Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Colliers Farm
Whalley Old Road
Billington
Clitheroe
BB7 9LF
Lancashire

Introduction

As part of the requirement for obtaining approval for planning permission, a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment has been undertaken to ascertain the biodiversity baseline for a parcel of land where development is proposed at Colliers Farm. Based upon this baseline, a minimum 10% net gain will be sought with respect to biodiversity to provide a greater biodiversity to the site post-development.

The proposed development is for the construction of a portal frame agricultural steel building to house livestock and for other agricultural needs. The location for the building is within a parcel of grassland adjacent to the farms concrete yard (Figure 1).

To carry out this assessment, the Small Sites Statutory Biodiversity Metric[1] has been utilised, with all data acquired from the desktop and site study inputted into the metric. Following this, it is possible to calculate the biodiversity baseline thus, enabling a net gain post enhancement of greater than 10% to be proposed. This report will present the results of the BNG assessment and outline how a BNG can be achieved.

Figure 1 – Proposed site location for development at Colliers Farm

Proposed development site

The proposed development site is located within a parcel of land consisting of improved modified grassland which is grazed by livestock. The area of the site is 214m^2 (0.0214 ha).

There are no High or Very High distinctiveness habitats on the site, nor are there irreplaceable habitats on the site. There are no hedgerows or water courses located within the site.

Onsite parcel to be used for Biodiversity Net Gain

Located 120m to the northwest of the proposed site for development, a parcel of land (0.167 ha) on the farm is proposed to be included to provide the statuary BNG (Figure 2).

Figure 2 – Location of onsite parcel of land to provide Biodiversity Net Gain

The current use and ecology of the parcel of land as displayed in Figure 3 is grazed modified grassland. This parcel of land was recently used as a temporary compound by a Network Rail contractor to replace a railway overbridge; because of this the land has been left severely compacted and in a poor state.

Figure 3 – Parcel for Biodiversity Net Gain

There are no High or Very High distinctiveness habitats on the site, nor are there irreplaceable habitats on the site. There are no hedgerows or water courses located within the site.

The proposal is for the land to be planted with a mixture of broadleaf native trees, leading to an enhancement of the land from its current biodiversity baseline to provide a BNG of greater than 10%.

Small Sites Statutory Biodiversity Metric

To calculate the baseline units of biodiversity, the total area of both sites was added together resulting in an area of 0.188 ha. This value for the area was inputted into the metric providing a baseline of a total of 0.75 habitat units (Figure 4).

Existing area habitats				Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline
Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Irreplaceable habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier		Total habitat units
Grassland	Modified grassland	No	0.1884	Low	2	Moderate	2	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	0.75

Figure 4 – Biodiversity baseline habitat units calculation

Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area habitat lost	Units lost
0	0.167	0.00	0.67	0.02	0.09

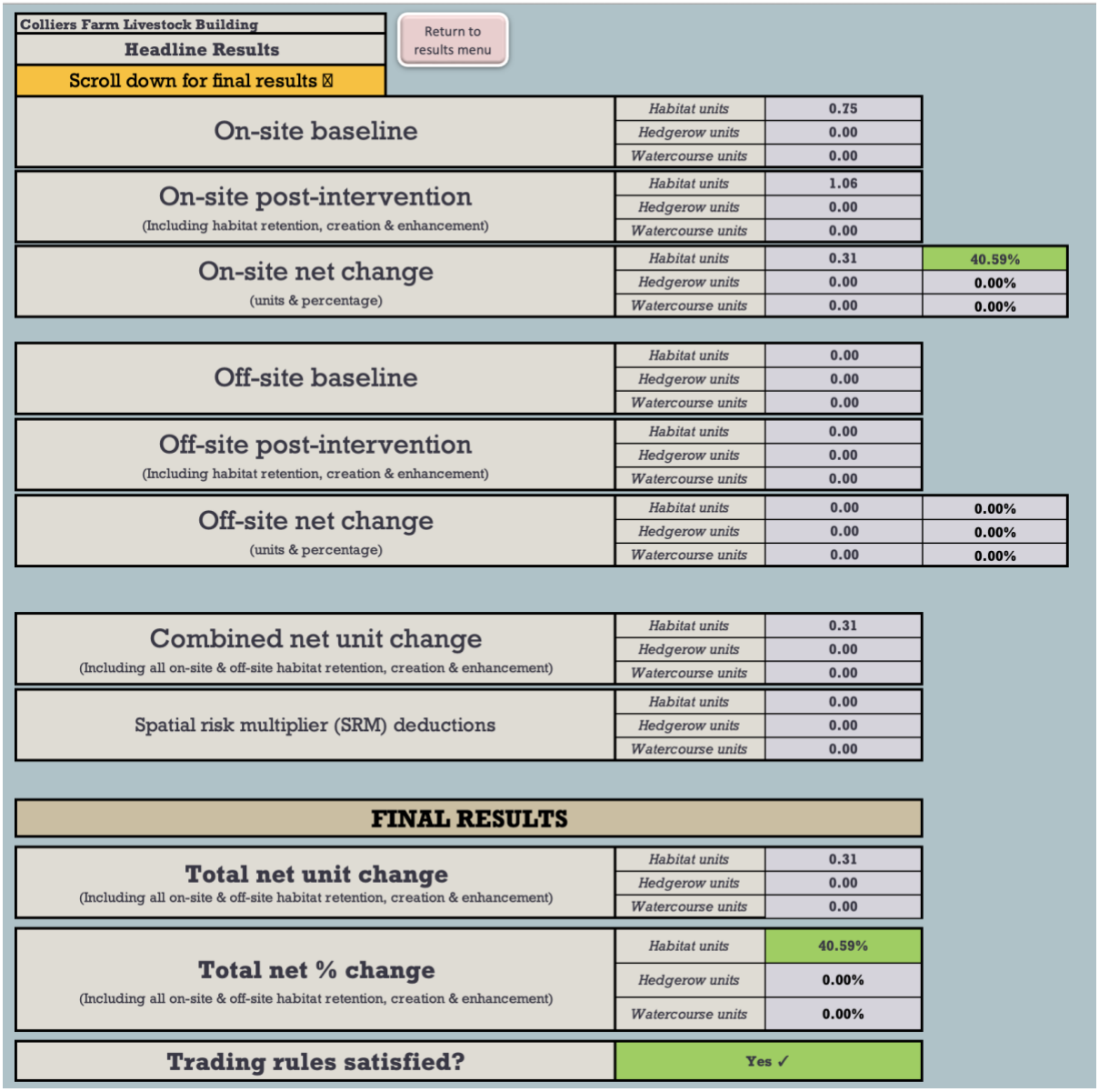
Figure 5 -Biodiversity habitat units lost / enhanced

With the loss of the modified grassland from the proposed development site, a total of 0.09 habitat units would be lost (Figure 5), leading to an enhancement taking place on the remaining 0.67 units. Following the calculation for the baseline habitat units, an on-site habitat enhancement calculation was undertaken for the parcel of land displayed in Figure 3 measuring 0.167 ha. The parcel of land would be enhanced with the planting of a 'other woodland; broadleaved' (Figure 6).

Proposed Habitat (Broad habitat pre-populated but can be overridden)		Change in distinctiveness and condition		Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score
Proposed Broad Habitat	Proposed habitat	Distinctiveness change	Condition change					
Woodland and forest	Other woodland; broadleaved	Low - Medium	Lower Distinctiveness Habitat - Moderate	0.167	Medium	4	Moderate	2

Figure 6 – Proposed habitat enhancement

Results



Colliers Farm Livestock Building

Headline Results

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On-site baseline	Habitat units	0.75	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	1.06	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.31	40.59%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%
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	0.31	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	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	0.31
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	40.59%
	Hedgerow units	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Conclusion

Based upon this BNG assessment, there will be a total net change of 40.59% habitat units exceeding the 10% statutory requirement.

References

1 - *Statutory biodiversity metric tools and guides* (2023) Gov.uk. [Online] [Accessed on 3 January 2025] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides.