

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN REPORT

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) habitat creation, enhancement
and management plan for the proposed replacement farmhouse
at Apesford Farm

06/02/2025

Job No. 25_438

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

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Issue to:	Mr J Harrison / HCS File 25_438
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Revision Status

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1	Client	First Issue	06/02/2025

INTRODUCTION

Background

Hewitt&Carr Services (HCS) was commissioned by Mr J Harrison to produce a habitat plan to address the mandatory biodiversity net gain required for the proposed erection of a replacement farmhouse at Apesford Farm – (Grid Ref: SK 01843 53530).

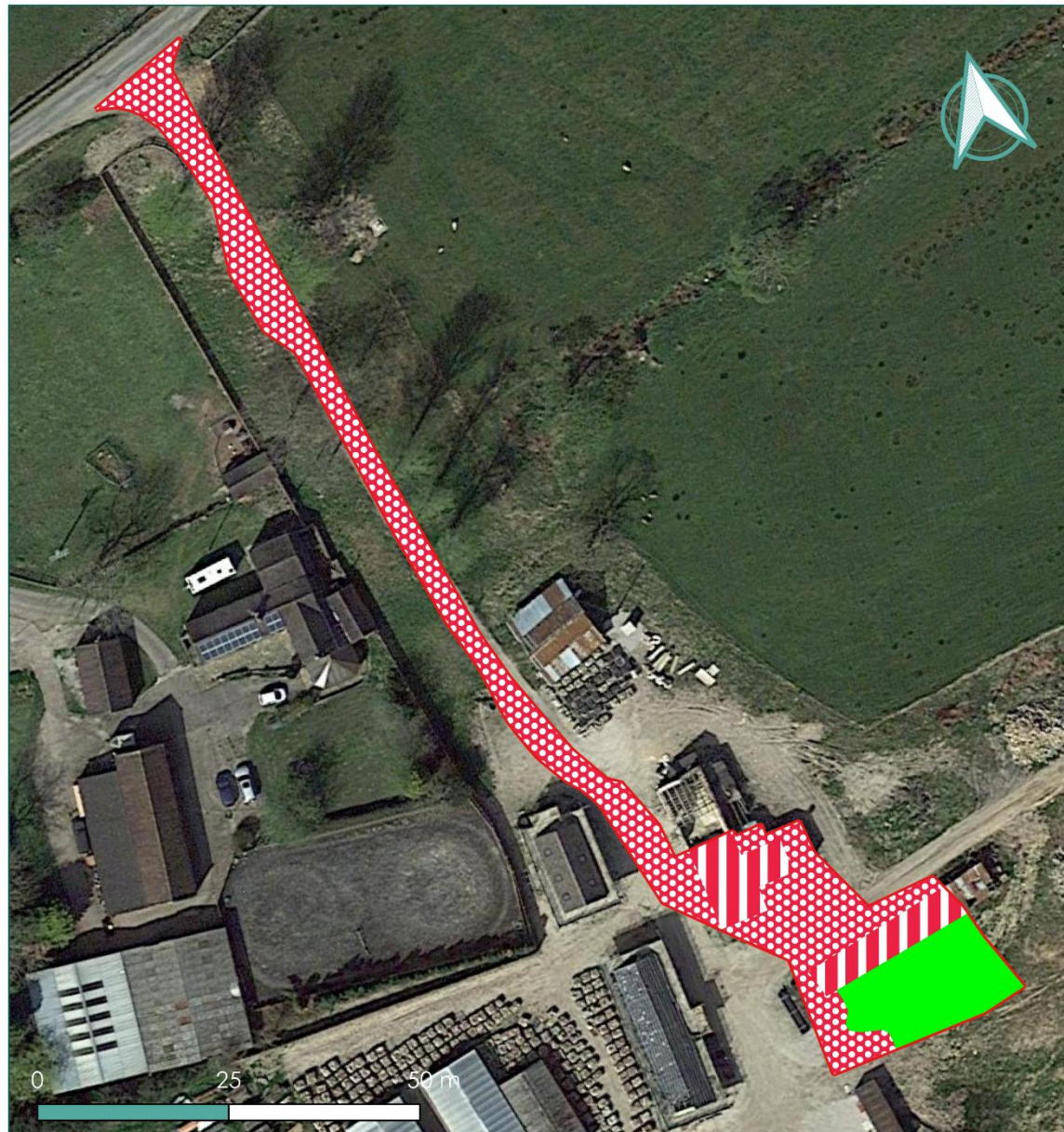
Aim

The purpose of this report is to inform the client, and the local planning authority of the current habitat parcels on the site and achieve at least 10% net gain in biodiversity post-development using habitat creation and/or enhancement.

Site Context

The site is situated off the A523 between Leek and Waterhouses. The site resides within the coombes valley watershed with the valley designated as an SSSI further downstream. The surrounding area consists of bovine and equine grazing pastures connected by old defunct hedgerows and lines of trees.

Figure 1.
Baseline Habitats



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Legend

Baseline Habitats

-  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Modified grassland
-  Boundary

Google Satellite

Client : Mr J Harrison

Project : Proposed replacement farmhouse

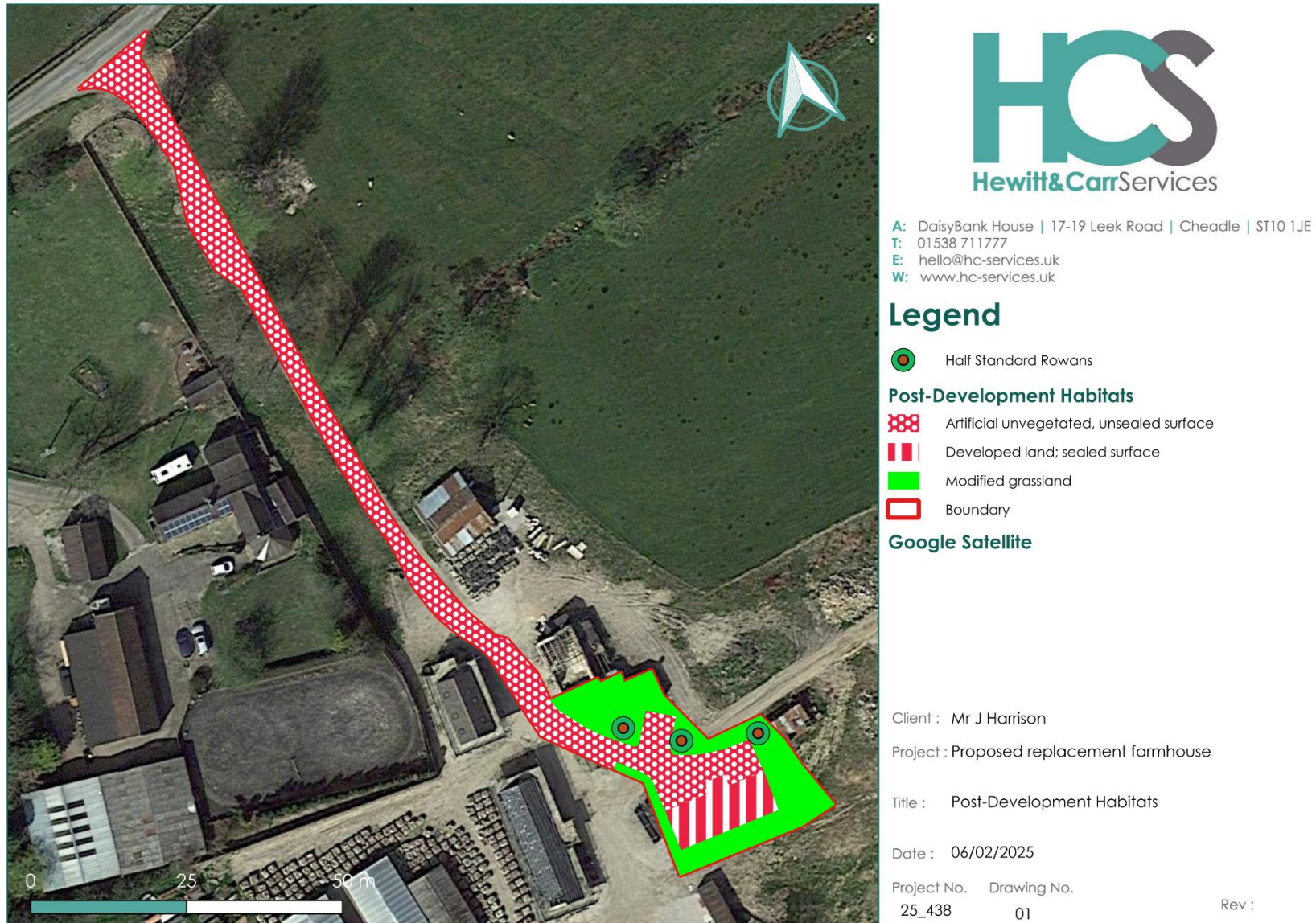
Title : Baseline Habitats

Date : 06/02/2025

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Figure 2.
Post-development Habitats



CREATION & ENHANCEMENT

METHODOLOGY

Modified Grassland

The modified grassland created will be targeted to be in moderate condition. This will be achieved with the introduction of a mix of low-lying flowering species to support pollinators and provide greater diversity into the lawn.

To create this, the ground can be raked to loosen the soil and a seed mix added such as found at <https://wildflowerlawnsandmeadows.com/product/wild-flower-lawn-seed-mix/>. This work should be undertaken in spring or autumn.

Half Standard Rowans

3 rowan trees will be planted on the site, to ensure their condition, the following methodology should be adhered to:

1. The rowans 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 trees will be planted
3. The trees can then be planted and watered thoroughly
4. Mulch should be added around the base of the trees, avoiding the trunk
5. Until established, the trees should be prevented from drying out in summer months.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Following this plan, the site will achieve an **89.78% net gain in habitats**

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP), published in 1994 and updated in 2007, is a government initiative aimed at preserving and enhancing species and habitats in the UK. It includes a list of priority habitats and species, along with biodiversity initiatives. The UKBAP also mandates county-level conservation through the creation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs), which target specific species of conservation concern. Local authorities and large organizations have also produced their own BAPs, with these targets being a crucial part of the planning process.

Planning Policy (England) and National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) replaced previous guidance in 2012, with a presumption towards sustainable development. The latest update, updated in 2019, includes a section on conserving the natural environment. Section 15 outlines how the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimizing impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains. Opportunities to incorporate biodiversity gains should be encouraged, and planning permission should be refused if a proposed development would result in significant harm to the natural environment that cannot be avoided, mitigated, or compensated for.

Cornwall Biodiversity Action Plan

The Cornwall Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) was established to coordinate conservation efforts and deliver UK BAP targets at a local level, focusing on region-specific habitats and species.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act mandates local authorities and public bodies in England and Wales to enhance biodiversity in all their functions. It lists habitats and species of principal importance to biodiversity conservation, superseding Section 74 of the CRoW Act 2000.

Biodiversity 2020

The government's Biodiversity 2020 policy aims to prevent biodiversity loss and promote healthy ecosystems by establishing ecological networks for wildlife and people, involving individuals, communities, local authorities, charities, businesses, and the government in their roles.

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