

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment to achieve biodiversity net gain for the proposed erection of an agricultural building at Hulme Farm, Hollington Road, Freehay, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 1RE for Miss Nicola Saxon & Mr Mark Leedham

Hulme Farm

Non-Technical Summary

Hewitt&Carr Services were commissioned by MISS N SAXON to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment to achieve biodiversity net gain for the proposed erection of an agricultural building at Hulme Farm, Hollington Road, Freehay, Cheadle, Staffordshire, ST10 1RE.

A desk study was performed utilising designated sites and protected species records sourced from DEFRA's MAGIC map and the National Biodiversity Network Atlas. From this, 3 priority habitats of deciduous woodland were found to be within 500m of the site. bluebells are present in records within 500m of the site. no designated sites were found within 500m of the site.

No protected species or habitats that are significant to protected species were found on-site during the site visit.

To achieve biodiversity net gain, wildflowers will be sown and the hedge enhanced with regenerative cutting alongside the planting of a fruit tree on the site.

All ecological enhancements and habitat creation will be undertaken by MISS N SAXON. Following completion of the first stage of the ecological works, a site visit will occur between May-July every year for three years followed by once every 3 years and once every 5 years after the ecological enhancements have reached their targeted conditions.

Desk Study

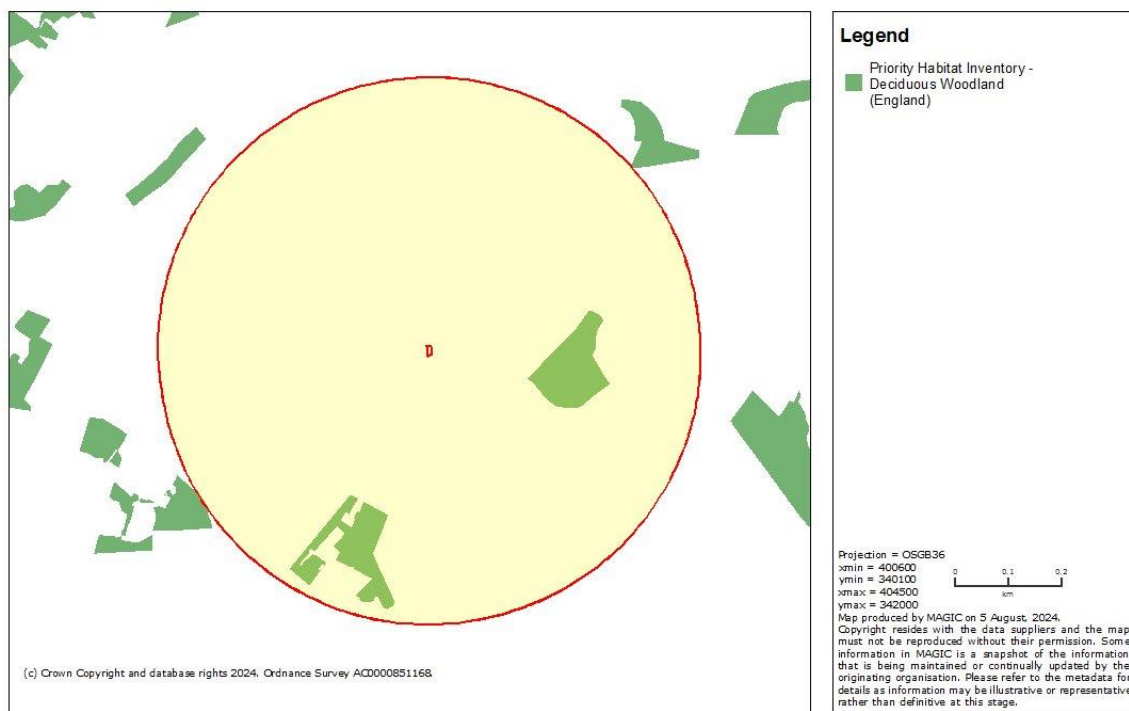
Designated sites

No designated sites were found during the search

Priority Habitats

3 priority deciduous woodland habitats are within 500m of the site these sites range from 0.69 hectares to 1.48 hectares.

MAGiC



Phase 1 habitat survey

Habitats on-site

- Modified Grassland
- Native species poor intact hedgerow

Species on-site

- Perennial rye grass - Dominant
- Yorkshire fog – Frequent
- Dandelion – Occasional
- White clover – Abundant
- Springy turf moss – Rare

Baseline Map



A: DaisyBank House | 17-19 Leek Road | Cheadle | ST10 1JE
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Legend

Hedgerow
Native Hedgerow (h2NES)

Baseline
Modified grassland

Google Satellite

Client : Mr Mark Leedham
Project : Proposed Agricultural Building
Title : Baseline Habitat Map
Date : 24/09/2024
Project No. Drawing No.
24_394 01

Rev :

Design

Wildflower

The modified grassland can be enhanced into other neutral grassland starting between September and October:

1. The site should be mowed as low as possible and grass cuttings should be removed to reduce soil fertility and can used to create habitat piles.
2. Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) seeds should then be overseeded onto the mowed grass at a rate of at least 1g per square meter.
3. The site should then be left to grow until the following September.
4. In September, mowing and cutting removal is repeated and the ground requires scarification.
5. A native wildflower mix with annual and perennial species composition should be scattered at a rate of 1g per square meter over the scarified ground and rolled in to maximise germination rates.

To create a varied sward height, half of the wildflower should be mown in early April and the other half in late September. These cuttings should be left on the ground for two days before removal from the area to allow seeds to disperse.

Hedge Renewal

The hedgerow enhancement can be achieved by renovation. To achieve this, the deciduous hedge should be cut back in mid-winter or mid-spring if evergreen.

1. The hedge should be checked for nesting birds before renovation commences
2. One side of the hedge should be cut back to the main stems per year, allowing recovery in the growing season
3. The following year, the other side of the hedge should be cut back to the main stems and allowed to recover in the growing season
4. The year following, the height of the hedge should be reduced to 30cm lower than the desired height.
5. The underside of the hedge should have weeds removed and mulched

Fruit Tree

To introduce a fruit tree to the site the following methodology should be followed:

1. The fruit tree should be planted in late autumn or early spring
2. Before planting, the ground should be loosened, and compost added to the soil where the tree will be planted
3. The fruit tree can then be planted and watered thoroughly
4. Mulch should be added around the base of the tree, avoiding the trunk
5. For the best growth and fruit yield, diagonal branches should be retained, and vertical branches cut to make a V-shaped crown

Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan

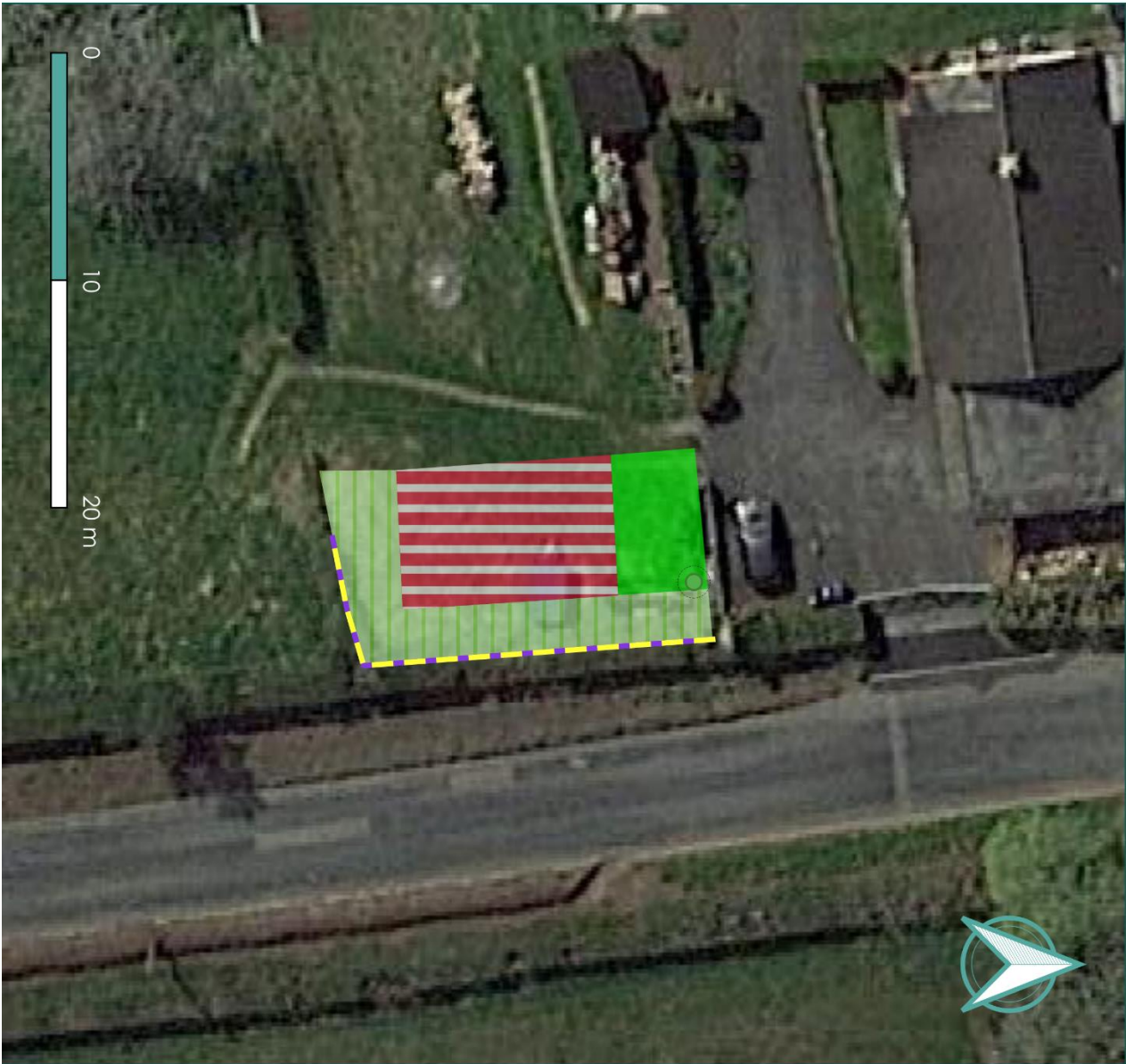
The site's habitat creation and enhancements will be undertaken by Miss N. Saxon with the ecological works beginning at the same time as the erection of the proposed agricultural building to limit species that may be on the site to a minimum and contain most of the disturbance to within this period to avoid recurring deterrents to species accessing the site and inhabiting the post-development habitats.

Following the completion of works on the site, a site audit will take place by a suitably qualified habitat surveyor organised by Miss N Saxon between May-July to assess the works undertaken. Following this, a site audit will be undertaken once a year in July consecutively for three years and once every 3 years following to assess the site for degrading from invasive species or other influences and track the condition of the enhanced habitats until they have reached their targeted condition.

Once the habitats have reached the targeted conditions, an audit will be conducted every 5 years to ensure the condition is retained and fulfill the required 30 years of monitoring.

If any issues are raised within site audits, remedial action to the created and enhanced habitats will be the responsibility of Miss N Saxon to rectify by the next arranged audit.

Design Map



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Legend

Hedgerow

Native Hedgerow (h2NE5)

Small Rural Tree

Design

Developed land; sealed surface

Modified grassland

Other neutral grassland

Google Satellite

Client : Mr Mark Leedham

Project : Proposed Agricultural Building

Title : Design Habitat Map

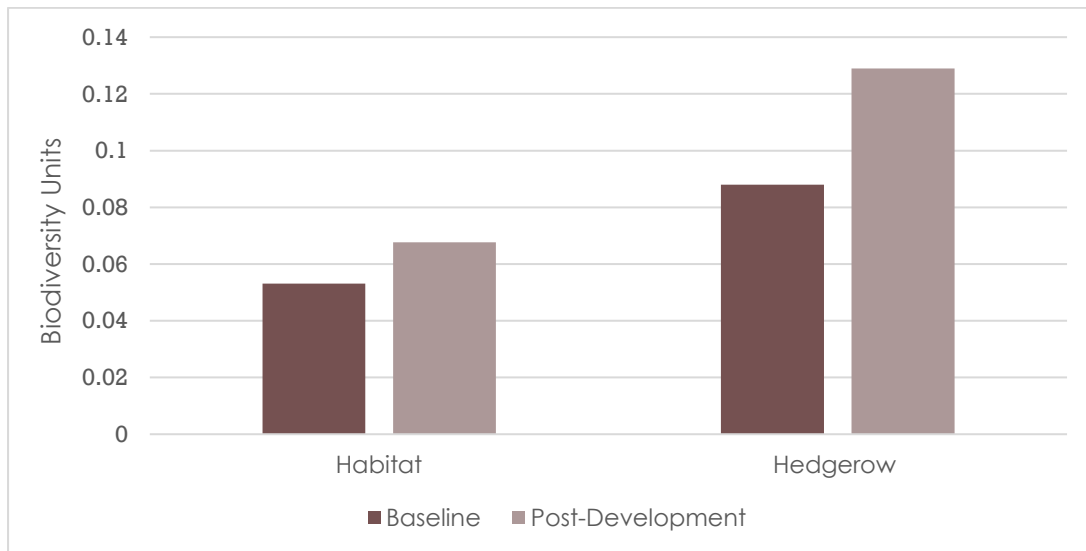
Date : 02/10/24

Project No. Drawing No.
24_394 02

Rev :

Biodiversity Net Gain

From the proposed design, a net increase of 0.0145 habitat units and 0.0410 hedgerow units can be achieved. Resulting in a 27.39% habitat net gain and a 46.56% net gain in hedgerow units.



Further information can be found within the small sites biodiversity metric.