



Harworth Group

Dearne Valley Parkway, Rockingham, Barnsley – Phase 2a.1

Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of the Harworth Group in support of both requirements under the Section 106 schedule 4 agreement (10 Aug 2020).
- 1.2 The Section 106 Agreement requires that for each phase of development a 'Biodiversity Impact Assessment Report and a Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme' is to be submitted to and approved by the Council. The Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme is 'to provide a minimum 10% net gain in Biodiversity Units for habitats based on the Biodiversity Impact Score in the Biodiversity Impact Assessment for that Phase'.
- 1.3 It specifies that the 'Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme for each Phase shall include:
- The identity of an appropriate receptor site or sites upon which any biodiversity enhancements will be provided;
 - A management plan for the provision and maintenance of such offsetting measures for not less than 32 years from the date of implementation of the Approved Biodiversity Offsetting Scheme;
 - The provision of contractual terms to secure the delivery of the offsetting measures.'
- 1.4 A majority of the contents of this report is comprised of summaries and references to existing approved document and additional documents submitted by the wider project team. To avoid duplication please consult the following documents for full details.:
- Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA), Phase 2a.1. Rev B. FPCR 2021.
 - Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). FPCR 2020.
 - Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). Rev D. Urban Wilderness 2021.
 - Landscape Masterplan Phase 2a.1. Rev D. Drawing No. 334-UW-P-004. Urban Wilderness 2021.

Site Location and Context

- 1.5 The Site sits to the north of Hoyland, adjacent to Shortwood Business Park in Barnsley, South Yorkshire (central grid ref: SE 3563 0103). The surrounding land use is largely arable and pasture with an area of broad-leaved semi-natural woodland to the north, forming part of the Short Wood and Hay Green LWS.
- 1.6 Phase 2a.1 comprises an area to the south of Dearne Valley Parkway (A6195) and has largely been cleared of vegetation as part of the approved site clearance and earthworks. Retained areas consist of a small woodland parcel in the east, and a more substantial area of mixed habitats (woodland, grassland, scrub, pond, wet ditch) along the western boundary beyond a public footpath.
- 1.7 The aim of biodiversity offsetting is to compensate for significant adverse impacts on biodiversity identified after appropriate avoidance, minimisation and on-site rehabilitation measures have been taken, according to the mitigation hierarchy as required by the NPPF.
- 1.8 This report summarises the steps taken to offset impacts as detailed in the BIA (FPCR, 2021).

Site Proposals

- 1.9 Site proposals are for a business park development comprising warehousing with associated parking, lorry compounds and access infrastructure, with landscaping and green infrastructure (GI), including attenuation facilities .
- 1.10 Phase 2a.1 contains three plots, each with a single development parcel and associated infrastructure; alongside which will be an extensive area of green infrastructure, two attenuation features, and an area of retained habitats. Woodland belts along the boundaries will buffer the development footprint from the environs beyond. Habitat retention and creation is illustrated in figures 2 and 3 of the BIA (FCPR 2021).

2.0 MITIGATION HIERACHY

Avoid Impacts

- 2.1 The site is located within an allocated site for employment within Barnsley's Local Plan as adopted on 3 January 2019. As such the location of the development can be considered as an appropriate location to avoid likely major negative impacts.
- 2.2 Within the biodiversity metric, habitats are preassigned to distinctiveness bands. These are based on the distinguishing features, including the consideration of species richness, rarity, and the degree to which a habitat supports species rarely found in other habitats. Within this phase of development, the only high distinctiveness habitat is the pond on the western boundary. This is to be retained within the proposals.
- 2.3 Further habitats around the site periphery have been retained where possible, including areas of grassland, woodland and scrub.
- 2.4 The retained area-based habitats total 1.84 units. Retained hedgerow total 1.35 units.

Minimise Impacts

- 2.5 Site clearance and earthworks were completed in line with the CEMP (FPCR, 2020). This document detailed the requirements to protect retained habitats from construction activities and ensure that vegetation clearance was undertaken following relevant good practice methodologies and within seasonal constraints.

Mitigation (On-site)

- 2.6 Habitat losses resulting from the development were measured utilising the Biodiversity Metric 2.0. A summary from the BIA (FPCR 2021) is provided in table 1.
- 2.7 The two habitat components; area habitats and hedgerows, require independent compensation and any gains made in one cannot be used to compensate for losses in the other.

Table 1. Biodiversity Unit Changes- Phase 2a.1

	Biodiversity Units					
	Baseline	Retained	Created	Enhanced	Post-intervention	Net Change
Area Habitats	51.52	1.84	49.54	13.51	64.89	+13.37
Hedgerows	6.38	1.35	8.95	-	10.30	+3.93

- 2.8 The on-site habitat creation and management result in an overall net gain in biodiversity units. For area habitats this is +13.37 unit gain and for hedgerows a +3.93 unit gain. This equates to biodiversity impact scores of +25.95% and +61.62% respectively.
- 2.9 This phase of the development exceeds the Section 106 requirement to provide a minimum 10% net gain in Biodiversity Units for habitats.

Offsetting (Off-site)

- 2.10 The proposals for phase 2a.1 provide an overall on-site net gain, with surplus biodiversity units, in respect to this phase of development. As such no additional off-site habitat creation is required to compensate for this phase, and no off-site receptor sites are required to be identified for use.

3.0 MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Harworth Estates Ltd. have an obligation under the fourth schedule of the Section 106 agreement (Outline planning permission-. 2019/1573) to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity units for habitats and provide appropriate management for not less than 32 years from the implementation of the Approved Biodiversity Offsetting scheme.
- 3.2 The Section 106 agreement requires the provision of contractual terms by Harworth Estates Ltd. to secure the delivery of the above habitat creation and management are required.
- 3.3 Harworth Estates Ltd. will be responsible for delivering the habitat creation detailed within the BIA (FPCR, 2021) and LEMP (Urban Wilderness, 2021). Ongoing management following creation should be undertaken by a suitable body, such as a management company, appointed by Harworth Estates Ltd. Ongoing work should be undertaken in agreement with the local authority and other relevant parties as appropriate.
- 3.4 Habitats will be managed for a minimum period of 32 years. It is anticipated that this management plan will run for an initial period of 15 years following initial creation as set out in the LEMP (Urban Wilderness, 2021). During this and in future periods, the plan should be viewed as a dynamic document, responding to the establishment and development of the habitats and species, as well as to any community needs and aspirations.
- 3.5 The progress of habitat creation will be monitored, and management prescriptions reviewed and altered where necessary to ensure habitat targets are met from the outset. Where appropriate, this management plan should be informed by updated and detailed surveys of the habitats to refine the identified objectives, targets, and prescriptions as necessary.
- 3.6 The aims of future on-going management should continue to maintain the habitats as proposed in the LEMP, unless there is a clear and agreed justification to alter these. It is therefore envisaged that future long-term management of the site will be a broad continuation of the agreed management prescriptions given for each habitat described within the LEMP (i.e., the grassland mowing regimes and hedge trimming frequencies are expected to be broadly the same) unless site factors or condition deem otherwise.
- 3.7 General monitoring should be undertaken annually by the appointed contractor/company and project ecologist to inform the forthcoming year's work programme to ensure the short-term objectives are being met, with results reported back and fed into the management plan review as necessary.
- 3.8 Where objectives are not being met, appropriate action will be put in place to amend management prescriptions and encourage better establishment to achieve the desired habitat, and any refinements incorporated into an updated management plan, for on-going medium and long-term management.

- 3.9 In accordance with the LEMP (Urban Wilderness, 2021), a full assessment of the site should be undertaken by all relevant disciplines prior to the end of the fifteenth year. The LEMP should be updated with management prescriptions modified as necessary for the remainder of the 32-year period to ensure that the targeted Biodiversity Net Gain is achieved.

4.0 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PHASES

- 4.1 In order to comply with the Section 106 agreement (schedule 4), calculations for the remainder of phase 2 and phase 3 of the development should utilise the data provided within the phase 2a.1 BIA (FPCR, 2021) to track the site wide net gain and inform offsite habitat creation requirements.
- 4.2 The results of the assessment demonstrate that phase 2a.1 currently will lead to an overall gain of biodiversity units associated with the area habitats and hedgerows when compared with the baseline values.
- 4.3 Surplus units from phase 2a.1, as detailed within the BIA, may be used towards any offsetting required in future phases.