

**Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.  
Ecological Consultants.**



---

**SHAW LANE FOURTH PADEL COURT.**

**OS REF: SE 33439 05952**

**BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT.**

**Ref No: 251057/1**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

# Table of Contents

	Page Number
<b>1. INTRODUCTION.</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. SITE DESCRIPTION.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT.</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>5. REFERENCES.</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Appendix I. ANNOTATED MAP – BASELINE.</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Appendix II. ANNOTATED MAP- POST DEVELOPMENT.</b>	<b>15</b>

# **1. INTRODUCTION.**

1.1. An application is being prepared for the construction of a fourth padel court within the grounds of Shaw Lane Sports Club, Barnsley. Three courts have been recently constructed but a fourth is now proposed to meet growing demands.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd were commissioned to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment of the site. The site survey was carried out 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.

1.3. This report will be accompanied by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and condition assessment sheets.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.**

2.1. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.2. A baseline survey was carried out of the site to establish the baseline biodiversity value of the area. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.3. The survey area was walked where access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat and unique set off secondary codes will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

2.4. The site survey was completed by Mitchel Greenhalgh, Managing Director of Whitcher Wildlife, and an Ecological Consultant with an array of experience in conducting surveys on a variety of flora and fauna in a professional capacity. Mitchel holds a level two Natural England survey licence in respect of both bats and great crested newts, a NatureScot licence in respect of bats and Natural England class licences for various invertebrates. He is also working towards gaining further survey licences. He has attended courses run by CIEEM, the Species Recovery Trust and the FSC and also holds a BSc in environmental science attained from the University of Leeds. He is an Associate member of CIEEM and he is therefore committed to continuous professional development.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 3. SITE DESCRIPTION.

#### 3.1. The Survey Area.

3.1.1. The main survey area comprises an area of land which has historically been used as a compound, complete with shipping containers which house sporting and other equipment. This area of land is shielded from the rest of the sports complex via a large hedgerow to its south but is semi-open to the east. The survey area also includes a separate grass verge within the wider ownership, south of the development site. The existing storage containers will be moved to from the development site to this grass verge. The surveyed land, demarcated in red, is shown in the aerial image below.



3.1.2. The wider surrounding area comprises the suburban areas of Barnsley and the recreational grounds of Horizon School. The wider environment around the site is shown in the aerial image below.



### 3.2. Description of Habitats.

3.2.1. Appendices I & II of this report contains annotated maps marked up with the varying habitats within the site. The habitats on the site are: -

- g4 – Modified grassland.
- h3d – Bramble scrub.
- u1b6 – Other developed land.
- h2b – Non-native and ornamental hedgerow.

#### 3.2.2. g4 – Modified Grassland.

3.2.2.1. The largest expanse of the site comprises a mown area of modified grassland. This is a typical species-poor grassland which is continuously mown short comprises expected species such as perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra* agg.), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) and common daisy (*Bellis perennis*).



3.2.2.2. Within grassland in the development site, there is a small bund, likely from the previous deposition of garden waste and soils, which is dominated by nettle (*Urtica dioica*).



3.2.2.3. There is a parcel of modified grassland in the wider ownership, south of the development site adjacent to the main car park. The species within this habitat are the same as those described above, also being of a very short sward height as is typical of a car park verge.

### 3.2.3. h3d – Bramble Scrub.

Unkempt bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is present towards the west of the site in the areas inaccessible for maintenance.



### **3.2.4. u1b6 – Other Developed Land.**

3.2.4.1. There is a small section of land where vehicles access the compound area which is largely unvegetated.



3.2.4.2. There are a number of containers on site currently used for the storage of equipment and machinery. These are to be moved to the grass verge mentioned above.



### 3.2.5. h2b - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow.

The southern boundary of the site comprises an extensive hedgerow which comprises predominantly ornamental species. The hedgerow is dominated (90%+) by garden privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) with cabbage palm (*Cordyline australis*) an occasional prominent feature. Two elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and one stunted sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) make up the remainder of the hedgerow, likely self-seeded examples.



\*\*\*\*\*

## 4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT.

### 4.1. Baseline Assessment.

4.1.1. The below tables demonstrate the baseline units using the Statutory Metric. There are no watercourses on site and therefore, no calculations are necessary for that category.

#### 4.1.2. Area habitats:

Habitat Type	Extent (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Modified Grassland	0.0655	Low	Poor	0.13
Bramble Scrub	0.0059	Low	N/A	0.02
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	0.012	V.Low	N/A	0
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	0.0036	V.Low	N/A	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.09</b>			<b>0.1</b>

#### 4.1.3. Hedgerow habitats:

Hedgerow Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.029	Low	N/A	0.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.029</b>			<b>0.03</b>

### 4.2. Post-development Assessment.

4.2.1. The proposals are able to comfortably demonstrate above and beyond a 10% gain whilst satisfying the trading rules through the implementation of the following:

- The creation of areas of new modified grassland surrounding the site, albeit of a likely poor condition.
- The creation of an area of mixed scrub to the west of the site behind the new court. This will also create a connection in two existing habitats (the existing hedgerow to the west of existing courts and the area of scrub north of the site).
- The planting of a total of five new trees, which include four within the grassland to the north of the court and one within the grass verge south of the development site.

- The planting of a new native hedgerow along the entire northern boundary of the site.

4.2.2. The below tables demonstrate the proposed post-development units using the Statutory Metric.

4.2.3. *Area Habitats.*

Habitat Type	Extent (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Modified Grassland	0.02	Low	Poor	0.04
Mixed Scrub	0.0047	Medium	Moderate	0.03
Urban Tree	0.0204*	Medium	Moderate	0.06
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	0.0358	V.Low	N/A- Other	0
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	0.0075	V.Low	N/A- Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.09</b>			<b>0.12</b>

\*Not included within total area calculation

4.2.4. *Hedgerow habitats:*

Hedgerow Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Native hedgerow	0.034	Low	Poor	0.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.029</b>			<b>0.03</b>

**4.3. Biodiversity Net Gain Results.**

The above proposals will result in a gain of 0.02 habitat units (10.11%) and 0.04 hedgerow units (126.28%) whilst satisfying the trading rules.

FINAL RESULTS		
<b>Total net unit change</b> (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Habitat units</i>	0.02
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.04
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00
<b>Total net % change</b> (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Habitat units</i>	10.11%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	126.28%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%
<b>Trading rules satisfied?</b>	Yes ✓	

\*\*\*\*\*

Prepared by:	
Mitch Greenhalgh BSc ACIEEM & Saffron Shiels BSc (Hons)	Date: 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2026

Checked by:	
Ruth Georgiou BSc MCIEEM	Date: 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2026

## 5. REFERENCES.

CIEEM (2017) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

CIEEM (2017) Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Natural England (2014) Protected species and development: advice for local planning authorities. (updated 2021) Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications> (Accessed: 05/03/2024).

UKHab Ltd (2023) UK Habitat classification Version 2.0 Available at <https://www.ukhab.org>.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) Biodiversity Net Gain. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides> (Accessed: 15/04/2024)

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2024) Statutory Net Biodiversity Metric User Guide. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain> (Accessed: 15/04/2024)

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2023) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2> (Accessed: 15/04/2024)

# Appendix I. MAP – BASELINE MAP.



Site: Shaw Lane, Barnsley

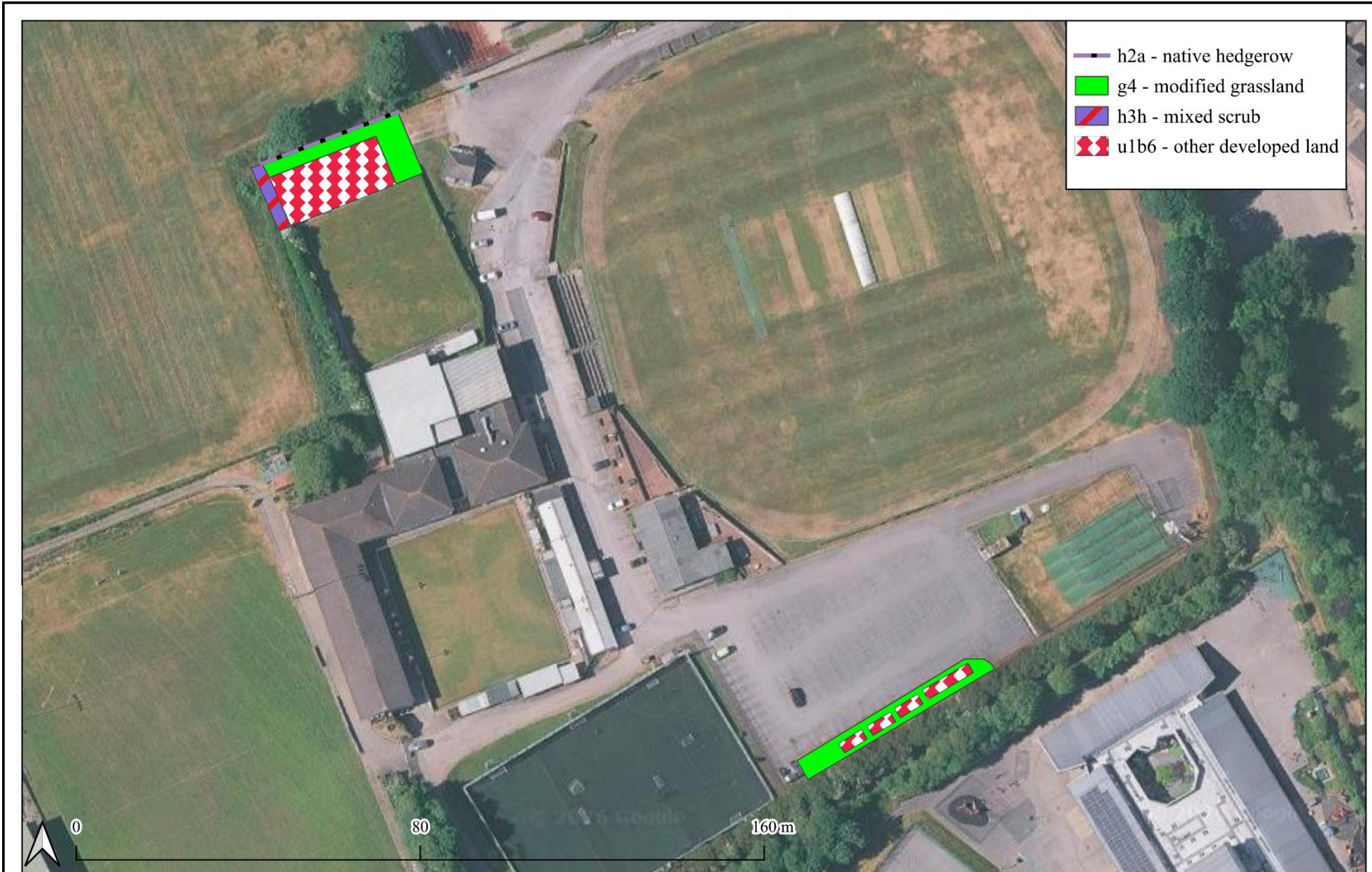
Date: 18.02.2026

Reference: 251057

Produced by: Saffron Shiels



# Appendix II. POST DEVELOPMENT MAP.



Site: Shaw Lane, Barnsley

Date: 18.02.2026

Reference: 251057

Produced by: Saffron Shields

