



**BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT
SUMMARY REPORT**

**EVESONS BARN, SIMONSTONE LANE, SIMONSTONE, BURNLEY,
LANCASHIRE, BB12 7NP**

APRIL 2025

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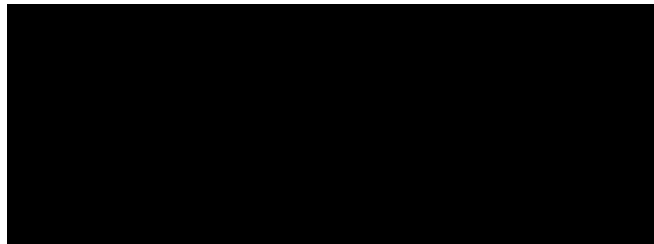
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April 2025

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Pennine Ecological have been commissioned to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for a proposed access track at Simonstone Lane, Simonstone, Ribble Valley, Lancashire, England, BB12 7NP.

To address the anticipated loss of low distinctiveness habitats as a result of the proposed development a biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment has been undertaken to determine whether a 10% gain can be achieved. This is in line with both National and Local Planning Policy ((Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021)).

Baseline conditions were assessed by Robert Leatham on 02/04/2025.

The assessment has been undertaken to support the LPA in making an informed decision on whether the proposal will be able to achieve the required 10% net gain.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

1. Pennine Ecological (2025). Evesons Barn -
The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_Calculation_Tool_-_Macro_enabled
2. Pennine Ecological (2025). Evesons Barn - Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
3. Evesons Barn Proposed GA

2. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN RESULTS

2.1 BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN RESULTS

The biodiversity calculation concluded that the current proposal would result in a net loss of biodiversity on the site. The habitat trading rules have also not been satisfied.

2.1.1 Habitat Net Gain Results

A summary of the habitat calculations is provided in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 below. An area of modified grassland will be lost to make way for an access track comprising sealed asphalt (developed land, sealed surface). In addition, a small section of the native species-rich hedgerow will be removed at the entrance of the site.

Refer to Appendix B, Figure 1 for baseline habitats plan. Refer to Appendix B, Figure 2 and 3 for site proposals.

Table 2.1: On site habitat baseline calculations

Habitat	Habitat Area/Length	Habitat Condition	Habitat/Hedgerow Unit Value	Area Retained (ha)	Area Enhanced (ha)	Habitat Units Lost
Developed land, sealed surface	0.004ha	N/A	0	0.004ha	0	0
Modified grassland	0.06ha	Poor	0.12	0.005ha	0	0.11
Native species-rich hedgerow	0.0036km	Moderate	0.03	0.002km	0	0.01
TOTAL	0.064ha,		0.12 Hab units, 0.03 Hedge units	0	0	0.11 Hab units, 0.01 Hedge units

Table 2.2: Proposed on site habitats

Habitat	Area (Ha)	Habitat / Created / Enhanced	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic Significance	Standard Time Target Condition (Years) to	Habitat Units Delivered
Developed land; sealed surface	0.06ha	Created	V.Low	Condition Assessment N/A	Area not in Local Strategy	0	0.00
TOTAL	0.06						0

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 CONCLUSION

A summary of the BNG assessment can be found in Table 3.1 and the headline results extracted in Table 3.2 below.

The proposed site plan would result in a loss of 0.11 habitat units and 0.01 hedgerow units. Trading rules have not been satisfied.

Table 3.1: Summary of BNG Assessment

	Net Habitat Biodiversity Units / Biodiversity %
Onsite	- 0.11 habitat unit loss / - 90.45% - 0.01 hedgerow unit loss / 40.59%
Trading Rules Satisfied	No

Table 3.2: BNG Headline Results extract

On-site baseline	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.12		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.03		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
On-site post-intervention <small>(Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.01		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.02		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
On-site net change <small>(units & percentage)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-0.11		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-0.01		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Off-site baseline	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention <small>(Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Off-site net change <small>(units & percentage)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Combined net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-0.11		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-0.01		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-0.11		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-0.01		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00		
Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-90.45%		
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-40.59%		
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%		
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲			
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
<i>Habitat units</i>	10.00%	0.12	0.14	0.12
<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.00%	0.03	0.03	0.01
<i>Watercourse units</i>	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

4. BNG PROPOSALS

The current proposals will result in a 90.45% net loss, therefore, failing the required 10% biodiversity net gain to satisfy National and Local Planning Policy.

An additional 0.12 habitat units and 0.01 hedgerow units are required to achieve a 10% net gain.

REFERENCES

DEFRA (2024) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide. Last updated: July 2024.

UKHab Ltd (2023). *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* (at <https://ukhab.org/>)

Pennine Ecological (2025). Evesons Barn -
The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_Calculation_Tool_-_Macro_enabled

Natural England National Character Areas - <https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/> (accessed 26/03/2025).

Evesons Barn Proposed GA

Appendix A: Condition Assessments

Grassland condition assessment

A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	No	
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	No	
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes	
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes	Based on pre-development photographic and Google Earth evidence.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Yes	
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Yes	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Yes	
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)			No
Number of criteria passed			5
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	Yes	

Hedgerow condition assessment

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes	
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes	
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Yes	
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Yes	
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length; - Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and - is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	No	One side comprises roadside verge which is cut for safety swathe. The inside field side is cattle poached.
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No	
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA*) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ¹ , as well as the BSI website ² where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ³ .	Yes	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	No	
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and/or ancient ⁴), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.		
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.					
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees					
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score			
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3			
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2			
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1			
Score achieved:		2			

Appendix B: Figures

Figure 1: UKHabs Baseline Map



Figure 2: UKHabs Proposed Site Layout



Figure 2: Evesons Barn Proposed GA

