human disturbance. Below the trees, there was scrub (>20% oversailing vegetation). Tree T5 was an immature oak (good health and ~15cm DBH) with no ecological niches and no evidence of human disturbance. Below the trees, there was scrub (>20% oversailing vegetation). Tree T6 was an immature leylandii (good health and ~10cm DBH) with no ecological niches and no	Moderate The condition assessment was assessed as moderate due to the lack of ecological niches and the age of the tree.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).

		evidence of human disturbance. Below the trees, there was scrub (>20% oversailing vegetation).		
Line of trees	0.021 km	A line of leylandii trees was noted on the site's southern boundary. The trees were healthy, and there were no gaps in the canopy. There was undisturbed vegetation on the site side of the line of trees. However, a regularly used agricultural road was immediately adjacent to the other side of the line of trees (high human disturbance).	Poor The condition assessment was assessed as poor due to the lack of undisturbed vegetation and ecological niches.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).

3.2 Post Development Habitats

Table 2 details the post-development habitats present within the site, along with their area/length, condition and strategic significance. An assessment of the anticipated condition for each habitat (where relevant) is provided in Appendix 5b, which is based on the assumption that a 30-year management plan will be implemented for the site. The proposed development will result in the loss of the other neutral grassland, bramble scrub, tall forbs and two individual urban trees.

Table 2: Post-Development Biodiversity Value

Habitat	Area / Length	Description	Target Condition	Strategic Significance
Vegetated garden	0.0615 ha created	Areas of vegetated garden will be created around the hardstanding.	Condition Assessment N/A Vegetated garden is excluded from habitat condition assessments.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Mixed scrub	0.0183 ha created	Areas of mixed scrub will be created around the site boundaries. Species can include Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Bramble, Dogwood, Privet, Wayfaring Tree, several species of Rose, Traveller's Joy, Juniper, Whitebeam, Spindle, Box and Yew.	Moderate To achieve a moderate condition, the criteria must include a native diverse species range and no invasive species.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).

Mixed scrub	0.0076 ha enhanced	Areas of bramble scrub will be enhanced around the site boundaries. Species can include Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Bramble, Dogwood, Privet, Wayfaring Tree, several species of Rose, Traveller's Joy, Juniper, Whitebeam, Spindle, Box and Yew.	Moderate To achieve a moderate condition, the criteria must include a native diverse species range and no invasive species.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.0662 ha created	A large area of the site will be loose permeable hardstanding.	Condition Assessment N/A Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface is excluded from habitat condition assessments.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Developed land sealed surface	0.0116 ha created	An area of tarmac will be created at the site entrance as well as new buildings to the rear of the site.	Condition Assessment N/A Developed land-sealed surface is excluded from habitat condition assessments.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Individual urban trees	0.0326 ha created	8 x small (moderate condition) trees will be planted for the proposed development. Species composition can include alder, wild cherry, bird cherry, silver birch, crab apple, dog rose and dogwood.	Moderate To achieve to condition of moderate, the criteria must include native species, no canopy gaps and no invasive species.	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Individual urban trees	0.0204 ha retained	5 x small (moderate condition) trees will be retained for the development.	Moderate	Low strategic significance
Line of trees	0.020 km retained	The section of line of trees will be retained for the development.	Poor	Low strategic significance
Native hedgerow	0.004 km created	A section of native hedgerow will be created.	Moderate To achieve the condition of moderate, the criteria must	Low strategic significance Area/compensation not in local strategy, and there is no local

			include no invasive species or gaps and be >1.5m width.	strategy or evidence to suggest that the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
--	--	--	---	---

3.3 Change in Biodiversity Value of the Site

Full details are provided in the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The headline results are presented in Appendix 6.

Areas of Habitat

The baseline habitat value of the site is 1.14 units, comprising developed land (no unit value), 0.70 units of another neutral grassland, 0.04 units of bramble scrub, 0.24 units of tall forbs and 0.16 units of individual urban trees.

The post-development habitat value of the site is 0.56 units, comprising the creation of buildings and hardstanding (no value), vegetated garden (0.12 units), mixed scrub (0.18 units), and urban individual trees (0.10 units) as well as the retention of five small trees (0.16 units).

This results in a net change in biodiversity of -50.87% (i.e. a net loss).

Hedgerows

The baseline hedgerow value of the site is 0.04 units, comprising 0.04 units of line of trees.

The post-development habitat value of the site is 0.05 units, comprising retention of the line of trees (0.04 units) and the creation of 0.01 units of a new native hedgerow.

This results in a net change in biodiversity of 27.12% (i.e. a net gain).

4.0 Recommendations to Deliver BNG

4.1 Discussion

The proposed plan results in a -50.87% net loss in habitat units (0.69 habitat unit deficit) and a 27.12% net gain in hedgerow units. This is less than the 10% target of biodiversity net gain for habitat units. The habitats currently proposed to be created are maximised in terms of their target condition. Alterations to the landscaping proposals are unlikely to yield significant changes to the results, as the proposed development will remove large areas of medium distinctiveness habitat, and trading rules are not satisfied.

In order to achieve the required minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity as a result of the proposed development, the provision of additional or alternative landscaping should be explored and the proposed plans amended accordingly to either achieve a 10% net gain on-site or to reduce off-site compensation requirements that may be required to achieve a 10% net gain.

4.2 Biodiversity Offsetting

Therefore, there will be a requirement to provide these habitat units through one of the following options:

- Undertaking habitat creation and enhancement in a suitable offsite location in the site's locale. This may be via other land holdings or an agreement with a third-party landowner. The new site would need to be subject to a habitat survey assessment to ascertain its baseline value and a biodiversity net gain strategy drawn up. The new site would also need to be registered on the Biodiversity Net Gain Register at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-a-biodiversity-gain-site>
- Purchasing biodiversity units from an existing biodiversity net gain site already registered on the Biodiversity Net Gain Register. This will be via a financial contribution to the relevant third party. Following link for guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-off-site-biodiversity-gains-as-a-developer>
- Purchasing statutory credits using the credit sales service at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/statutory-biodiversity-credits>. This should be the last resort if neither of the above options are achievable, as these credits are not guaranteed to be within the locale of the development site.

4.3 Pre-Commencement

A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.

These additional requirements can only be actioned following the finalisation of the BNG assessment – be it on-site or off-site net gains sought.

5.0 Bibliography

- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.
- CIEEM-CIRIA-IEMA (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Development.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey a technique for environmental audit.
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/pub10_handbookforphase1habitatsurvey.pdf
- Natural England (2024). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric.
- Natural England (2024). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
- The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023)
- Wiltshire Council (2015). Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted 2015) - Core Policy 50: Biodiversity and geodiversity.

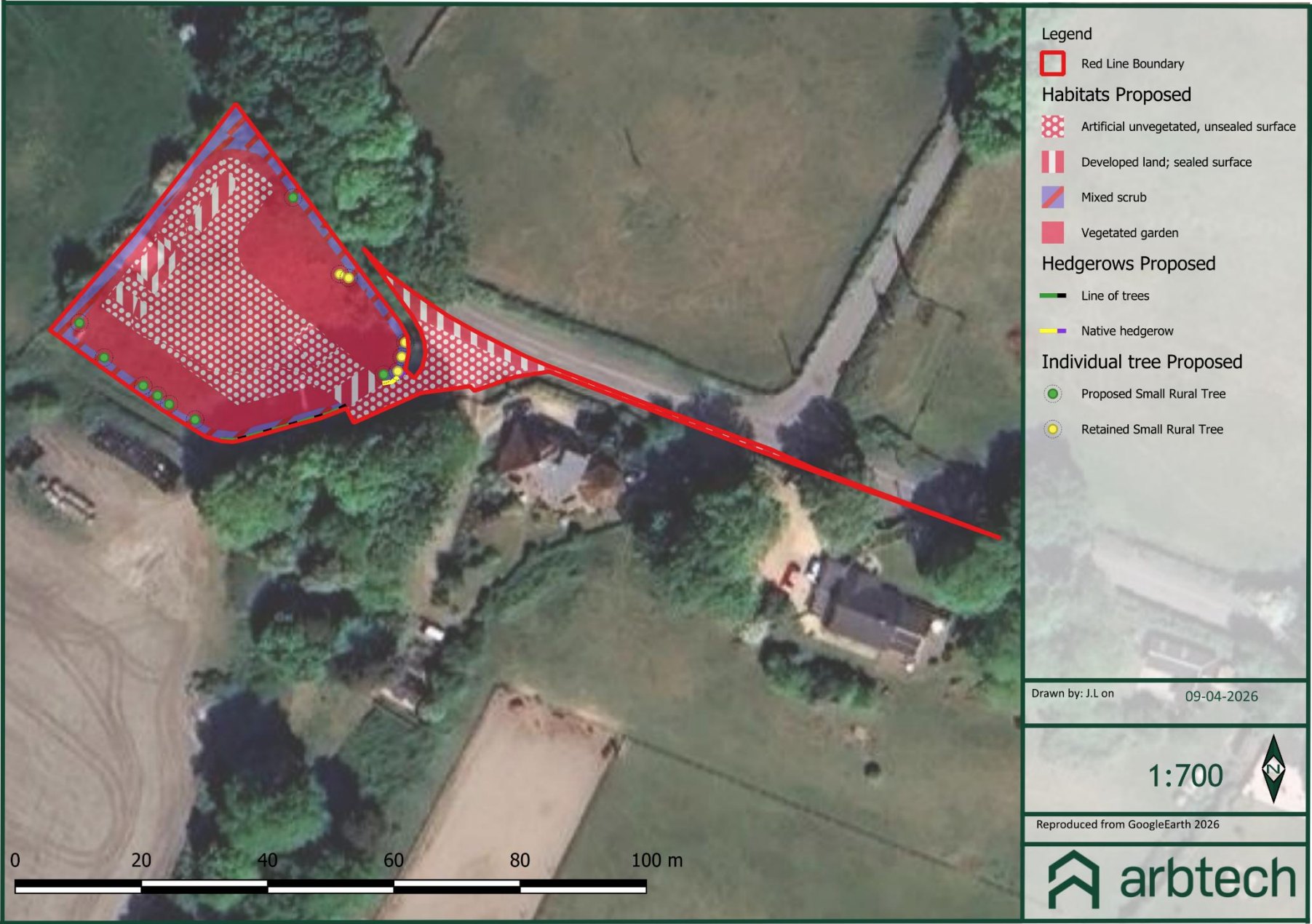
Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



Appendix 3: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 4: Post Development Habitat Plan



Appendix 5a: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets - Baseline

Other neutral grassland; assessed using the 'Grassland medium, high and very high distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
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 (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description).¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y
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.	Y
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	Y
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	N

E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ 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 ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N/A slightly acidic soils
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		Y
Number of criteria passed		4
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)		
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	X
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Individual urban trees; assessed using the 'Individual trees' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria	T1	G2	G3	T4	T5	T6				

		Criterion passed (Yes or No)									
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N				
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).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	N	N	N	N	N	N				
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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	N	N	N	N	N				

F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Number of criteria passed		4	4	3	4	4	3				
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√									
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)										
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)										

Line of trees; assessed using the 'Line of trees' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	N
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Y
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N

D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	N
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Y
Number of criteria passed		2
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score
		Score Achieved x/√
Passes 5 criteria		Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)
		X

Tall forbs; assessed using the 'Urban' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	N
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	Y

C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ . Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Y
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)		Y
Number of criteria passed		2
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):		
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Good (3)	
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements	Moderate (2)	X

for Good condition within criterion C.		
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.	Poor (1)	

Appendix 5b: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets - Proposed

Proposed individual rural trees; assessed using the 'Individual trees' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Y
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).	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	N
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.	N
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y
Number of criteria passed		3

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	X
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Proposed native hedgerow; assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				N
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	

A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Y
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	N
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Y

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 hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website⁴, as well as the BSBI website⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website⁷.	Y

D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	N
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees				
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3		
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1		
Score achieved:		MODERATE		

Created and enhanced mixed scrub; assessed using the 'Scrub' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
-------------------------------	------------------------------	---------------------

A	The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type. At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species, with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Y	Proposed species closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type (mixed scrub), with at least 80% native scrubs, three native woody species, and no dominant species.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	N	No varied age classes.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y	Management anticipated to remove non-native invasive species.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Y	Management is anticipated to maintain a well-developed edge.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N	No clearings, glades or rides.
Number of criteria passed			3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	
Passes 5 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)	

Appendix 6: Headline BNG Results

The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric is provided as a separate excel spreadsheet.

Land at Spin Hill, Market Lavington, Dev		Return to results menu	
Headline Results			
Scroll down for final results ▲			
On-site baseline	Habitat units	1.14	
	Hedgerow units	0.04	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.56	
	Hedgerow units	0.05	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	-0.58	-50.87%
	Hedgerow units	0.01	27.12%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%
On-site net gain is less than target			
Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	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	-0.58	
	Hedgerow units	0.01	
	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	-0.58	
	Hedgerow units	0.01	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-50.87%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲
	Hedgerow units	27.12%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲		