

BIO DIVERSITY NET GAIN EXEMPTION ASSESSMENT

Land at Moortown Farm
Hampshire Hatches Lane,
Ringwood,
BH24 3AT

Prepared for

Moortown Farms Ltd

R, C and SA Pierson

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- 1.1 The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024 confirm a number of exemptions from the requirement to achieve a 10% bio-diversity gain as required by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). This includes the ‘de minimis’ exemption. The Planning Practice Guidance sets out the requirements relevant to this exemption further and states at Paragraph: 004 Reference ID: 74-004-20240214 as follows:

“The de minimis exemption only applies to development if the following two conditions are met:

the development must not impact on any onsite priority habitat; and

if there is an impact on other onsite habitat, that impact must be on less than 25 square metres (e.g. less than a 5m by 5m square) of onsite habitat with a biodiversity value greater than zero and on less than 5 metres of onsite linear habitat (such as a hedgerow)”

- 1.2 A priority habitat is a habitat listed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

1.3 In this case the application site comprises part of an open commercial storage yard and (Use Class B8) which is an active use and largely covered by shipping containers, such land is not classified as a priority habitat as defined by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. On this basis there is no requirement for Biodiversity net gain on this site.