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Executive Summary

Ecus Limited (Ecus) was commissioned by Shorewood Homes to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (BNGA) for Bob's Farm, Vyne Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9HX, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): SU 62834 55713 and is displayed on Figure 1.

The proposals for the Site are for the demolition of the existing farm buildings and the erection of nine residential dwellings with associated landscaping and car parking.

Baseline habitats have produced a biodiversity value of 4.32 Habitat Units (HU) and 0.65 Hedgerow Units (HeU).

Post-intervention newly created habitats have produced a biodiversity value of 6.55 HU and inclusive of an enhanced hedgerow, 2.55 HeU.

The calculated gain of 51.53% in Habitat Units means the proposed development achieves a quantitative no net loss of biodiversity in its present design (as of 14th March 2024). The proposed development also produces a gain of 291.45% in Hedgerow Units within the Site, through the planting of new hedgerows between the garden plots. As such the proposals meet the BNG requirements.

Hedgerow and other BNG enhancement opportunities are discussed within the report.

1. Introduction

1.1 Scope of this report

1.1.1 Ecus Limited (Ecus) was commissioned by Shorewood Homes to undertake a BNGA for Bobs Farm, Vyne Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9HX, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

1.1.2 This report details the biodiversity baseline and post-development values for the Site, using data obtained from the site survey carried out on 6th October 2022 and the updated landscape plan "Bobs Farm, Vyne Road, Sherborne St John – Proposed Site Plan (drawing number 8160_D01)", sent to Ecus by Shorewood Homes in February 2024.

1.1.3 The purpose of the BNGA was to use UK Habitat Classification and Biodiversity Metric 3.1 methodology to inform baseline conditions and determine the change in biodiversity value for the Site.

1.2 Site Description

1.2.1 The Site was approximately 0.74 ha, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): SU 62834 55713. The Site extents and habitats can be viewed in Figure 1 and Site photographs can be viewed in Appendix 1. The Site is located to the north of Basingstoke, approximately 400 m to the north east of the village of Sherborne St John.

1.2.2 The wider area surrounding the Site was primarily rural, comprising arable fields with associated farm buildings, hedgerow and tree lines, and woodland compartments. Large areas of woodland are located to the north, east and northwest of the Site.

1.3 Project Scope

1.3.1 The proposals for the Site are for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of nine residential dwellings with associated landscaping and car parking.

1.3.2 The proposals include the retention of mature trees and boundary hedgerows, with new, native trees to be planted in addition.

1.3.3 Vegetation clearance of scrub and scattered trees will be required to facilitate the proposed works.

1.3.4 The timings of the proposed works have not yet been confirmed at the time of writing this report.

1.4 Previous Ecological Surveys

1.4.1 An 'Ecological Assessment' was undertaken on 21st October 2015 by PV Ecology (PV Ecology,

2016). The survey comprised a Phase 1 habitat survey covering the survey area, a systematic search for badgers, dormice and nesting birds, a bat inspection of trees and buildings on site and a habitat assessment for reptiles.

1.4.2 A PEA was undertaken by Ecus in 2018 (Ecus Ltd, 2018), as required within Conditions 22 and 23 of planning application 16/00949/FUL, granted in August 2016 by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

1.4.3 Due to subsequent finding of potential bat droppings by the Ecus Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) during preliminary site works and site clearance in September 2018, Ecus produced a revised and updated Ecological Appraisal (Ecus Ltd, 2019a).

1.4.4 Nocturnal bat surveys were undertaken on the barn building (see Figure 1, Figure 2; B5) by Ecus between May - June 2019 (Ecus Ltd, 2019b), comprising two dusk emergence surveys and one dawn re-entry survey. No bats were recorded emerging or re-entering the building. Low levels of bat commuting and foraging activity were observed.

1.4.5 A PEA and PBRA assessment were undertaken by Ecus in 2022 and the most recent version was updated in July 2023. The structures and the habitats to be directly impacted by the proposed works within the Site were surveyed for any signs of protected species and assessed for its potential to support protected species.

1.5 Quality Assurance

1.5.1 The BNGA was completed by Consultant Ecologist Isabel Soane BSc (Hons) MSc and updated by Senior Ecologist Claire Evans BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM.

1.5.2 Senior Ecologist Alex Hellyar BSc (Hons) has reviewed this report in accordance with Ecus' Quality Assurance policy.

1.5.3 The report was approved by Technical Director (Ecology) Abel Drewett BA (Hons) MSc Dip CEnv MCIEEM.

2. Legislation

2.1.1 This BNGA was compiled with reference to the following relevant nature conservation legislation, planning policy and the UK Biodiversity Framework from which the protection of sites, habitats and species is derived in England including:

UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (Defra, 2018);

Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (Defra, 2011);

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (MHCLG, 2021);

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006); and

The Environment Act (2021).

2.1.2 Further details can be found at http://www.legislation.gov.uk.

3. Methodology

3.1 Site Survey

3.1.1 A habitat survey was completed in accordance with industry guidelines (CIEEM, 2017 & Butcher *et al*., 2020) on 6th October 2022. This survey was also undertaken to inform a PEA and PBRA which should be read in conjunction with this report.

3.1.2 The Site was assessed as shown by the red line boundary on Figure 1.

3.1.3 Botanical species were recorded by level of abundance using the DAFOR method and a preliminary species list was compiled. This method is intended to provide an indication of the relative abundances of plant species within each habitat. The standardised terms in descending order of abundance level are as follows:

D – Dominant

A – Abundant

F – Frequent

O – Occasional

R – Rare

3.1.4 This survey method aims to characterise habitats and communities present and is not intended to provide a complete list of all plants occurring across the Site.

3.1.5 Any habitats present which are listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act or the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for Hampshire were noted (Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2000).

3.1.6 The importance of ecological features present within the Site was determined based on the guidance given in CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (CIEEM, 2018).

3.2 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

3.2.1 Biodiversity metric calculations provide a numerical score for the current value (Habitat Units, Hedgerow Units and / or River (watercourse) Units) of the habitats on Site and their likely value post-works in order for the impact of the proposed works to be quantitatively assessed.

3.2.2 The BNGA used the biometric tool, the 'Biodiversity Metric 3.1 Auditing and accounting for biodiversity - Calculation Tool' (BM3.1) distributed by Natural England. As this metric was current at the time of survey and the original baseline values were calculated using BM3.1, the updated

post-intervention values were calculated using the same version for consistency.

3.2.3 BM3.1 uses a classification system based mainly on the UK Habitat Classification System (UKHabs). Where applicable, habitats were subject to a condition assessment in accord with the Condition Assessment Sheets included within the 'Biodiversity Metric 3.1: Auditing and accounting for biodiversity – Technical Supplement 1a (2022)' produced by Defra.

3.2.4 Using the BM3.1 tool, habitat values are calculated based on whether they occur commonly or whether they are rare, their area (ha) (or length (km) for linear features such as hedgerows), condition and importance within the local area, usually identified from local relevant planning policies or documents. This gives individual pre-development Habitat Units (HU), Hedgerow Units (HeU) and River Units (RU).

3.2.5 The Minimum Mappable Unit used was 25 m^2 for areas and 5 m length x 1 m width for linear features. Secondary codes were utilised, focusing on habitat features and land use. Under UKHab guidance, this Minimum Mappable Unit requires the mapping of linear features as polygons if they are wider than 1 m. This does not translate effectively into the Biodiversity Metric, which requires linear features to be inputted as lengths (km). As such, some of the polygon area features have required manual conversion into lengths for the purposes of the biodiversity baseline.

3.2.6 Habitat type has been digitised using QGIS V3.26 (see Figure 1 and Figure 2).

3.2.7 The results of the BNG assessment will be detailed within Section 4.

3.3 Limitations

3.3.1 Every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the Site, but the following specific limitations apply to this appraisal.

3.3.2 The site survey was completed in October, which is outside the optimal survey period (May to September inclusive) but considered acceptable for this project due to the limited nature and extent of impacts and the common habitat types recorded. Many plant species would not be present at this time of year. However, it is considered that an adequate assessment of the habitats and protected/notable species potential of the Site has been made.

4. Findings and Evaluation

4.1 Site Description

4.1.1 The central area of the Site comprised five derelict buildings, mostly surrounded by hardstanding. This was interspersed with dense scrub and neutral grassland adjacent to the buildings, with some ruderal / ephemeral plants present at the edges of buildings and hardstanding. Dense scrub was also present adjacent to the north and eastern boundaries, with neutral grassland occurring in various compartments adjacent to the entire Site boundary. Scattered scrub was present on an area of grassland south of B5. Scattered trees were also present. The Site is bordered by hedgerow along the northern and southern boundaries.

4.2 Habitat Assessment – Baseline Habitats

4.2.1 The habitats within the Site are detailed below. The descriptions should be read with reference to the habitat map (Figure 1) and the habitat photographs in Appendix 1. Species lists by habitat type are provided as Appendix 2.

Other developed land - u1b6

4.2.2 The Site was dominated by hardstanding. This habitat was devoid of plant species and had negligible ecological value.

4.2.3 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. This habitat was devoid of floral species. This habitat was not subject to a condition assessment.

Buildings - u1b5

4.2.4 The Site included five Buildings which were derelict at the time of survey. This habitat was devoid of plant species and had negligible ecological value.

4.2.5 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. This habitat was devoid of floral species. This habitat was not subject to a condition assessment.

Other neutral grassland - g3c

4.2.6 Neutral grassland was present to the south and west of the Site, covering an approximate 0.27 ha area in total. Abundant species present included false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, whilst creeping bent *Argostis stolonifera* and timothy grass *Phleum pratense* were frequent, common ivy *Hedera helix* occasional, and creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, common vetch *Vicia sativa*, wood dock *Rumex sanguineus*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, and

spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* rare.

4.2.7 This habitat has been classified as such due to abundant false oat-grass and cock's-foot, and the presence of creeping buttercup.

4.2.8 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. Neutral grassland is common and widespread and therefore has ecological value at the Site level only.

4.2.9 The condition score for this habitat was Moderate.

Dense bramble scrub - h3d

4.2.10 Dense bramble scrub occurred in patches adjacent to the buildings within the central area of the Site, and towards the north and east of the Site.

4.2.11 This habitat has been classified as such due to Abundant bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg*. Elder *Sambucus nigra* was also dominant.

4.2.12 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. Dense bramble scrub is common and widespread and therefore has ecological value at the Site level only.

4.2.13 The condition score for this habitat was Moderate.

Other (non-priority) hedgerow - h2b

4.2.14 Other (non-priority) hedgerow was present along the northern and southern Site boundaries. The northern boundary hedgerow (see Figure 1; H1) was intact and species-poor, and included hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* and elder. The southern boundary hedgerow (see Figure 1; H2) was also an intact species-poor hedgerow, dominated by blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* with frequent yew *Taxus baccata* and occasional ash.

4.2.15 This habitat has been classified as such due to being a boundary line of shrub with less than 80% cover of woody UK native species, where a hedgerow with greater than 80% cover would be priority habitat.

4.2.16 Non-priority hedgerow is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. The hedgerows were small in size with low species diversity, and therefore have ecological value at the Site level only.

4.2.17 The hedgerows do not meet the criteria for important hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

4.2.18 The existing hedgerows are due to be retained and lightly trimmed only, as part of the proposed works.

4.2.19 The condition score for this habitat was Moderate.

Scattered trees - 11

4.2.20 Scattered trees occurred as a secondary habitat within the neutral grassland and dense bramble scrub. The species recorded were elder, ash, blackthorn, hawthorn, dog rose, pedunculate oak, yew, and goat willow *Salix caprea*.

4.2.21 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. None of the trees within the Survey Area were identified as being protected (by a TPO) or veteran. The scattered trees therefore have ecological value at the Site level only.

4.2.22 Within the biodiversity metric scattered trees on Site are classed as Urban Trees and provide significant total habitat units. The trees recorded on Site were classed as Moderate condition.

Scattered scrub - 10

4.2.23 Scattered scrub occurred as a secondary habitat within the neutral grassland. The species recorded included bramble, common hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, butterfly bush *Buddleja davidii*, elder, and saplings of goat willow and hawthorn.

4.2.24 This habitat is not listed under the NERC Act as a priority habitat, nor within the LBAP as a habitat of importance. The species recorded were also common and widespread. The scattered scrub therefore has ecological value at the Site level only. As a secondary habitat, scattered scrub is not subject to a condition assessment within the biodiversity metric.

4.3 Baseline Biodiversity Value

4.3.1 Baseline habitats within the Survey Area comprised u1b6 - Other developed land, u1b5 – Buildings, g3c - Other neutral grassland, h3d Dense bramble scrub, Urban trees and h2b other (non-priority) hedgerow.

4.3.2 For this assessment the baseline habitat types and areas have been taken from the UKHabs survey carried out as part of the PEA for the Site in 2022 (see Figure 1).

4.3.3 The area of the Survey Area has been calculated at 0.77 ha. The habitat type, condition, areas, and Habitat Units (HU) and Hedgerow Units (HeU) are provided within Tables 1 & 2 below. Baseline habitats have produced a biodiversity value of 4.40 HU and 0.65 HeU.

Table 1. Baseline area-based habitats, condition and Habitat Units (HU)

Habitat Type	Condition	Area (ha)	Habitat Units (HU)
u1b6 - Other developed land - Hardstanding	N/A	0.18	0
u1b5 – Buildings	N/A	0.26	0
g3c – Other neutral grassland	Moderate	0.26	2.08
h3d - Dense bramble scrub	Moderate	0.04	0.16
Urban trees	Moderate	N/A	2.08
Total Habitat Units (HU)			**4.32**

Table 2. Baseline Hedgerow Habitats, Condition and Hedgerow Units (HeU)

Habitat Type		Condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow Units (HeU)
h2b - Other (non-priority) hedgerow.	H1	Moderate	0.062	0.25
	H2	Moderate	0.101	0.40
Total Hedgerow Units (HeU)				**0.65**

4.4 Post-development Biodiversity Value

4.4.1 The following calculations present a version of the completed biodiversity metric calculations based on the current baseline values and the current plan "Bobs Farm Sherborne - Proposed Site Plan (drawing number 8160_D01)" (Shorewood Homes in February 2024). A spreadsheet of the calculations is provided alongside this document.

4.4.2 Post-development habitats will include u1b6 - Other developed land, u1b5 – Buildings, u1d Suburban mosaic of developed natural surface (vegetated garden), u1d Suburban mosaic of developed natural surface (1160 Introduced Shrub), g3c – Other neutral grassland (66 Frequently mown), native hedgerow and planted Urban trees (see Figure 2).

4.4.3 Grey infrastructure, i.e., buildings and hardstanding, provides a biodiversity value of zero. The grassland on-Site is described as having species which will improve biodiversity value and is therefore interpreted as neutral grassland, rather than a species poor modified grassland. There is no introduced shrub category in UKHab, so these areas were mapped as u1d Suburban mosaic of developed natural surface and translated across to BM3.1 as Introduced shrub. Given the frequent

mowing regime of areas of neutral grassland, it is likely that these habitats would be of no more than poor value. Gardens and amenity grassland within the development are therefore considered to be of low distinctiveness.

4.4.4 Gardens have been recorded as Vegetated Garden within BM3.1 as it cannot be guaranteed that these areas will be maintained as grassland by the residents of the proposed development.

4.4.5 The proposed urban trees and hedges between garden plots have been assigned a condition of moderate, as it can be safely assumed that most trees and hedgerows on Site will pass 3 or 4 of the biodiversity metric condition sheet within 30 years of planting.

4.4.6 Hedgerow 1 and 2 will be enhanced to good condition by planting up gaps with a mix of native species and removing undesirable species from the base of the hedge (such as nettle, cleavers and dock species). In addition, a 1 m margin will be left undisturbed at the base of the hedge.

4.4.7 The habitat type, condition, areas and Habitat Units (HU) and Hedgerow Units (HeU) are provided within Tables 3 & 4 below. Post-intervention habitats have produced a biodiversity value of 6.55 HU and 2.55 HeU.

Table 3. Post development area-based habitats, condition and Habitat Units (HU)

Habitat Type	Condition	Area (ha)	Habitat Units (HU)
u1b6 - Other developed land – Hardstanding (created)	N/A	0.21	0.00
u1b5 – Buildings (created)	N/A	0.12	0.00
Vegetated Garden (created)	N/A	0.34	0.66
Introduced shrub (u1d Suburban mosaic of developed natural surface) (created)	N/A	0.01	0.02
g3c – Other neutral grassland (created)	Moderate	0.07	0.25
Urban trees (created)	Moderate	1.16	3.55
Urban trees (retained)	Moderate	0.26	2.08
Total Habitat Units (HU)			**6.55**

Table 4. Post development Hedgerow Habitats, Condition and Hedgerow Units (HeU)

Habitat Type		Condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow Units (HeU)
h2b - Other (non-priority) hedgerow.	H1 (enhanced)	Good	0.062	0.36
	H2 (enhanced)	Good	0.101	0.59
	Hedgerows around properties (created)	Moderate	0.477	1.60
Total Hedgerow Units (HeU)				**2.55**

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Biodiversity Net Gain

5.1.1 The calculated gain of 51.53% in Habitat Units means the proposed development achieves a quantitative no net loss of biodiversity in its present design, therefore no further recommendations are required at this stage.

5.1.2 Currently the proposed development produces a gain of 291.45% in Hedgerow Units within the Site, through the planting of new hedgerows between the proposed garden plots. Further enhancement recommendations for hedgerows are considered below.

5.1.3 A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) or similar is recommended to be produced for the Site to include details for the establishment, maintenance and management of habitats to be enhanced/created on Site. The purpose of this is to ensure the created habitats reach their target condition, and the retained habitats maintain their condition. This management plan should cover a period of 30 years.

5.2 Enhancement Opportunities

Neutral Grassland Enhancement

5.2.1 The current proposals suggest mowing the neutral grassland on-Site. This heavy management regime is expected to result in the habitat being poor condition. The condition of the grassland could be enhanced by leaving areas of vegetation to grow for longer in order to support a much wider number of species. Leaving areas of unmown grass or mowing less regularly around the urban trees, will also enhance the biodiversity value of these trees.

Hedgerow enhancement

5.2.2 Enhancing hedgerows on Site will increase the overall biodiversity of the Site by providing an opportunity to increase the range of native plant species present. Furthermore, by providing species rich hedgerows this will create an important nectar and pollen resource and habitat for birds, insects and mammals, as well as acting as a 'green' link to aid wildlife movement through the local landscape.

5.2.3 Retained hedgerows on Site can be enhanced to a good condition by correct management via a Habitat Management Plan (HMP), which would include the removal of perennial weeds/ undesirable species (e.g. nettles, cleavers and docks).

5.2.4 Hedgerows should not be cut every year, as flower buds often form on second-year growth. Instead trimming hedges should be undertaken on a two- or three-year rotation, targeting different sections

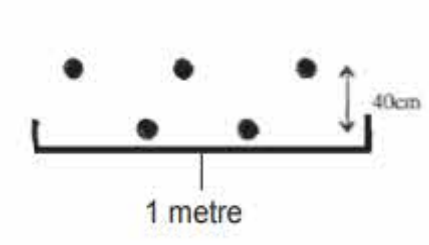
each year. This will ensure there are always flowers for pollinators in spring and berries for birds in autumn. To achieve good condition the hedge should remain at least 1.5 m in height and width as an average along its length (TWT, 2022).

5.2.5 Where possible, a wide undisturbed margin should be left present adjacent to the hedge, ideally at least 1 m wide. Previously cultivated margins can be left to regenerate naturally or can be sown with a mixture of native grass and wildflower seeds. Pollen and nectar encourage insects, and the plants conceal the base of the hedge which can then provide a home and a run for small mammals. The margins can either have an annual cut in August, after the flowers have seeded, or be cut bi-annually in rotation to ensure some over-wintering vegetation is always provided.

5.2.6 Any cuttings removed can be utilised within log piles to provide shelter and foraging opportunities for invertebrates and small mammals.

5.2.7 As a continuous hedge acts as a better wildlife corridor, it is recommended that the retained hedgerows are 'gapped up' by establishing new plants. If the gaps are caused by shade from over-hanging trees, consider planting shade tolerant species like hazel, holly *Ilex aquifolium* or hawthorn.

5.2.8 Suitable species for hedgerow gapping planting include hawthorn, field maple *Acer campestre*, and hazel (PTES, 2022). The most appropriate time for native shrub planting is between November and March. Avoid planting into waterlogged or frozen ground. Care must also be taken to not exposing the roots for long periods when planting. To achieve a thick hedgerow, it is advisable to plant five plants per metre, in double staggered rows (TWT, 2009), see below:



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5.3 BNG Principles

5.3.1 Table 5 below details the actions recommended in order for the proposed development to adhere to each of the BNG good practice principles if the suggested changes are implemented (CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2016).

5.3.2 If followed, the recommended actions will enable the proposed development to achieve a quantitative and qualitative net gain in biodiversity.

5.4 Conclusion

5.4.1 With a biodiversity net gain of 51.53% in Habitat Units and 291.45% in Hedgerow Units, this BNG assessment clearly demonstrates that this proposed development achieves a good quantitative no net loss of biodiversity in its present design.

Table 5. BNG Good Practice Principles in relation to the development

Principle	Description	Recommended Action
1. Apply the mitigation hierarchy	Do everything possible to first avoid and then minimise impacts on biodiversity. Only as a last resort, and in agreement with external decision-makers where possible, compensate for losses that cannot be avoided. If compensating for losses within the development footprint is not possible or does not generate the most benefits for nature conservation, then offset biodiversity losses by gains elsewhere.	The suggested changes compensate for the loss of habitats and would avoid compensation outside of the development footprint.
2. Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere	Avoid impacts on irreplaceable biodiversity – these impacts cannot be offset to achieve No Net Loss or Net Gain.	Not applicable - no irreplaceable habitats are impacted by the proposed development.
3. Be inclusive and equitable	Engage stakeholders early and involve them in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the approach to Net Gain. Achieve Net Gain in partnership with stakeholders where possible and share the benefits fairly among stakeholders.	The approach taken to achieve BNG should involve relevant stakeholders regularly throughout delivery. This should include consultation and involvement with the finalised BNG design and management.
4. Address risks	Mitigate difficulty, uncertainty and other risks to achieving Net Gain. Apply well-accepted ways to add contingency when calculating biodiversity losses and gains in order to account for any remaining risks, as well as to compensate for the time between the losses occurring and the gains being fully realised.	The approach taken to achieve BNG for the proposed development, should also be assessed using the Biodiversity Metric 3.1, which uses industry recognised risk multipliers. Where possible and feasible to do so i.e. if construction machinery can be excluded from the area during the construction stage, the habitat retention and possible enhancement and creation to achieve BNG should be implemented as soon as possible, ideally before the habitat clearance/construction commences.
5. Make a measurable Net Gain contribution	Achieve a measurable, overall gain for biodiversity and the services ecosystems provide while directly contributing towards nature conservation priorities.	It is recommended that the suggested changes would achieve an overall BNG of at least 10%, in line with legislation changes proposed in the Environment Act (DEFRA, 2021) and that this revised approach is subjected to an update

Principle	Description	Recommended Action
		BNG assessment.
6. Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity	Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity by using robust, credible evidence and local knowledge to make clearly-justified choices when: Delivering compensation that is ecologically equivalent in type, amount and condition, and that accounts for the location and timing of biodiversity losses; Compensating for losses of one type of biodiversity by providing a different type that delivers greater benefits for nature conservation; Achieving Net Gain locally to the development while also contributing towards nature conservation priorities at local, regional and national levels; Enhancing existing or creating new habitat; Enhancing ecological connectivity by creating more, bigger, better and joined areas for biodiversity.	With the suggested changes, no offsite compensation will be needed. The suggested changes compensate for the loss as well as enhanced retained habitats and achieves the trading summary. The approach to achieve BNG within the suggested changes has contributed to the conservation of habitats and species listed in the LBAP for Hampshire and will contribute to ecological connectivity across green spaces within the local area/District. It is recommended the approach used to achieve BNG is assessed using the Biodiversity Metric 3.1, which requires users to compensate any habitat loss with the creation of habitats of the same or better distinctiveness and includes temporal and spatial risk multipliers.
7. Be additional	Achieve nature conservation outcomes that demonstrably exceed existing obligations (i.e. do not deliver something that would occur anyway).	The BNG activities should achieve nature conservation outcomes that would not have occurred anyway due to existing obligations. For example, if partnerships and agreements are made with local charities or landowners for off-Site compensation, any funding should contribute to actions for biodiversity that would not otherwise occur.
8. Create a Net Gain legacy	Ensure Net Gain generates long-term benefits by: Engaging stakeholders and jointly agreeing practical solutions that secure Net Gain in perpetuity; Planning for adaptive management and securing dedicated funding for long-term management;	A Habitat Management Plan (HMP) should be produced that details a long-term (30 Years minimum or the lifetime of the development) monitoring and management regime for the enhanced and created habitats on and off Site, once finalised, in order to achieve the required biodiversity value. The relevant stakeholders should be engaged for the implementation of the HMP and dedicated funding should be secured for this programme.

Principle	Description	Recommended Action
	Designing Net Gain for biodiversity to be resilient to external factors, especially climate change; Mitigating risks from other land uses; Avoiding displacing harmful activities from one location to another; Supporting local-level management of Net Gain activities.	
9. Optimise sustainability	Prioritise Biodiversity Net Gain and, where possible, optimise the wider environmental benefits for a sustainable society and economy.	This BNG assessment should be used to inform the next iteration of the design of the proposed development to provide better outcomes for biodiversity. The BNG activities should be compatible with the sustainability strategy of the development. Any compensation off-Site should also optimise wider environmental, social and economic benefits.
10. Be transparent	Communicate all Net Gain activities in a transparent and timely manner, sharing the learning with all stakeholders.	The approach to achieve BNG is subjected to a BNG assessment (reporting) and should be shared with relevant stakeholders throughout its delivery.

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Figure 1: Baseline Habitat Map

Figure 2: Post-Development Habitat Map

Appendix 1. Site Habitat Photographs

Appendix 2. Botanical Species List

Table A4.1. Species noted within other neutral grassland habitat within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Cock's-foot	*Dactylis glomerata*	A
False oat grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	A
Creeping bent	*Agrostis stolonifera*	F
Timothy grass	*Phleum pratense*	F
Common Ivy	*Hedera helix*	O
Creeping buttercup	*Ranunculus repens*	R
Common vetch	*Vicia sativa*	R
Wood dock	*Rumex sanguineus*	R
Dog rose	*Rosa canina*	R
Spear thistle	*Cirsium vulgare*	R

Table A4.2. Species noted within dense bramble scrub habitat within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*	A
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	O

Table A4.3. Species noted within the northern boundary hedgerow (see Figure 1; H1) within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	A
Common Ivy	*Hedera helix*	A
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	F
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	F
Dog rose	*Rosa canina*	O
Pendunculate oak	*Quercus robur*	R

Table A4.4. Species noted within the southern boundary hedgerow (see Figure 1; H2) within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*	A
Common Ivy	*Hedera helix*	F
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*	F
Yew	*Taxus baccata*	F
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	O
Pendunculate oak	*Quercus robur*	R

Table A4.5. Species noted within other neutral grassland with scattered scrub habitat within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Cocks foot	*Dactylis glomerata*	A
False Oat grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	A
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*	F
Ground-Ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*	F
Common Nettle	*Urtica dioica*	F
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*	F
Wood Dock	*Rumex sanguineus*	O
Common hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*	O
Butterfly Bush	*Buddleja davidii*	O
Goat willow (saplings)	*Salix caprea*	R
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	R
Hawthorn (sapling)	*Crataegus monogyna*	R
Greater plantain	*Plantago major*	R

Table A4.6. Species noted within dense scrub with scattered trees habitat within the Site

Common Name	Scientific Name	DAFOR
Cocks foot	*Dactylis glomerata*	A
False Oat grass	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	A
Cleavers	*Galium aparine*	F
Ground-Ivy	*Glechoma hederacea*	F
Common Nettle	*Urtica dioica*	F
Bramble	*Rubus fruticosus*	F
Wood Dock	*Rumex sanguineus*	O
Common hogweed	*Heracleum sphondylium*	O
Butterfly Bush	*Buddleja davidii*	O
Goat willow (saplings)	*Salix caprea*	R
Elder	*Sambucus nigra*	R
Hawthorn (sapling)	*Crataegus monogyna*	R
Greater plantain	*Plantago major*	R

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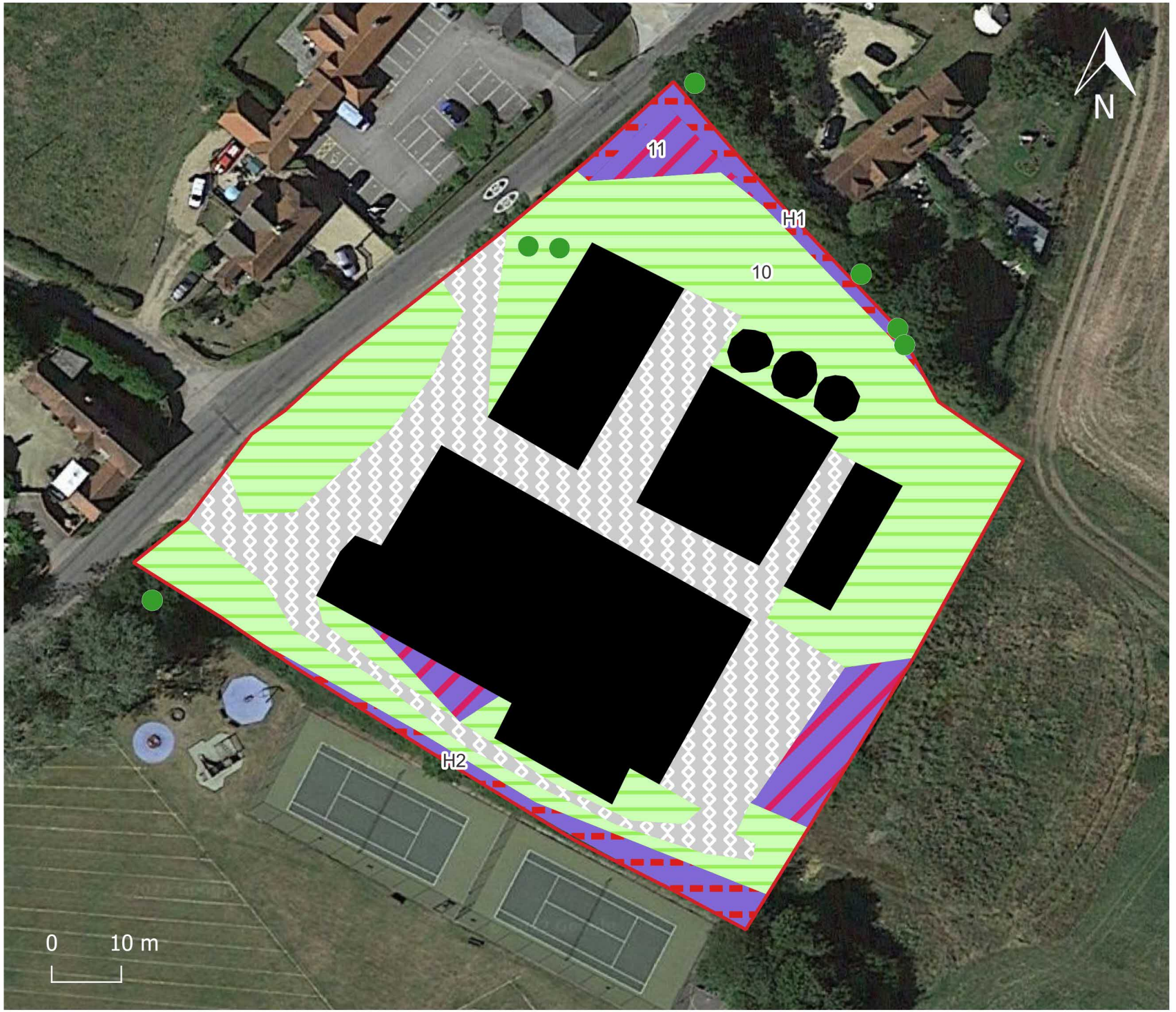

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Legend

- Site Boundary
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- h2b - Other (non-priority) hedgerow
- h3d - Bramble scrub
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 - Other developed land
- Urban trees

Secondary codes
10 - Scattered scrub
11 - Scattered trees

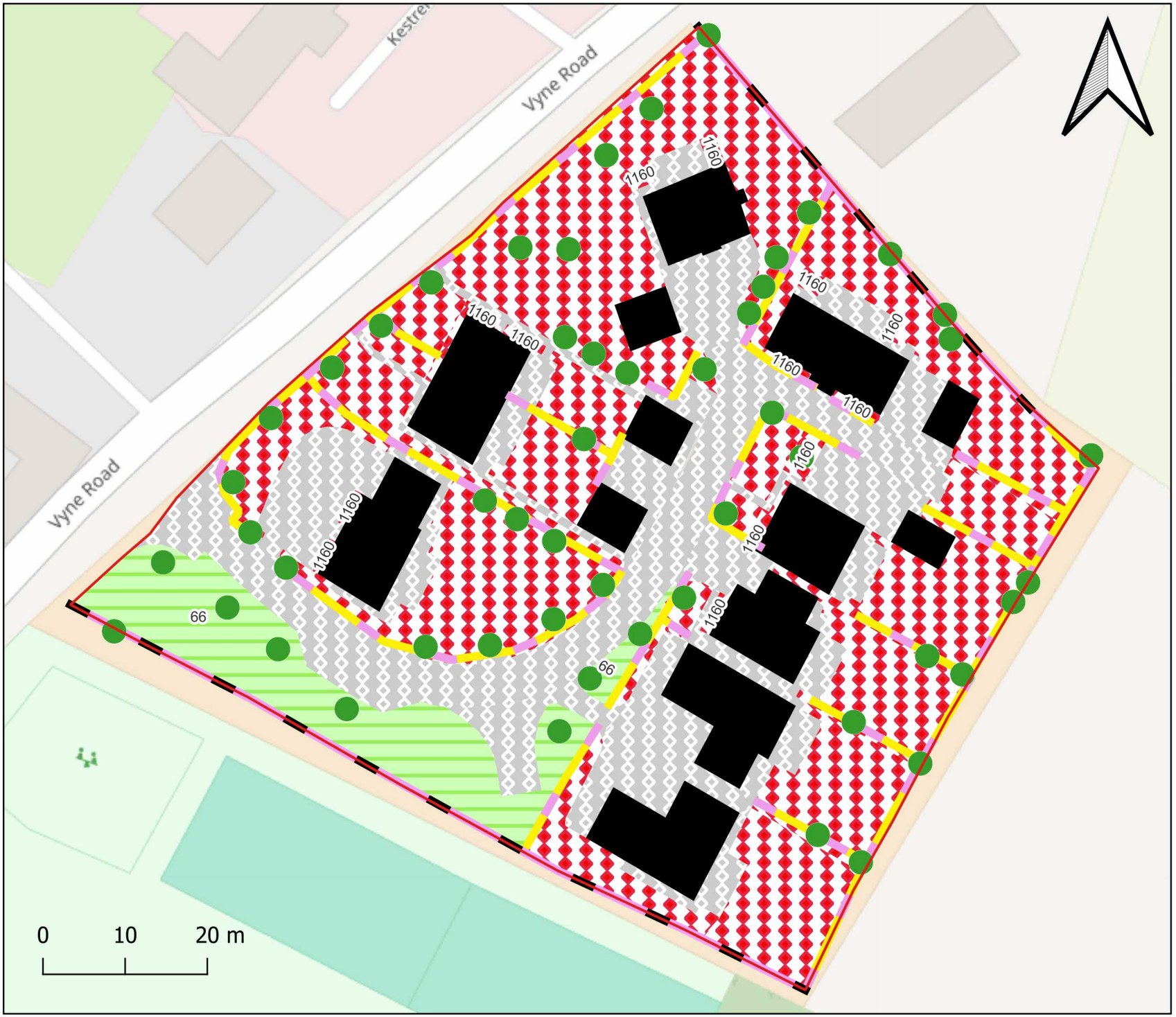
Shorewood Homes

19972 Bob's Farm, Sherborne St John, Hampshire
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Figure 1
UKHab Habitat Map

▪ Technology House ▪ 151 Silbury Boulevard ▪ Milton Keynes ▪ MK9 1LH ▪
▪ [redacted]

November 2022 | Scale: 1:750 @A4 | Drg.Ref: MK/19972/1



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Legend

- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- u1b5 - Buildings
- u1b6 -Other developed land
- u1d - Suburban mosaic of developed/natural surface (vegetated garden)
- h2 - hedgerow
- h2a - hedgerow (Priority Habitat)
- 11 - Scattered trees

Secondary codes:
66: Frequently Mown
1160: Introduced shrub

Shorewood Homes

23361
Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment - Rev E

Figure 2
Post Development Map

▪ Unit 4, Prisma Park, Berrington Way ▪ Basingstoke ▪ RG24 8GT ▪
▪ tel [redacted]

March 2024 | Scale: 1:638 @A4 | Drg.Ref: CE/23361/2

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Plate 1	Derelict buildings.
Plate 2	Dense scrub and other neutral grassland adjacent to buildings.
Plate 3	Other neutral grassland adjacent to the Site boundary, which is bordered by non-priority hedgerow.
Plate 4	Scattered tree adjacent to building.

Shorewood Homes
22074
Bob's Farm, Sherborne St John, Hampshire

Appendix 1: Site Habitat Photographs

Unit 1 Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4JX