

Biodiversity Report	
For:	Midshire Storage Ltd
Site:	West Road, Pogmoor, Barnsley, S75 2DH
Report Date:	16 th May 2025
Report Reference:	SQ-3266



Client:	Midshire Storage Ltd
Site Name:	West Road, Pogmoor, Barnsley, S75 2DH
Report:	Biodiversity Assessment
Site Grid Reference	SE 33143 06501
Survey Date:	21 st October 2024
Surveyed by:	Sam Toon BSc (hons)

Issue:	Revision:	Stage:	Date:	Prepared by:	Approved by:
1	-	Draft for review	16 th May 2025	Sam Toon BSc (hons) - Estrada Ecology Ltd	John Davies BSc (hons) – Estrada Ecology Ltd
2	V1	FINAL	16 th May 2025	Sam Toon BSc (hons) - Estrada Ecology Ltd	Natasha Estrada MRes, MCIEEM- Estrada Ecology Ltd



1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 For the current proposed development scheme for the site, a net loss of 58.41% for area habitat units is calculated. Consequently, the Trading Summaries are not satisfied by the proposed development scheme.
- 1.2 A resurvey of the site during the growing season has been recommended to reduce the onsite units and make achieving the target 10% net gain for this development proposal more accessible.
- 1.3 The site survey confirmed that the habitats within the red line boundary yielded low distinctiveness habitats which were concluded to provide limited functionality for protected and notable species of biodiversity, however, habitats within the immediate environment were considered to offer more value and suitability. Assessment was therefore undertaken to determine potential impacts of the scheme.
- 1.4 The assessment is also accompanied by a full desktop study to further determine potential impacts on non-statutory and statutory sites within a 1km radius, as well as any priority habitats within the same radius.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 In line with National Policy, developments submitted for planning after 12th February 2024, with some exceptions, are expected to achieve a 10% net gain minimum increase in site biodiversity value from the existing baseline assessment.
- 2.2 Biodiversity metric calculations were requested by the client to determine the extent of net loss, no net loss, or net gain for proposed development plan for the site.
- 2.3 Biodiversity metric calculations were therefore undertaken for baseline and post-development habitats for the development site, using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool developed by DEFRA. This assessment evaluates the impact of current development proposals on existing biodiversity value within the development site.

3 Baseline and Post Development Scheme Designs

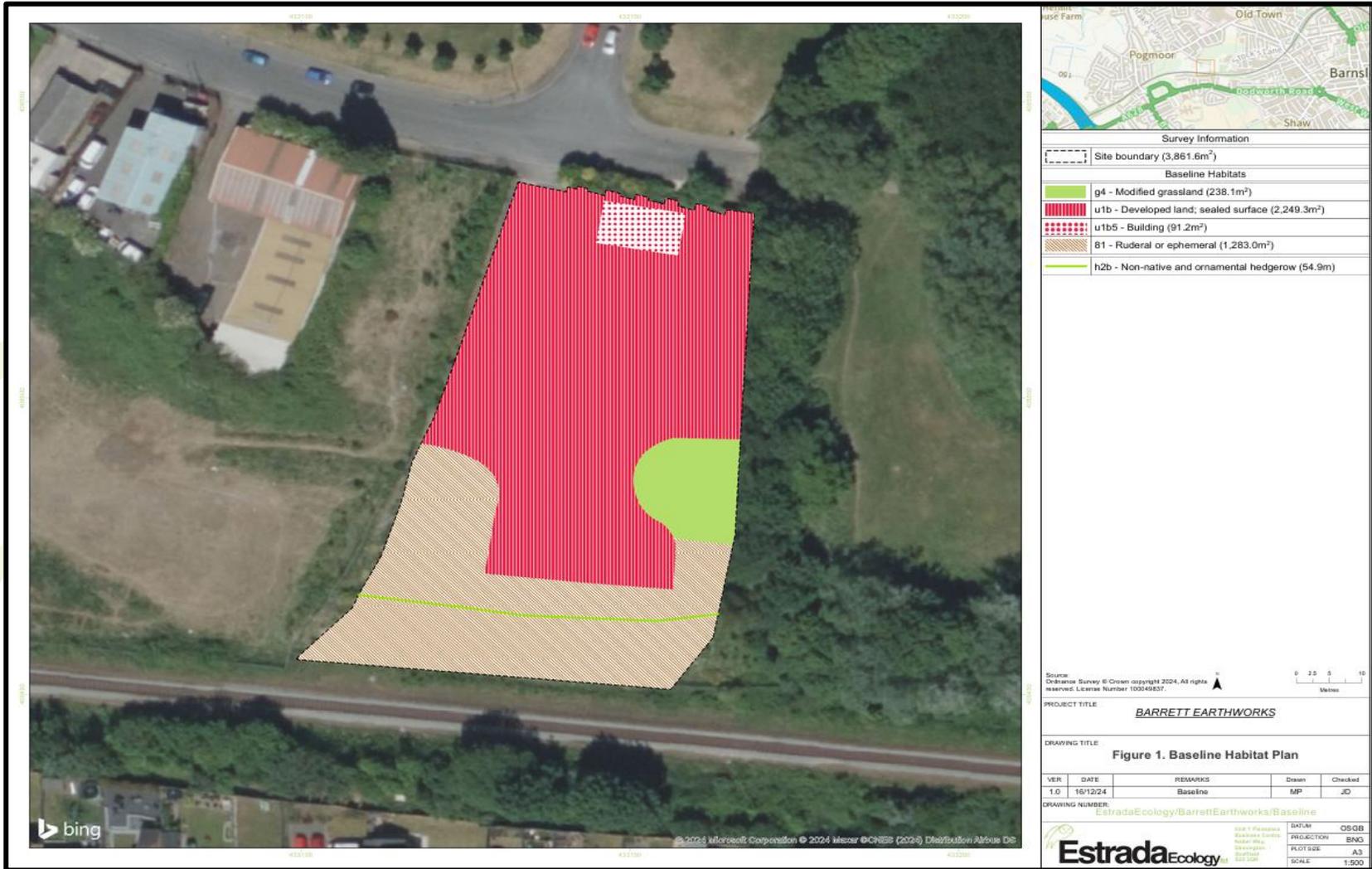
- 3.1 Figure 1 presents the UK HABS habitat classification map for the site baseline as identified via field survey undertaken October 2024.



3.2 Figure 2 presents a summary of Statutory Metric results for the current development proposal.



Figure 1 : UK HABS Baseline Habitat Classification Map



4 Methodology

- 4.1 The Environment Bill (2020) seeks to improve biodiversity through several means, including the introduction of a mandatory requirement for new developments to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain, which will be managed as such for a minimum of 30 years after the development has been completed (Environment Bank, 2021). Key parts of the Environment Bill which relate to biodiversity net gain and its delivery are Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity and the supporting Schedule 14, particularly sections 9(3), 13(2), 14(2) and 15.
- 4.2 Development proposals submitted after 12th February 2024, with some exceptions, will be expected to achieve a minimum of 10% net gain in site biodiversity value under The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024.
- 4.3 A survey of the site was conducted to recorded baseline habitats which were classified according to UKHABS Habitat Classification (2023), as shown in Figure 1. The site assessment was conducted outside the growing season (which is typically recognised as being between April to September inclusive), therefore, in line with current guidance, all habitats with condition assessments have been assessed at their highest value.
- 4.4 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Tool was used to calculate biodiversity units for baseline and post-development units for the development site, to determine if the proposed development will be likely to achieve net loss, no net loss, or net gain of biodiversity units.
- Individual habitat areas / lengths were rounded to four decimal places, with the minimum mappable unit being 0.0001 hectares. The canopy areas of Individual trees were calculated using the Urban Tree Helper tool included within the metric calculator. Linear habitat features such as hedgerows and ditches are measured in kilometres, where present.
 - Habitat condition indicates the quality of the habitat, either existing or to be achieved, based on the habitat condition assessments using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology.
 - Habitats were assessed for their strategic significance at a landscape scale, using information from sources such as Local Plans, Biodiversity



Action Plans, and Nature Recovery Areas to determine their significance within a specific landscape. If habitats weren't included within published reports, significance was determined by their contribution to habitat connectivity and green corridors.

- 4.5 Biodiversity unit calculations are based on the retention and / or enhancement of existing habitats within the proposed scheme design, as well as the creation of new habitats. Biodiversity units for hedgerow and watercourse habitats (linear) are calculated separately from area habitat within the metric.

5 Limitations

- 5.1 Habitat areas are rounded up or down to the nearest whole value, with a minimal mappable unit of 0.0001 hectares. However, the overall total of site habitat area and biodiversity units within the Statutory Metric are calculated and accurate to two decimal places.
- 5.2 Habitat areas used in the calculations are based on two-dimensional plans, and so will not necessarily consider an increase in overall surface area as a result of slopes and banks.
- 5.3 The site assessment was conducted outside the growing season (which is typically recognised as being between April to September inclusive), therefore, in line with current guidance, all habitats with condition assessments have been assessed at their highest value. Due to this, habitats recorded may be calculated at a higher value than would otherwise be assessed at a time when condition assessments are valid during the growing season.

6 Desktop Study

- 6.1 The data search obtained from Sheffield Biological Records Centre (provider for the region of Barnsley), returned twenty-three records pertaining to notable a protected species of fauna. These included a single great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), twelve bat records pertaining to common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) and noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), six hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), a single smooth newt (*Triturus vulgaris*) and three common frog (*Rana temporaria*). The records were dated between 1980 and 2019.



- 6.2 None of the records returned were site specific. It is considered that the habitats within the site would offer very limited potential for supporting the returned species. Furthermore, of the missing species from the data search (for example badger, other species of bat etc), it is assumed for the purposes of this assessment, the species are present within the wider environment. However, the habitats within the site are deemed to offer limited suitability for these species.
- 6.3 Consultation with Magic Maps confirmed no European Protected Species Mitigation Licenses have been utilised within a 1km radius of the site.
- 6.4 No records for great crested newt presence were recorded within a 1km radius from grid via consultation with Natural England's eDNA pond surveys for District Level Licensing (England). The site is recorded as falling within a green-risk zone for GCN.
- 6.5 However, the site was confirmed to be within the SSSI Risk Zone for the Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI. It is understood that the site is to provide storage opportunities for clients with containers to be utilised within the site. It has been noted that if the proposal results in water or liquid waste of more than 5m³/day discharged to ground (i.e. to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream then Natural England should be consulted on the proposal.
- 6.6 One non-statutory designated site was returned with the data search, namely Redbrook Pastures which was recorded 990 meters northwest of the site. It is concluded that no significant impacts will occur on the Local Wildlife Site as a result of the proposed scheme.
- 6.7 Only one priority habitat was recorded within a 1km radius following consultation with Magic Maps. This was returned as Deciduous Woodland, with the closest compartment situated 747 meters southeast of the site.
- 6.8 Immediately outside the site to the east, a small pocket of woodland is present, with a railway line also present immediately outside the southern boundary of the site. The railway also has a thin line of trees running parallel to the feature along the northern and southern edge. Both habitats offer suitability for an array of species, including bats, badger, reptile and amphibians.
- 6.9 The habitats within the site offer very limited suitability for these species, with no field sign evidence recorded at the time of the survey. It is therefore considered



appropriate for a precautionary method statement to be implemented within the scheme to ensure no impacts occur on the noted species. Furthermore, a suitable lighting scheme is deemed necessary for the proposed development to ensure no artificial light splays over the woodland to the east or the railway to the south.

7 Post-Development Habitat Classifications

7.1 The UK HABS habitat classifications used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric applicable to the site post-development are provided in Table 1 with their associated habitat codes.

Table 1. UK HABS Classification Used in the Metric (Post-development)

Habitats	UK HABS Codes	
	Primary	Secondary
Buildings	u1b5	-
Developed Land, Sealed Surface	u1b	-
Modified Grassland	g4	-
Individual Tree	g4	32
Non-Native Ornamental Hedgerow	h2b	-

8 Biodiversity Net Gain

8.1 The total baseline for biodiversity units for the site were calculated at 0.91 area habitat units. Linear (hedgerow) units for the site were calculated at 0.06. No watercourse units were recorded on the baseline. No irreplaceable habitats are present at the baseline.

8.2 For the current development proposal, the site is calculated to have a total post-development value of 0.38 area habitat units and 0.06 linear (hedgerow) units.

9 Overall Development

9.1 Overall, the proposal for the current development scheme is calculated to result in a net loss of 0.53 habitat area units from baseline value, representing a

- 10.3 It is deemed that due to the assessment being conducted outside the recognised season for biodiversity net gain assessments, a further assessment within the season for yield lower baseline values for the site which are likely more accurate to the true value of the baseline.
- 10.4 If the site baseline was assessed again within the growing season with all relevant habitats subject to condition assessments, the current scheme design with a predicted baseline habitat score (Modified grassland at poor condition and ephemeral vegetation at poor condition), would indicatively score a net gain of 24.77% area habitat units (+0.08 units).
- 10.5 The existing non-native / ornamental hedgerow recorded within the site has a self-populating condition of poor, thus this unit score can not increase nor decrease. It is recommended that this hedgerow is removed and replaced with a native species hedgerow. It is also advised that only 32 meters of native hedgerow will need to be planted to achieve a net gain, especially when considering the section of proposed grass to the south of the site will need to be accessed for management and monitoring purposes. The incorporation of this proposal will result in a net gain of 12.29% (0.01 units) for linear habitats.
- 10.6 Following on from the assessment, if offsetting is required for the current evaluation of the site, it is determined that 0.62 habitat units and 0.01 hedgerow units will be required to be delivered as low distinctiveness value habitats to achieve the 10%. However, if reassessment is permitted within April, no offsetting will be required for area-based habitats.
- 10.7 The calculations in this report are based on target habitat conditions post-development and post-management, taking future land usage and public access into consideration. Condition assessments of proposed habitats are also assessed on viability, as well as with the feasibility of appropriate and successful management.
- 10.8 It is recommended that an updated Biodiversity Net Gain report with updated calculations is completed should current development and landscaping proposals change in any way. An updated report will review habitat condition scores of habitats and will consider any changes in a final masterplan.



References:

DEFRA (2024) Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide

Environment Bank (2015) Biodiversity Impact Calculator – Guidance for Use.
Environment Bank.

Environment Bank (2016) Biodiversity Accounting – An introduction. Environment Bank.

Environment Bank (2021) The Environment Bill and Biodiversity Net Gain Delivery.
Available online at [<https://www.environmentbank.com/blog/the-environment-bill-and-biodiversity-net-gain-delivery-what-planning-authorities-need-to-know/>)]

UK HABS (2023) The UK Habitat Classification : Habitat Definitions. Version 2.0

All online references accessed May 2025

