



**Land adjacent to 54 Cresswell Street, Pogmoor,
Barnsley, S75 2DL**
Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Prepared on behalf of

Mr B Swaine

Final Report

12 May 2026

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Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Document Control

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Report Prepared for Issue by: Elizabeth Davies BSc (Hons) MCIEEM

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Provided no significant changes are made to the proposals or on the site subsequent to the report's issue; this report can be considered valid for 18 months from the date of issue, in line with CIEEM's Advice Note on The Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys (2019).

As part of membership to our professional body (CIEEM) we are required to provide our biological results to applicable biological record centres. As such, it is our intention to supply biological data collected as part of this assessment to the relevant centre unless directly instructed in writing not to do so by the client.

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Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- Liz Ecology was commissioned by Mr B Swaine to conduct a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment of the land at Land adjacent to 54 Cresswell Street, Pogmoor, Barnsley, S75 2DL. The survey was conducted to support a planning application for the proposed residential development of two dwellings.
- The purpose of this report is to identify the net percentage change in biodiversity on-site post-development and to aim for a minimum of a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)
- Mandatory biodiversity net gain set out in the Environment Act 2021 came into force on 2nd April for small sites. This requires a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.
- The development site is approximately 375m² and consists of developed land, sealed surface, modified grassland and vegetated garden.
- The baseline habitat units are 0.02 and hedgerow units are 0.00.
- It is predicted that the proposal will have 0.02 habitat units created, with a net increase of 0.00 units, showing a 18.86% net gain.

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Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Liz Ecology was commissioned by Mr B Swaine to conduct Biodiversity Net Gain assessment of the land at Land adjacent to 54 Cresswell Street, Pogmoor, Barnsley, S75 2DL (Grid reference: SE 33098 06635).
- 1.2 The survey was conducted to support a planning application for proposed residential development of two dwellings.
- 1.3 The aim of this report is to identify the net percentage change in biodiversity on site post-development and where possible to seek a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in accordance with the statutory requirements and National Planning Policy. Where 10% is not achievable by the proposals we will seek to make recommendations for amendments to the proposals or third party compensation to meet the 10% target.

Site description

- 1.4 The site is located within the residential area of east of Pogmoor which is west of Barnsley, southwest of Monk Bretton, southeast of Darton and Northwest of Worsborough. The site is located within in a residential area and is adjacent to designated green space being located within the boundaries of a local greenspace (playing fields). The site is well connected to the wider landscape through the grassland of the playing fields adjacent to the site and the treelines surrounding the fields leading to small areas of woodland. The site is also close to nature corridors of the local train line.
- 1.5 The site is not listed in the local plan as a designated green belt.

Brief

- 1.6 To conduct a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment using DEFRA metric version 4.0 to demonstrate, where possible, a minimum of 10% net gain.

Relevant Planning Policy and Legislation

- 1.7 In England, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). All planning permissions granted in England will have to deliver at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to be maintained for a period of at least 30 years. The concept seeks measurable improvements for biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in association with development.
- 1.8 Mandatory BNG came into force on 12th February 2024 for all developments except exemptions and small sites, and small sites came into force 2nd April 2024 (residential 1-9 units on a site less than one hectare, or number of dwellings is unknown and the site is less than 0.5 hectare; or for non-residential for floor space less than 1000m² or site less than one hectare). Exceptions include developments of less than 25m² habitat or 5m for linear habitats (hedgerows and watercourses), householder applications and small scale self-build.
- 1.9 The planning authority for the site is Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

2. METHODOLOGY

Assessing Strategic Significance

- 2.1 A desk study was conducted to collate baseline data about ecological sites within the zone of influence of the proposed development site, following guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute of Environmental and Ecological Management (CIEEM, 2017). This data-gathering exercise was undertaken to obtain any available information relating to statutory nature conservation sites, ecological networks, local plans and priority habitats to help establish the strategic significance of the site. Sources of information used are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of information sources used for the desk study

Organisation/source	Information sought
MAGIC	Locations of and citations for all national statutory wildlife sites, including SSSI, and all international sites including SAC, SPA or Ramsar sites within a 5 kilometre radius of the site. Priority Habitats within 300m radius of the site.
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Adopted Local Plan 2019-2027, evidence base, and polices map

- 2.2 This evidence was reviewed and used to assess the strategic significance of the site, and/or individual habitats and whether it lies within an ecological network for the area.

Baseline Assessment

- 2.3 A baseline botanical assessment was undertaken by Elizabeth Davies, qualified ecologist, on 22nd January 2026 in mostly clear, still and dry weather conditions. The survey employed techniques based on the UK Habitat Classification System. Botanical information was collected, focussing on the dominant and/or key indicator species for each habitat, to enable allocation of habitats to hierarchy levels 3 and/or 4. Where relevant priority habitats were also identified. The conditions of the habitats on the site were assessed in line with the technical sheets supplied alongside DEFRA Metric 4.0.
- 2.4 The UK habitats map was digitised using QGIS. The mapped habitats were measured using the derived areas, and habitat areas are provided in hectares. Linear features were measured using the derived length and the measurements provided in kilometres.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 2.5 Biodiversity Net Gain complements and works with the biodiversity mitigation hierarchy set out in the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 180a. To achieve a net gain in a way that is consistent with the mitigation hierarchy and reflects the 'spatial-hierarchy' preference for local enhancements, the following steps should be followed:

- (1) Aim to avoid or reduce biodiversity impacts through site selection and layout;
- (2) Enhance and restore biodiversity on-site;
- (3) Create or enhance off-site habitats, either on their own land or by purchasing biodiversity units on the market; and

- (4) As a last resort, to prevent undue delays, purchase statutory biodiversity credits from the UK Government where they can demonstrate that they are unable to achieve biodiversity net gain through the available on-site and off-site options.

2.6 On completion of the fieldwork the habitat information was mapped and areas were imported into the DEFRA Biometric version 4.0 calculation tool. The metric calculates the baseline biodiversity units for the site based on the following factors:

- Area
- Habitat distinctiveness
- Habitat condition
- Strategic significance

2.7 Once inputted the metric provides biodiversity units for the proposed habitats based on the following factors:

- Area
- Habitat distinctiveness
- Habitat target condition
- Strategic significance
- Time habitat is created
- Time to target condition
- Difficulty of creation

2.8 The difference between the baseline units and proposed units is then used as a measure of change and is used to assess the number of biodiversity units achieved. Habitats, hedgerows and rivers are inputted as separate factors, with each requiring net gains.

2.9 **Limitations**

2.10 Whilst every effort has been made to accurately map the habitats on site there may be discrepancies associated with the projected coordinate reference system. The National Grid transformation, however, is considered to be the most accurate with an accuracy level of less than one metre.

3. BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1 The results of the Baseline Assessment are presented below. A UK Habitat survey map is shown in Appendix I. The map illustrates the location and extent of the sites surveyed, along with additional notable features.

Strategic Significance

3.2 The site is located within the residential area of east of Pogmoor which is west of Barnsley, southwest of Monk Bretton, southeast of Darton and Northwest of Worsborough. The site is located within in a residential area and is adjacent to designated green space being located within the boundaries of a local greenspace (playing fields). The site is well connected to the wider landscape through the adjacent grassland of the playing fields and the treelines surrounding the fields leading to small areas of woodland. The site is also close to nature corridors of the local train line.

3.3 The site is not listed in the local plan as a designated green belt. It is considered to have high strategic significance.

3.4 The development site is approximately 375m² and consists of developed land, sealed surface, modified grassland and vegetated garden.

3.5 The site is 2km from priority habitats including Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat (England), Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England), Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England), Ancient Woodland (England).

3.6 There are a number of designated sites within 5km of the site shown on MAGIC. Due to the distance from the designated sites the site is considered to be outside the zone of influence.

Internationally important sites

3.7 There are no internationally important sites.

Nationally important sites

3.8 There is one Sites of Special Scientific Interest including:

- Dearne Valley Wetlands, SSSI, 3km southeast

Locally important sites

3.9 There are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest including:

- Dearne Valley Park, LNR, 2.296km east
- Worsborough Country Park, LNR, 3.2km southeast
- Notton Wood, LNR, 4.6km north

3.10 The site is within 2km of the following statutory designated areas; Objective 2 Areas (England) and two Community Forests – South Yorkshire Forest and White Rose Forest.

3.11 On-Site Habitats

3.12 The following were recorded on site, and are described below:

- Developed land; sealed surface
- Vacant/derelict land
- Modified grassland
- Vegetated garden

Developed land sealed surface

3.13 There is an area of tarmac between the garages, and the garages themselves. These are both considered to be developed land sealed surface.

3.14 This has a distinctiveness of very low, and condition assessment is not required.

Vacant/Derelict Land

3.15 There is an area in front of the garages which has become colonized by some vegetation. This has been recorded as vacant/derelict land as this was previously urban habitat prior to the development being left. There is a small amount of vegetation

3.16 This has a distinctiveness of low, and condition is assessed to be poor.

Modified grassland

3.17 There is an area of modified grassland in the site, which is predominantly comprised of perennial rye grass, with a small amount of bramble present,

3.18 To the north of the area of modified grassland there is an area which is scrub. This is outside of the redline boundary, and as such is not included in the assessment.

3.19 This has a distinctiveness of low, and condition assessment is not required.

Vegetated garden

3.20 There is an area of vegetated garden between the garages and the pavement, which appears to have been planted with ornamental shrubs prior to clearance.

Summary

3.21 Below in table 2 is a summary of the baseline habitats, areas, condition assessment and distinctiveness.

Table 2: Summary of baseline habitats

Habitat	Biodiversity Units	Area (ha)	Condition	Distinctiveness	Suggested action
Developed land; sealed surface	0.00	0.035	N/A	V. Low	Compensation not required
Modified grassland	0.00	0.0022	N/A	Low	Same distinctiveness or better

					habitat required \geq
Vegetated garden	0.00	0.001	N/A	Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required \geq

4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN METRIC

Biodiversity Metric

- 0.0075ha vegetated garden will be planted as part of the proposed development.

4.1 The calculation has been based off the current landscaping plans. The biodiversity metric calculated a net change in habitat units of +64.50%. Table 4 below summarises the biodiversity metric results.

Table 4: DEFRA Biodiversity metric results scenario 1

On-site baseline	Habitat units	0.02
	Hedgerow units	0.00
On-site post intervention	Habitat units	0.02
	Hedgerow units	0.00
Total net change %	Habitat units	+18.86%
	Hedgerow units	N/A
Trading rules satisfied	Yes/No	Yes

4.2 The proposed habitats are vegetated garden, and as such do not require securing via planning condition.

5. REFERENCES

CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2016) Biodiversity Net Gain. Good practice principles for development.

CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain. Good practice principles for development. A practical guide. CIRIA C776a. London, 2019.

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

CIEEM (2018) *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Department for Communities and Local Government (2005), *Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System.*

DEFRA (2023) Biodiversity Metric Calculation tool (spreadsheet) (Biodiversity Metric 4.0)

DEFRA (2023) Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User guide

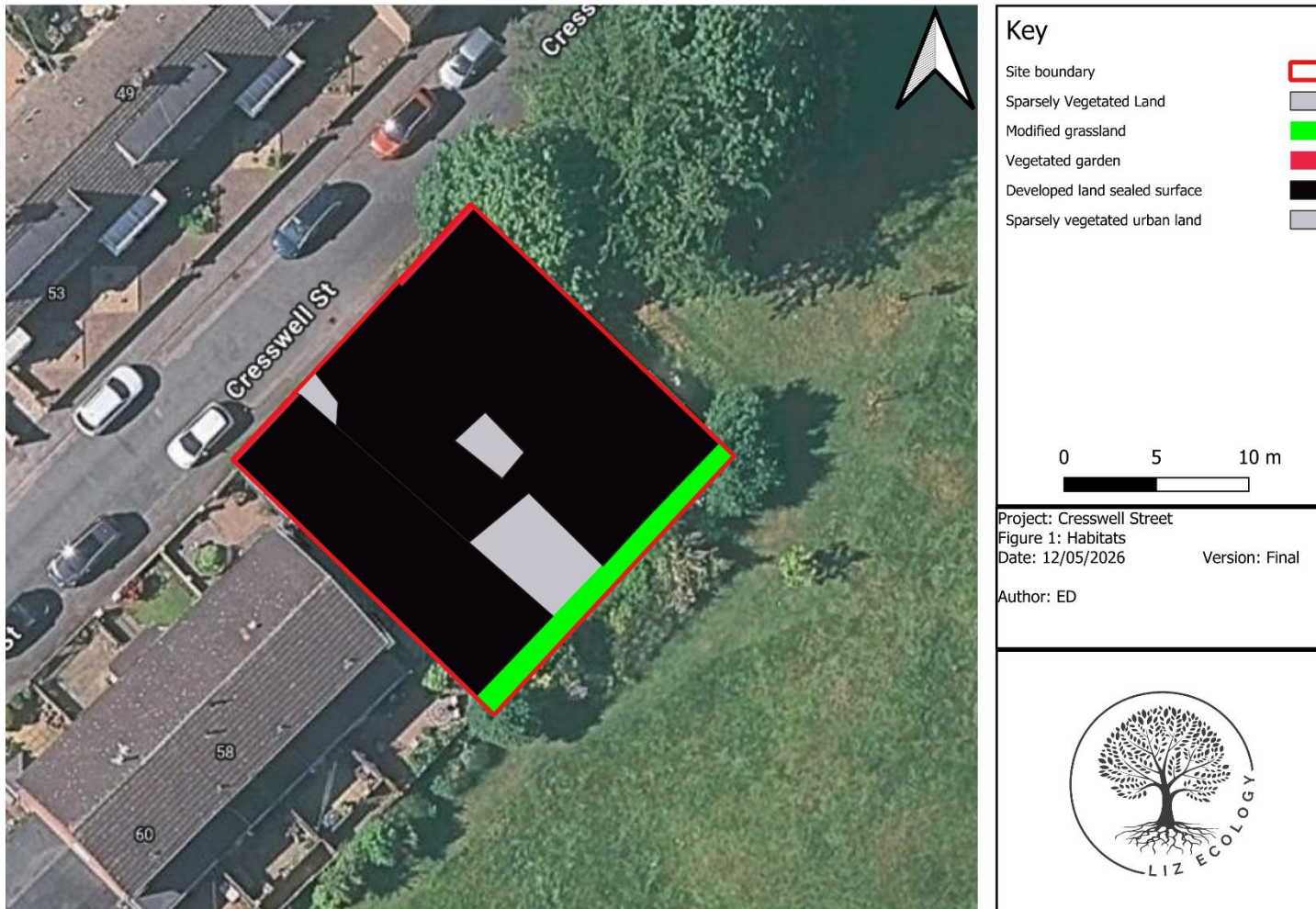
DEFRA (2023) Biodiversity Metric 4.0 and SSM: Technical Annex1 (habitat condition assessments)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021), *National Planning Policy Framework.*

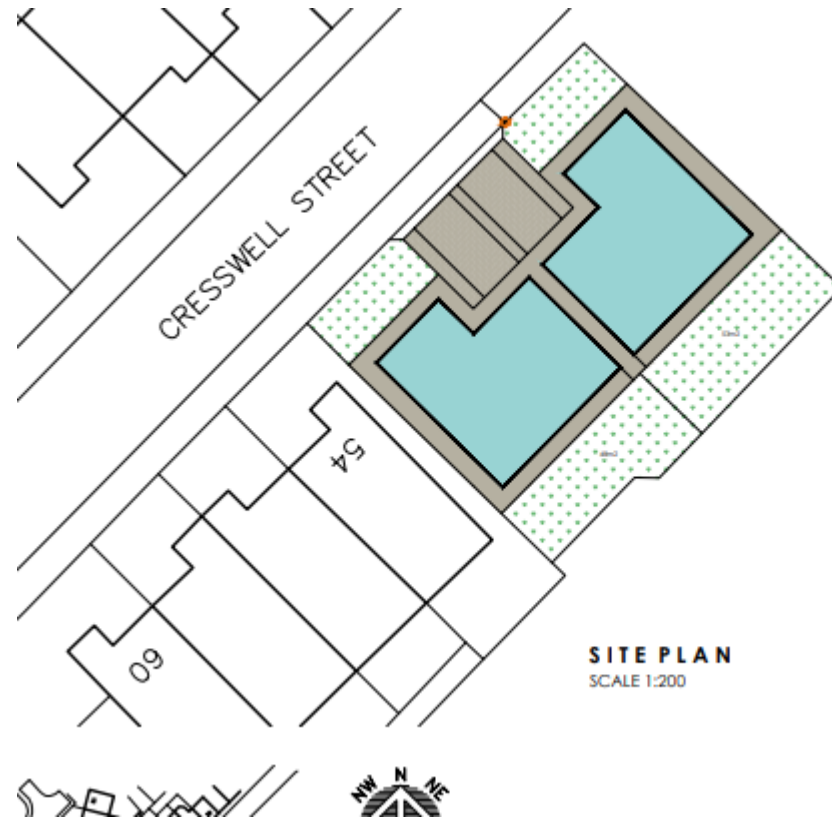
Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) Website

Appendix 1

Existing site layout



Appendix 2 Proposed Layout



Appendix 3

Site photographs

Photograph 1: General view of site



Photograph 2: General view of site. Scrub shown is off-site behind a fence.



Photograph 3: General view of site

