

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

BISHOPSTONE ROAD, ALDBOURNE

PROPOSED DOG WALKING PADDOCK

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Statement

This Biodiversity Net Gain Statement has been prepared for land at Bishopstone Road, Aldbourne, Wiltshire. The report has been written following both the Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development (CIEEM, 2019) and the Biodiversity Net Gain User Guide (DEFRA, 2023)

It has been compiled by Henry Brown, a Graduate of Cardiff University BEng (Hons) who is also a qualified agronomist (BASIS /20093751).

The proposed development does not appear to qualify under any exemption and will therefore be subject to the statutory Biodiversity Gain condition.

The purpose of this report is to determine if there is a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for the proposed dog walking field and car parking. And if there is a requirement, provide recommendations for increasing the net gain.

1.2 Site Overview

The site covers an area of approximately 1.02ha (hectares) consisting primarily of agricultural cropland with a small area of existing developed land comprising sealed surface hardstanding. The site is located on the outskirts of Aldbourne, Wiltshire and is bounded by managed farmland and a network of hedgerows and mature trees characteristic of the local rural landscape.

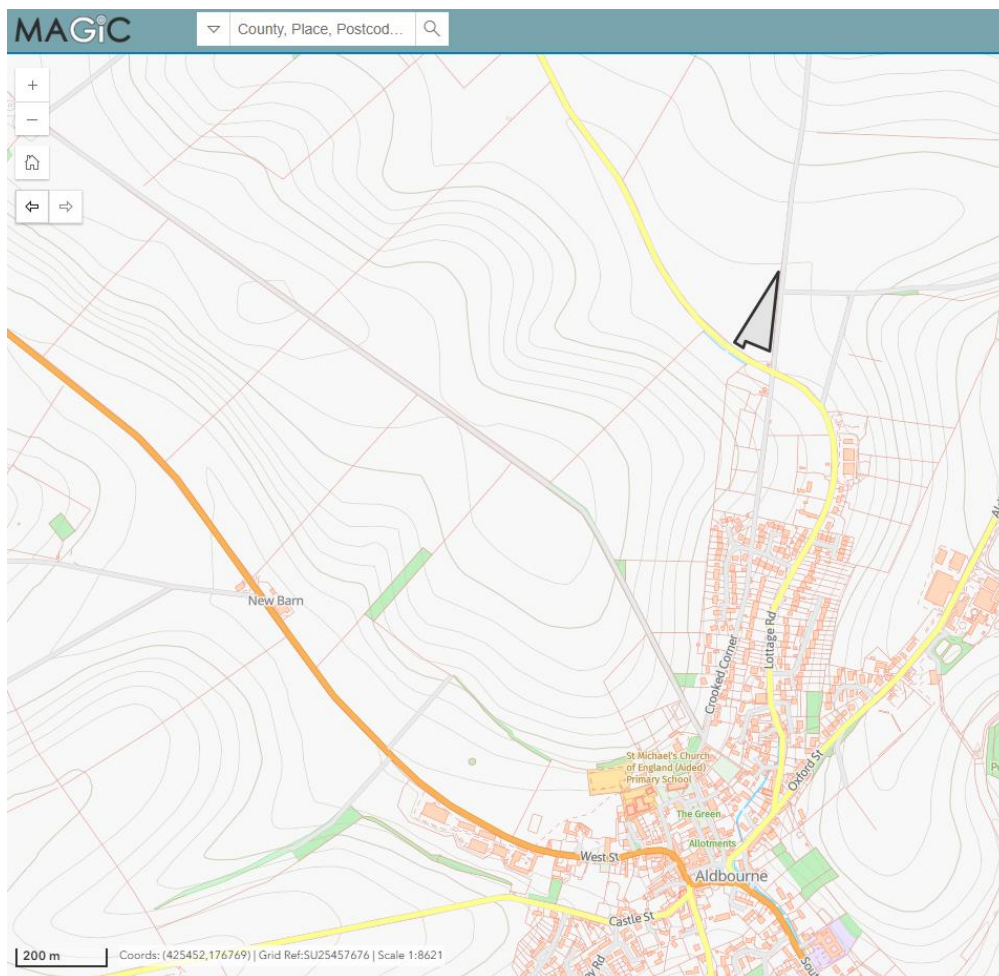


Figure 1. Planned location of Dog Walking Paddock

The site itself, the field Bishopstone road is cropland and currently in winter wheat. There are immature trees on the eastern edge, interspersed with a few hedge plants. There is a road off which the proposed site would be accessed to the south of the site. There is a hard standing next to the road to the south, part of which is proposed to be in the site. To the west and the north of the site the cropland continues.



Figure 2. The site showing the cropland of winter wheat

1.3 Surrounding Landscape

The site is located within a rural setting on the fringes of Aldbourne, Wiltshire, within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. The surrounding landscape is characterised by rolling chalk downland, agricultural pasture, arable fields, hedgerow networks and scattered woodland blocks as shown in figure 2. Soils within the area are typically freely draining, lime-rich loamy soils associated with the chalk landscape of the wider area.

1.4 Development Proposals

The proposals comprise the creation of a secure dog walking paddock with associated parking, access arrangements and perimeter fencing. Development proposals also include the installation of a temporary field shelter for bad weather and 4 x 30L rubbish bins for the dog waste.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study

As the site is located within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape, relevant management plans and policy documents were reviewed to determine whether habitats present on site are considered priorities within the wider landscape context.

Habitats were assigned strategic significance based upon their ecological importance within the local landscape and their contribution to habitat connectivity.

To identify any designated sites for nature conservation, irreplaceable habitat and/or priority habitats within or adjacent to the site, publicly available mapping resources including the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGiC) database and Wiltshire Council was used.

2.2 Baseline Habitat Assessment

A baseline habitat assessment in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification system was undertaken to establish the existing ecological baseline of the site. The baseline habitats comprise predominantly arable cropland together with a small area of developed land comprising sealed surface hardstanding.

There were no Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 2km.

All habitats were mapped on site and a walkover survey was completed on the 23rd April 2026. With the aid of aerial imagery and site measurements, habitat condition was assessed in accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition assessment methodology published by DEFRA.

The habitats, their condition and strategic significance were input into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool to establish the existing baseline biodiversity value of the site and the anticipated biodiversity losses associated with the proposals.

2.3 Post-Development Habitats

The proposed site layout, as shown in Figure 3, and landscape proposals were used to inform the post-development habitat scenario. Proposed habitat creation, retention and enhancement areas were measured and categorised using GIS-based mapping techniques.

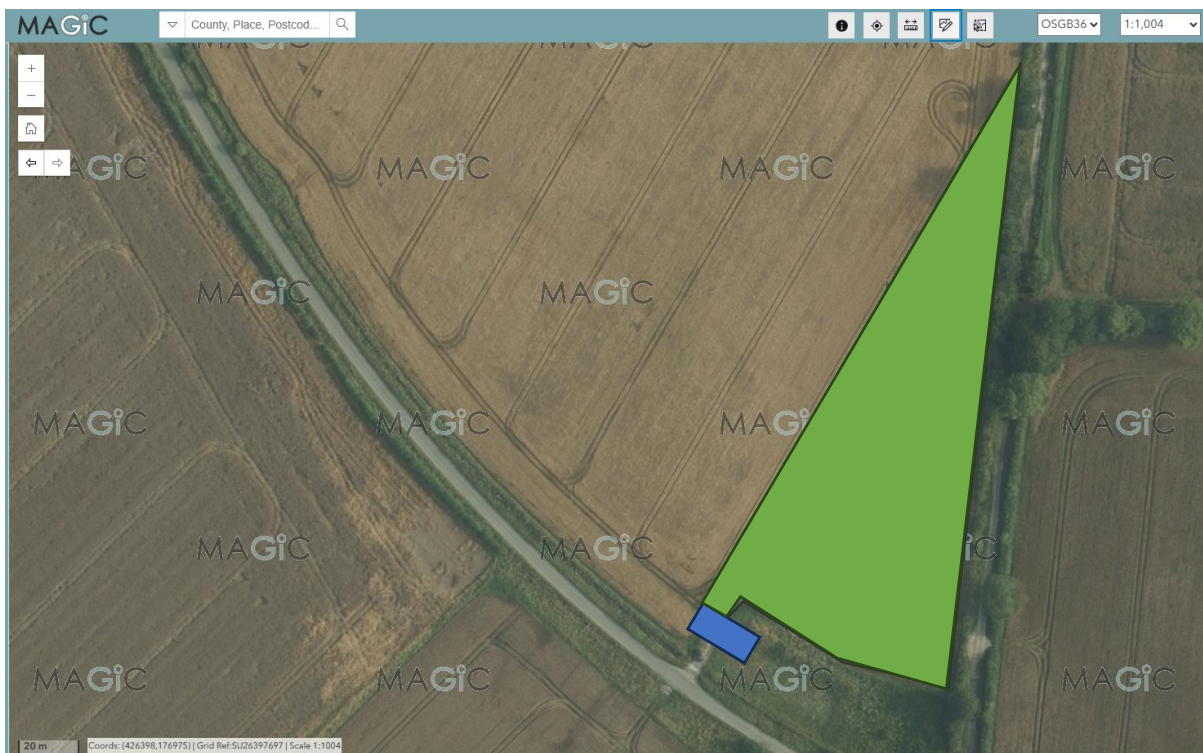


Figure 3 Post development habitat; Hardstanding in Blue, Grassland in green

Post-development habitats and target conditions were entered into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool. Target habitat conditions were assigned based upon realistic management outcomes likely to be achieved on site.

The Biodiversity Metric accounts for temporal risks associated with habitat creation and enhancement. Where relevant, temporal multipliers have been applied to reflect the anticipated establishment period for created habitats.

Following completion of the Biodiversity Metric calculations, the overall biodiversity change associated with the development proposals was determined.

2.4 Survey Constraints / Considerations

The development proposals have been designed in accordance with the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy, prioritising the avoidance of ecological impacts where possible, followed by mitigation, onsite habitat enhancement and habitat creation measures.

The survey is also limited by factors which affect the presence of plants, animals and invertebrates, such as time of year and day, the year regarding hatching and migrations.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Strategic Significance, Irreplaceable Habitat and Designated Sites

The site is located at SU2676 5776 to the west of SN8 2EF

The site is located within the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. Habitats present on site are not considered irreplaceable and are typical of the surrounding agricultural landscape. Strategic significance has therefore been assessed as low to moderate within the context of the wider landscape designation.

No irreplaceable habitat was identified within or immediately adjacent to the site.

The site is not located within any statutory designated site.

3.2 BNG Assessment

As the site consists of mostly winter wheat with a small area of hardstanding. The baseline habitat assessment concluded there was a total biodiversity score of 2 Habitat units.

Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Irreplaceable	Area (Hectares)	Distinctiveness	Score	Total Units
Cropland	Cereal Crops	No	1	Low	2	2.00
Urban	Developed land; Sealed Surface	No	0.02	V.Low	0	0

Table 1. Baseline assessment

Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Irreplaceable	Area (Hectares)	Distinctiveness	Score	Units Delivered
grassland	Modified grassland	No	1	Low	2	3.47
Urban	Developed land; Sealed Surface	No	0.02	V.Low	0	0

Table 2. Post development area units

4.0 CONCLUSION

In summary as the development would result in a 73% increase in habitat units, as shown in Figure 4

These calculations have identified that the proposed scheme would result in over the +10% Biodiversity Net Gain, required for current Local Planning policy, subsequent to the provision of legal agreement / conservation covenant, to ensure that the proposed habitats are delivered for at least 30 years. Also, as no significant gains are proposed, and as such, a formal HMMP should not be required

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	1.47
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Area 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)	Area habitat units	1.47
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	73.44%
	Hedgerow units	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Area habitat units	10.00%	2.00	2.20	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Figure 4. BNG Habitat calculator results