Brindle &Green

Biodiversity Impact Assessment REV1

Bank End Primary School, Barnsley

Report Reference: BG25.237

November 2025

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Revision Details

Revision	Approved	Revision Details
REV1	Emily Murchison	Amendments to landscape scheme.

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1 Summary

1.1.1 Where a development has an impact on biodiversity, Biodiversity Net Gain encourages developers to secure an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected. In order to determine whether there is no net loss or a net gain to biodiversity from a development project, a quantitative approach involving the use of a metric is required. In England, biodiversity net gain is required under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). This statutory framework is referred to as 'Biodiversity Net Gain' in Planning Practice Guidance to distinguish it from other or more general biodiversity gains (Gov.uk, 2024)..

1.1.2 This Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) draws upon the baseline results of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal BG25.237 Bank End Primary School (June, 2025). This assessment includes the results of biodiversity value calculations, derived using the DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculator, based upon the design proposals for the application site found in Appendix 1.

1.1.3 Using the Statutory Biodiversity metric, the existing habitats within the application boundary were valued at 0.57 'Habitat Units', 0.00 'Hedgerow Units and 0.00 'Watercourse Units'. No irreplaceable habitat is present on site. The proposed scheme was calculated to hold 0.70 'Habitat Units', 0.59 'Hedgerow Units' and 0.00 'Watercourse Units', resulting in an overall net-gain to biodiversity of 0.14 'Habitat Units' (+23.82%), no net change of 'River Units' and a net-gain of +0.59 'Hedgerow Units' (% change N/A as no hedgerow units in the baseline). Trading rules have been satisfied for habitats under the current assessment. The calculations derived from this assessment meet the statutory 10% net gain requirement as set out within Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021).

1.1.4 The report should be reviewed in conjunction with the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal BG25.237 (June, 2025) and the accompanying Metric (BG25.237 Bank End Primary School – STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC – REV1).

2 Introduction

2.1.1 Brindle and Green Ltd were commissioned by Barker Associates to undertake a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) at the site known as Bank End Primary School, Barnsley. This report provides an appraisal of the biodiversity value associated with the existing habitats established during the baseline survey and assesses the impacts in terms of biodiversity loss against the proposed layout (Appendix 1) using the Statutory Metric (DEFRA, 2024) which is considered the most up to date method for assessing impact to biodiversity.

2.1.2 The purpose of this report is to assess the current biodiversity habitat and value of the site, so as to reduce net-loss as a result of the development and guide requirements to meet the mandatory 10% net gain requirement.

2.1.3 The red line boundary is approximately 0.07ha in extent and comprises a bungalow used for storage, with vegetated garden immediately surrounding the bungalow. The site comprises a bungalow (B1), previously occupied as the caretaker's house and now used for storage, with unmanaged vegetated garden supporting scrub and tree saplings, surrounding the property. The application site also supported an area of bare ground and modified grassland pertaining to the existing school playground. The area is fenced, with car parking and a playground pertaining to the school grounds immediately adjacent to the site boundary.

2.1.4 The site is the subject of a planning application for partial site clearance to facilitate the development of a play area with associated landscaping and car parking to be created.

2.1.5 Vegetative garden, a small parcel of modified grassland and bare ground is to be lost within the scheme. Habitat creation for the sensory play area includes creation of modified grassland, introduced shrub, tree planting and hedgerow creation.

2.1.6 Results and recommendations contained within this report have been prepared by an experienced ecologist and are therefore the view of Brindle & Green Limited. The results of the Biodiversity Impact Assessment are based on information provided by our client and the previous ecological report (BG25.237, June 2025). This report pertains to this information only.

2.1.7 This report has been complied in accordance with local policies (Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan, 2009), and national policies to guide the scheme on how to achieve the targets set out within Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021).

3 Methodology

3.1 Biodiversity Metric

3.1.1 The biodiversity accounting system is underpinned by a metric that calculates the ecological value of both development impact and habitat restoration/creation. The statutory Biodiversity Metric was built upon a series of previous versions developed in collaboration with Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission, including authors and contributors cited in previous versions. The Biodiversity Metric calculations must be undertaken following the below rules. If they are not followed, then a biodiversity net gain cannot be claimed.

- **Rule 1**: The trading rules of this biodiversity metric must be followed.
- **Rule 2**: Biodiversity Unit Outputs, for each type of unit, must not be summed traded, or converted between types. The requirement to deliver a 10% net gain applies to each type of unit.
- **Rule 3**: The calculations must be undertaken using the statutory metric calculation tool or small sites metric tool (for small sites).
- **Rule 4**: in exceptional ecological circumstances, deviation from this biodiversity metric methodology may be permitted by the relevant planning authority (refer to The Statutory Metric User Guide on applications of Rule 4).

3.1.2 The metric is based on an assessment of habitat type and condition. Habitat types are classified into five bands of 'distinctiveness' which are:

- **Very High:** Priority habitats that are rare and threatened and require conservation action
- **High**: Priority habitats
- **Medium**: Semi-natural habitats that are not priority habitats
- **Low**: Habitat of low biodiversity value
- **Very low**: Habitats with little or no biodiversity value

3.1.3 Compensation arrangements must be like-for-like or better, i.e. the loss of semi-natural habitats can only be compensated for through the creation of priority or other semi-natural habitats, not through creation of lesser quality habitat. 'Trading up' options allow for the loss of poor-quality habitat, such as farmland, to be compensated for with the creation of high-quality habitat.

3.1.4 The ecological value of the habitat lost to development is a function of its distinctiveness, its condition and the area lost – scores are assigned to all three variables and multiplied together to arrive at the number of units lost. To compensate for a loss; habitat creation in the scheme must be delivered to produce sufficient units to meet the mandatory 10% net gain. Where a 10% net gain cannot be achieved within the application site, habitat creation/enhancement will be used within wider ownership to meet the statutory requirement. Where this cannot be achieved then purchase of biodiversity credits through a third part provider is considered.

3.1.5 The number of credits delivered by the compensation receptor sites are also a function of the type, condition and area of the habitat being created or restored. But additionally, there are a further range of 'multipliers' applied to the creation of habitat because there are a number of risks to take account of – spatial, temporal and delivery.

3.1.6 Linear habitats (such as hedgerows) and River Habitats (such as wet ditches, streams) are measured separately to the rest of the site habitats and included within a separate section – hedge baseline and hedge creation, river baseline and river creation. The aim is to achieve a 10% net-gain for hedgerow units as well as for biodiversity units.

3.1.7 Where proposed creation/enhancement of habitat is of medium distinctiveness or above then a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced to detail how these areas are to be maintained to achieve their target criteria and secure their longevity.

3.2 Metric Publish Date

3.2.1 The version of Statutory Metric used for this assessment was published on 23/07/2024.

3.3 Desk Study

3.3.1 A desk study utilising publications within the local plan (Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan, 2009) as well as open-source special data available from Multi Agency Geographic Information for the countryside (MAGIC) was searched to determine the strategic significance of the site.

3.4 Field Survey

Habitat Baseline Condition Assessment

3.4.1 A preliminary ecological appraisal was undertaken by Brindle and Green Ltd which included a habitat baseline condition assessment using the Statutory Condition Assessment Sheets.

3.4.2 The baseline condition assessment was undertaken on the 25/04/2025 by Emily Murchison BSc (Hons) MSc, Qualifying Member of CIEEM, Consultant Ecologist.

3.5 Mapping and Assessment

3.5.1 Habitats, hedges and watercourses (where applicable) were mapped within QGIS software to allow area calculations. Geometry was extracted from the polygons and lines drawn on the baseline plan and entered into the metric with their respected condition assessment. Trees are mapped as points and their areas are either calculated using the tree helper in the Metric informed by their diameter at breast height or calculated root protection area informed by a BS5837 report.

3.5.2 The proposed scheme was georeferenced over the baseline map to determine extent of development and assess habitat retention/loss/potential enhancement areas. Where available; CAD drawings may be directly imported to QGIS to allow for calculations.

3.5.3 A series of points, polygons and lines were drawn over the proposed plans and classified by their target habitat type and condition with their geometries extracted and entered into the habitat creation or habitat enhancement tabs of the metric.

3.6 Limitations

3.6.1 It should be noted that whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation could ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment.

3.6.2 Georeferencing does not provide an exact measurement of the elements of the proposed scheme. However, the metric rounds the area calculations to 2 decimals to be as accurate as possible.

4 Results

4.1 Baseline Condition Assessment

4.1.1 The application site comprises a building, vegetated garden, scattered trees, modified grassland and bare ground. The distinctiveness recorded on site ranged from very low to medium for habitats. A summary of the baseline condition assessment can be found in Table 1 below with a map of the baseline habitats in Appendix 2. Full details of the baseline assessment can be found within the accompanying metric (BG25.237 Bank End Primary School, Statutory Biodiversity Metric – REV1). No habitats within the application site met the criteria for irreplaceable habitat.

4.2 Scheme Design and Biodiversity Net Gain Principles

4.2.1 The progression of the layout has been informed by the baseline calculations and habitat creation/enhancement has been guided to maximise biodiversity potential on site.

Retained/Enhanced Habitat

4.2.2 Scattered trees (T1 and T2) within the application boundary are to be retained and protected during construction in accordance with BS5837:2012.

Habitat Loss

4.2.3 The proposals will see the loss of 0.033ha of 'Vegetated Garden', 0.018ha of 'Bare Ground' and 0.005ha of 'Modified Grassland'. Urban trees are also to be lost within the scheme pertaining to T7, T8 and T11. Under the currently layout it is not possible to retain these features as part of the proposals, with the trees requiring removal to enable footpath creation.

Habitat Creation

4.2.4 The scheme will seek the creation of a sensory play area for school children including creation of play kitchen, gazebo and footpaths. The site will also see creation of modified grassland, introduced shrub, ground level planters, scattered trees and hedgerow creations.

4.2.5 Proposed scattered trees across the site will be of native and specimen species and species relevant to the local surroundings and are not expected to reach a stem diameter of more than 30cm.

4.2.6 The habitats proposed within this Biodiversity Impact Assessment and Metric Calculations will require management under a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) in order to achieve their target conditions outlined within the metric calculations.

Table 1: Summary of condition assessment for habitat baseline for Bank End Primary School.

Habitat and Area/Length	Habitat Parcel Ref	Distinctiveness	Condition	Reason
Developed land, sealed surface (0.011ha)	B1, u, u -829	V.Low	N/A - Other	Developed land pertaining to a single storey bungalow, paved areas within the garden and around the building. Condition assessment N/A.
Vegetated garden (0.033ha)	u - 518, 828	Low	Condition Assessment N/A	Vegetated garden present around the building., left unmanaged. Condition assessment N/A.
Bare ground (0.018ha)	u, 32, 510	Low	Poor	Bare ground present within the existing play area for the school. The area was unvegetated with wood chipping present beneath play frames. Poor condition due to absence of vegetation.
Modified Grassland (0.005ha)	g4, 106	Low	Poor	Modified grassland was present within the application site to the west of the vegetated garden and within the existing school grounds. The grassland sward was <5cm and recently mown for amenity purposes, with a high coverage of bare ground. Poor condition due to failing criteria A.
Individual Trees – Urban Trees (0.0326ha)	T1, T2	Medium	Moderate	T1, T2 pertaining to two medium trees at moderate condition. Both are to be retained.
Individual Trees – Urban Trees (0.0081ha)	T8, T11	Medium	Moderate	T8 and T11 two small sycamores to be removed. Trees at moderate condition, due to passing criterion A, B and F.
Individual Trees – Urban Trees (0.0163ha)	T7	Medium	Moderate	T7 young sycamore of medium size, multi-stem growing within chain link fence off site but to be removed within the scheme. Tree at moderate condition, due to passing criterion A, B and F.

Table 2: Summary Post Development Habitats for habitat and hedgerows for Bank End Primary School.

Habitat and Area/Length	Habitat Parcel Ref	Distinctiveness	Condition	Reason
Developed land, sealed surface (0.017ha)	D	V.Low	N/A - Other	Proposed footpaths, and timber structures. Condition assessment N/A.
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (0.011ha)	A	V.Low	N/A - Other	Proposed footpaths constructed of bark chipping, gravelled surfaces and rubber mulch surfaces. Condition assessment N/A.
Ground level planters (0.0014ha)	GP	Low	Condition Assessment N/A	Ground level planters. Condition assessment N/A.
Introduced shrub (0.0036ha)	IS	Low	Condition Assessment N/A	Introduced shrub pertaining to fruiting mixes, ornamental species and perennial planting. Condition assessment N/A.
Modified grassland (0.0064ha)	G1	Low	Poor	Boston Seeds BS Eco-Clover grass seed, or similar approved. To be sown over playground safety mats. Poor condition targeted due to grass managed for amenity purposes.
Modified grassland (0.0027ha)	G2	Low	Poor	Grassland of higher species richness. Expected to still receive high footfall from children so poor condition targeted. To be sown with Emorsgate EM3 or similar approved.
Individual Trees – Urban Trees (0.0204ha)	T13-T17	Medium	Poor	Five small specimen trees to be for landscape value and targeted to achieve poor condition due to passing criteria B and F.

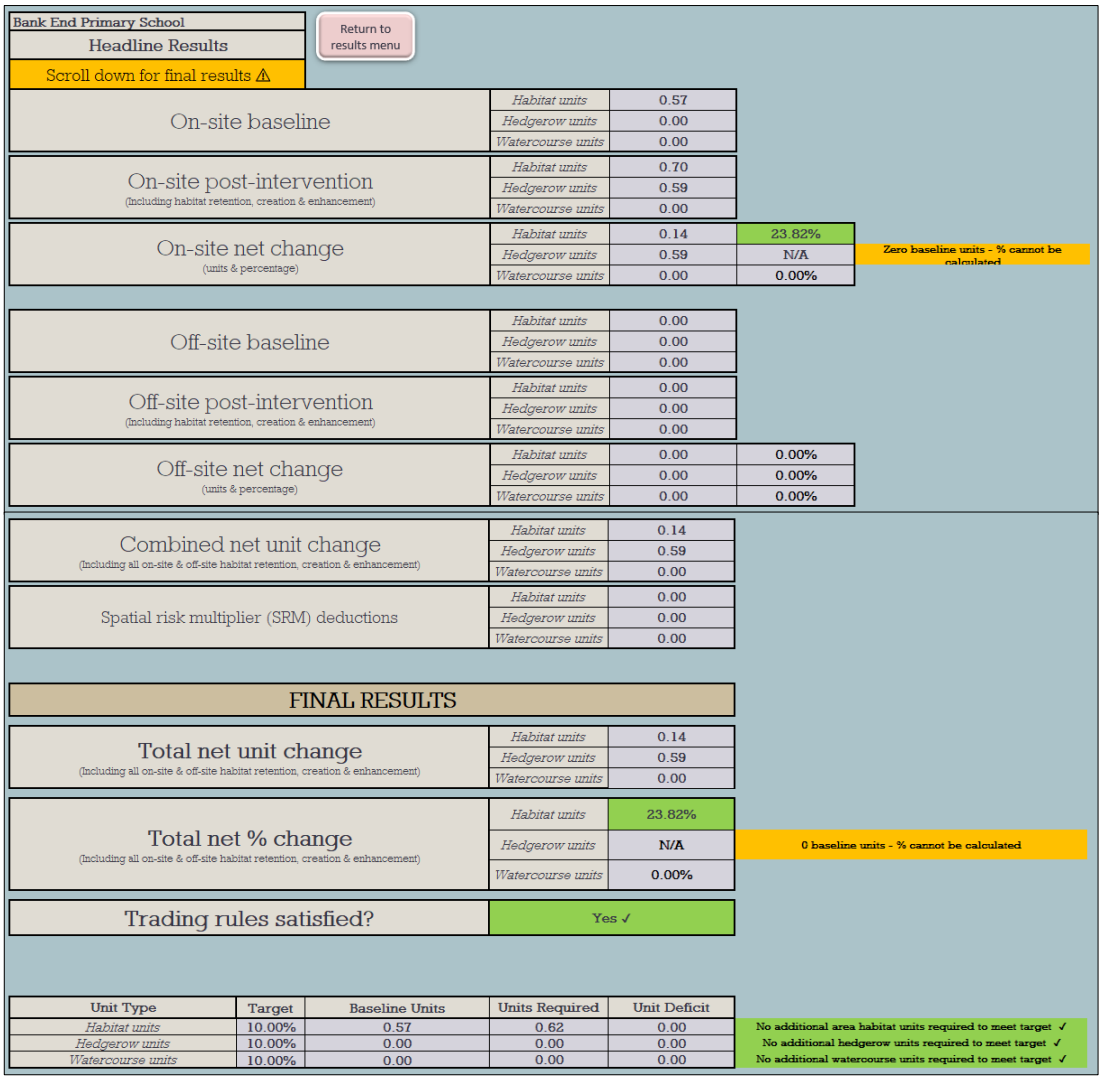
Habitat and Area/Length	Habitat Parcel Ref	Distinctiveness	Condition	Reason
Individual Trees – Urban Trees (0.0204ha)	T4-T6, T8, T9	Medium	Moderate	Five small, native trees to be planting within the area and anticipated to reach moderate condition due to passing criteria A, B and F.
Individual Trees – Urban Trees (0.0814ha)	T3, T7, T10-12	Medium	Moderate	Five native trees to be planting within the area and anticipated to reach moderate condition due to passing criteria A, B and F. Planted as extra heavy standards with sufficient spacing to reach medium size.
Hedge				
H1 – Species rich native hedgerow	H1	Medium	Moderate	Species rich hedgerow proposed across boundaries of sensory garden. Species proposed include field maple, common hazel, common hawthorn, wild privet, crab apple, blackthorn and elder.
H2 – Native hedgerow	H2	Low	Moderate	Single species native hedgerow, to be planted with wild privet.

4.3 Biodiversity Metric Calculator Results

4.3.1 Table 3 below provides a headline summary of the calculations derived from the statutory metric.

4.3.2 Under the current proposals trading rules have been satisfied with a unit gain of 0.14 habitat units and 0.59 hedgerow units.

Table 3: Biodiversity Impact Assessment Score, Scheme with Ecological Enhancements



Bank End Primary School

Headline Results

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On-site baseline	Habitat units	0.57		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.70		
	Hedgerow units	0.59		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.14	23.82%	
	Hedgerow units	0.59	N/A	Zero baseline units - % cannot be calculated
	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	0.14		
	Hedgerow units	0.59		
	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	0.14	
	Hedgerow units	0.59	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	23.82%	
	Hedgerow units	N/A	0 baseline units - % cannot be calculated
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓		

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Habitat units	10.00%	0.57	0.62	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

5 Evaluation

5.1.1 The site is the subject of a planning application for partial site clearance to facilitate the development of a play area with associated landscaping and car parking to be created. Current design proposals for the site are presented in Appendix 1 of this report.

5.1.2 Using the Statutory Biodiversity metric, the existing habitats within the application boundary were valued at 0.57 'Habitat Units', 0.00 'Hedgerow Units and 0.00 'Watercourse Units'. No irreplaceable habitat is present on site. The proposed scheme was calculated to hold 0.70 'Habitat Units', 0.59 'Hedgerow Units' and 0.00 'Watercourse Units', resulting in an overall net-gain to biodiversity of 0.14 'Habitat Units' (+23.82%), no net change of 'River Units' and a net-gain of +0.59 'Hedgerow Units' (% change N/A as no hedgerow units in the baseline). Trading rules have been satisfied for habitats under the current assessment. The calculations derived from this assessment meet the statutory 10% net gain requirement as set out within Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021).

5.1.3 This report has considered all available area of open space with maximised potential for retention on site in line with good practice principles. Habitat creation has been informed by the distinctiveness of habitat derived from the baseline calculations to reduce impacts on habitat value where possible.

5.1.4 In order to secure the habitat creation and target conditions a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be required to safeguard the habitats for 30 years post construction.

6 Habitat Prescriptions

6.1.1 The tables outlined within this section set out each of the proposed habitats and target conditions and how they will achieve the targets. The specific seed types, establishment, management and monitoring requirements will be secured within a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan. A map detailing the areas of retention and creation have been included within Appendix 3.

6.1.2 To implement maximising the potential of habitats within available areas of open green space a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP should be compiled. The plan will include suitable seed mixes for resown grassland areas and an appropriate management regime. Appendix 3 details each of the target areas for ecological enhancement to guide any landscape proposals.

6.2 Proposed Habitats

Table 4: Target conditions for Modified grassland

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Parcel Reference
Modified Grassland	Low	Poor	G1, G2
Description			
Boston Seeds BS Eco-Clover grass seed, or similar approved. To be sown over playground safety mats. Poor condition targeted due to grass managed for amenity purposes. Grassland of higher species richness. Expected to still receive high footfall from children so poor condition targeted. To be sown with Emorsgate EM3, or similar approved. These areas will be managed to prevent establishment of scrub and bracken cover, free of invasive species. Any bare ground or damages areas will be reseeded.			
Target Condition Criteria			
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.		
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.		
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.		
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.		
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].		
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.		
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).		
Footnotes			
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover. Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement. Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

Green highlighted rows indicate target criteria

Table 5: Target conditions for Urban trees

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Parcel Reference
Individual Trees – Urban/Rural Trees	Medium	Poor/Moderate	T3-T11
Description			
Five small individual trees pertaining to ornamental species, will be planted in open spaces across the scheme. Five small trees to be planted will be native specimens (such as silver birch and wild cherry) while five native trees of categorised as medium sized (planted as extra heavy standard) are to be planted. Native trees are targeted to achieve moderate condition, while specimen ornamental trees are targeted to achieve poor condition via criteria B and F. The trees will be positioned in a way that allows for 20% of canopy cover to over sail vegetation. management and monitoring will be targeted to address any failures to establish.			
Target Condition Criteria			
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).		
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).		
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].		
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.		
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.		
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.		
Footnotes			
Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and: Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.			

Green highlighted rows indicate target criteria

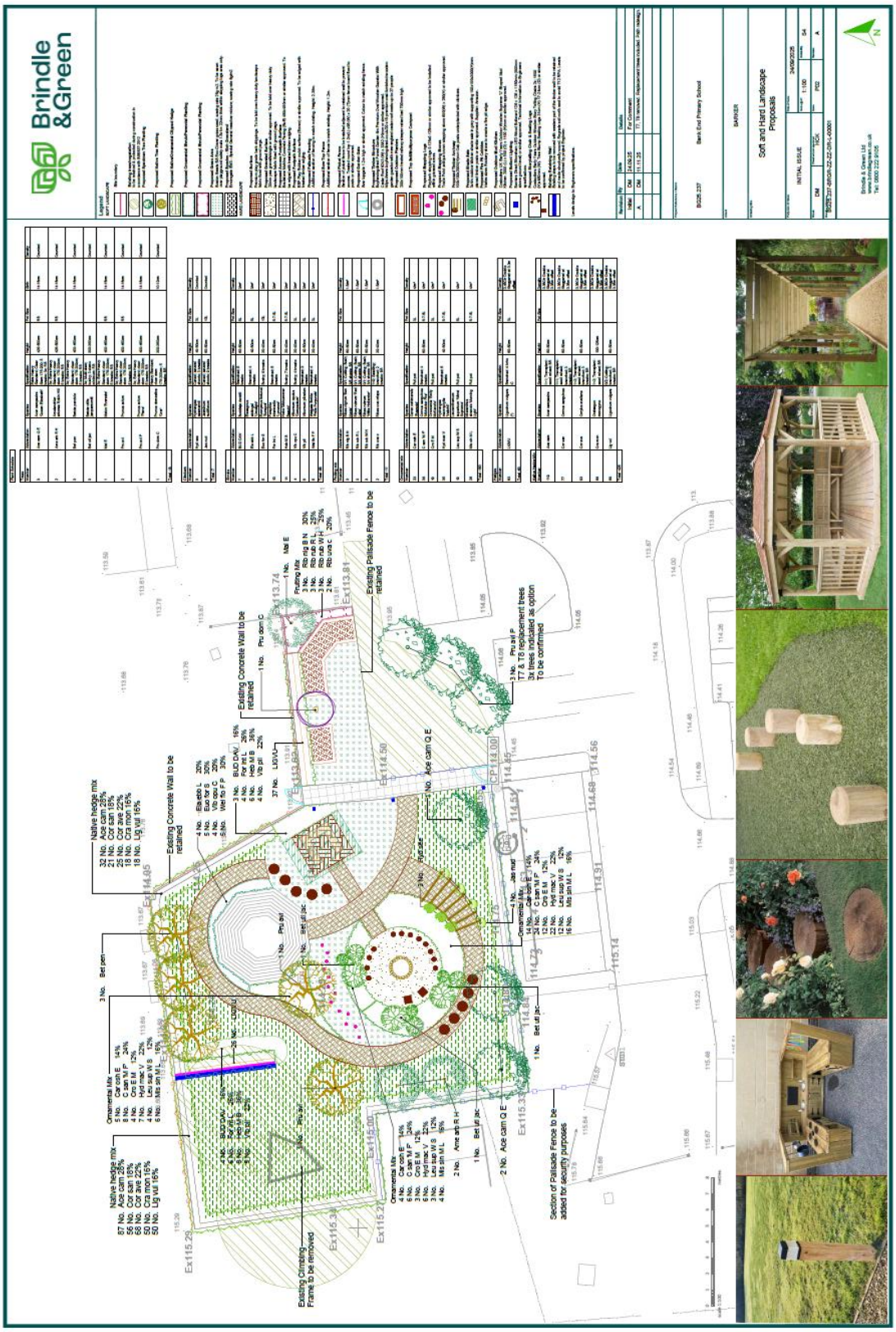
Table 6: Target conditions for Native hedgerow and Species rich native hedgerow

Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Parcel Reference
Native hedgerow and Species rich native hedgerow	Medium	Moderate	H1, H2
Description			
A total of 8m of native hedgerow and 73m of species rich native hedgerow is proposed around the site. The hedgerow will be established with native species such as wild privet, field maple, common hazel, common hawthorn, blackthorn and elder. The understorey will be seeded with a shade tolerant seed mix such as Emorsgate EH1 (or similar approved). Management will be targeted to maintain an undisturbed margin, removal of undesirable species at the hedge base and to be free of invasive species.			
Target Condition Criteria			
A1	Height - >1.5 m average along length		
A2	Width - >1.5 m average along length		
B1	Gap-Hedge Base - Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length		
B2	Gap – Hedge canopy continuity - Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m		
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).		
C2	Nutrient enriched perennial vegetation - Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.		
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[3]) and recently introduced species.		
D1	Current damage - >90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.		
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[8]), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.		
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.		
Footnotes			
Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. [online] Available on: layout (hedgelink.org.uk) Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows. [online] Available on: Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk) Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain. Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on: The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7) | JNCC Resource Hub Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). Definitions: wild, native or alien? [online] Available on: Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (bsbi.org) Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora. [online] Available on: Acknowledgements | Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk) Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on: Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org) Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and			

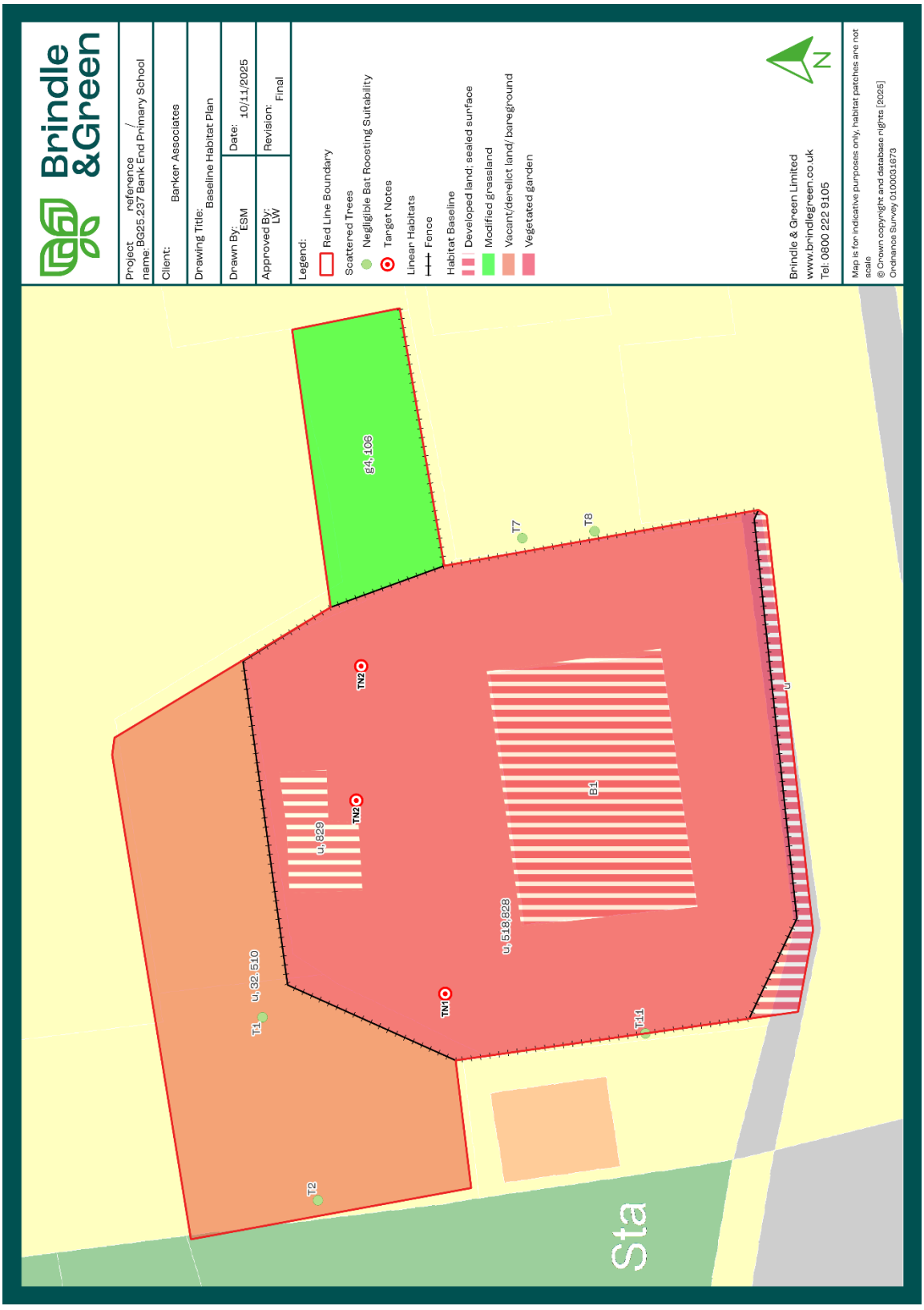
veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) And Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Green highlighted rows indicate target criteria

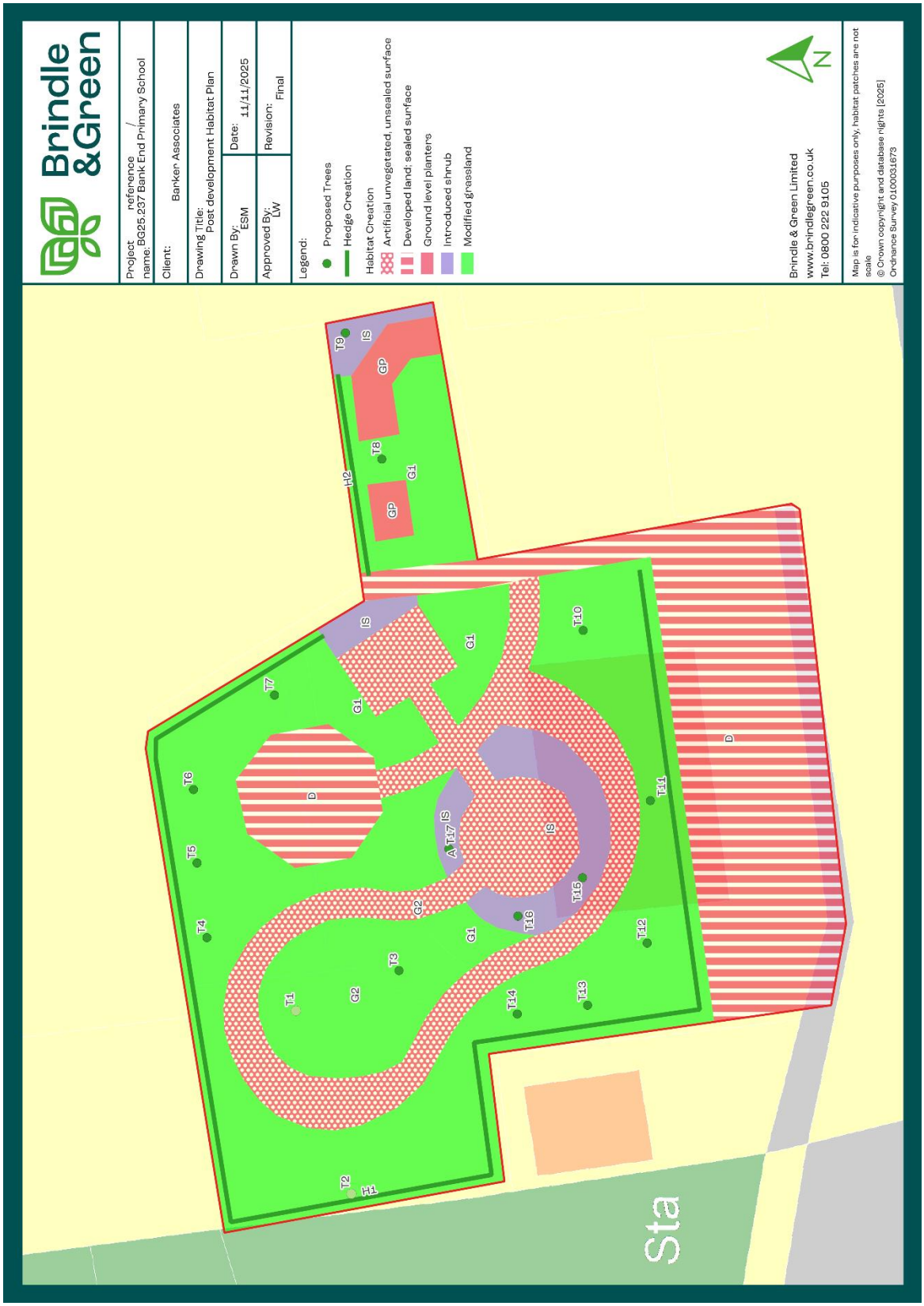
Appendix 1. Proposed Plans



Appendix 2. Habitat Baseline



Appendix 3. Post Development Habitats



Appendix 4. References

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