

DBD Architectural Consultancy Ltd.

50 Broad Street, Leek,

Staffordshire ST13 5NS

01538 383118

mail@dbdconsultants.co.uk

www.dbdconsultants.co.uk

Biodiversity Net Gain Statement

**PLANNING APPLICATION FOR AN AGRICULTURAL BUILDING AND LEAN-TO LOG STORE AT
GLEAGLOW COTTAGE, TROUGHSTONES ROAD, ST8 7SL**



Photo courtesy of Google Maps

December 2025

Introduction/Context

This statement has been prepared to support the full planning application for the construction of a new agricultural building and lean-to log store at Glea Glow Cottage, Troughstones Road, ST8 7SL.

The existing driveway consists of a loose gravel aggregate which has been mostly compacted by years of traffic up and down the driveway. It serves the existing dwelling and runs advance to a small paddock, south of the driveway where the proposed development is to be sited.



BNG Statement

A small site biodiversity metric calculation has been produced to support the application. This includes the relevant site areas, in existing and proposed conditions, and the metric calculations for the habitat to be introduced. With the new features introduced as part of the proposal, a gain of 25.25% in habitat has been achieved, and a gain of 11.68% in hedgerows, surpassing the target uplift of 10% in both cases.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat surveys identifies the development area to be mainly the habitat type as B6 semi-improved grasslands. Such areas provide minimal value habitat for invertebrates and small mammals. There is an existing hard standing track leading from the public highway to the dwelling which does not contribute, nor will it be altered as part of the proposal. The proposed access point into the field, where the building will be positioned, it currently overgrown with bracken and other ruderal vegetation. Its density and habitat potential has led to it being identified as a hedgerow in the metric calculation. It will be removed to allow the development to take place, but a new native species hedgerow will be planted down the side of the proposed building to offset the loss and provide an uplift in its biodiversity contribution to the site.



Proposed measures to increase biodiversity across the site include the introduction of new planting and hedgerow introduction across the site. Along the boundary wall to the driveway, 6no. Damson (*Prunus domestica*) saplings, 800-1000mm tall nursery standards, will be planted at an approximate separation of 6.5m. The field is not used for livestock grazing or animal housing so no protective measures against livestock are required. The specimens shall be suitably staked to protect against winds and have tree guards fitted to protect against wildlife damage. These should be removed once the trees become sufficiently established, potentially after three years, however the trees should be showing strong signs of growth and trunk strength before removal. The removal of these protection measures is imperative to ensure healthy and sustained growth of the trees, as if left indefinitely, it will inhibit growth and lead to the premature decline of the tree. The proposed hedgerow is to use 600-900mm high Hawthorn bare root whips planted 300mm centres. Two rows planted, offset/staggered to aid even growth, with 400mm separation between rows resulting in approximately 5 plants per linear metre hedgerow. Hedgerows planted in a double staggered rows tend to be better for wildlife than single rows as they are wider and provide more shelter and habitat. The new hedgerow will be planted to replace the existing hedgerow which will be removed to make space available for access to the agricultural building from the private driveway. Light regular trimming will encourage a dense

bushy growth in the early years, outside the nesting season, and more severe as it establishes to maintain the hedgerow and promote new growth. The hedgerows will be trimmed and maintained outside of nesting season (September 1st to February 28th) and will be planted within the same time period.

New habitat areas are identified on the Biodiversity Gain Plan (PL02) supplied with the application.

