

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

Land at Mill Lane, Sayers Common, West Sussex BN6 9JA

Client:

A. Harris and C. Harris

Assessment Date:

14th May 2026

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Mid Sussex District Council. This proposal can be described as the erection of 9 new dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping.

BNG assessment methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **BNG Methodology and Legislation – 2025.**

The results and recommendations contained within this report are valid for 18 months. An updated site visit and BNG assessment may be required if the report is to be used any longer than 18 months after completion.

Version Control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Anya White BSc (Hons), Consultant Ecologist	14/05/2026
Final	1.0	Anya White BSc (Hons), Consultant Ecologist	20/05/2026

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Site Location and Context

A baseline habitat map is provided in **Appendix 1**, a post development habitat map in **Appendix 2**, a proposed development plan in **Appendix 3**, headline BNG results in **Appendix 4**, and condition assessments in **Appendix 5**.

The site is located at National Grid Reference TQ 26965 18620 and has an area of approximately 0.7ha. The site is located in a suburban setting, immediately surrounded by roads, trees, dwellings, gardens, and a cemetery. The A23 is located to the east of the site. The site is enclosed by fencing to the south, north, east, and southwest. The northwest of the site is enclosed by a dry ditch.

The wider landscape is predominately comprised of arable and pastoral fields, with a suburban area to the southwest. There are some small parcels of woodland interspersed throughout the landscape. The fields are typically bordered by hedgerows and tree lines providing connectivity across the landscape.

There are 12 ponds within 500m of the site, 5 of which within 250m. There is a dry ditch running through the site, and along the east and northwest of the site. The ditch was dry at the time of the survey. Herrings stream is located ~470m east of the site. The soils are characterised as medium, silt-loam but locally light, silt-rich, or sometimes heavy clay-rich soils and subsoils. Mildly Acidic to Neutral (pH: 6.0 - 7.0).

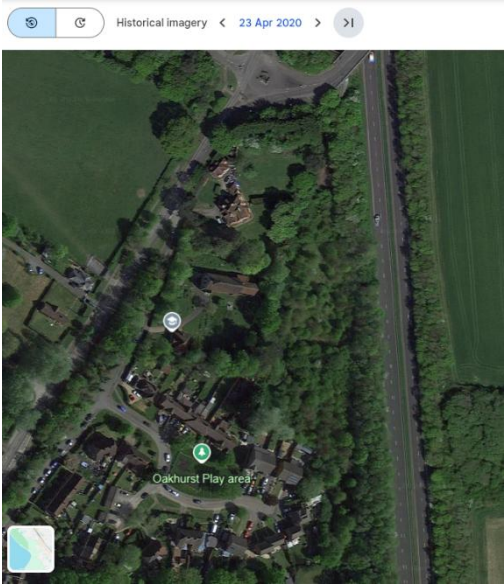
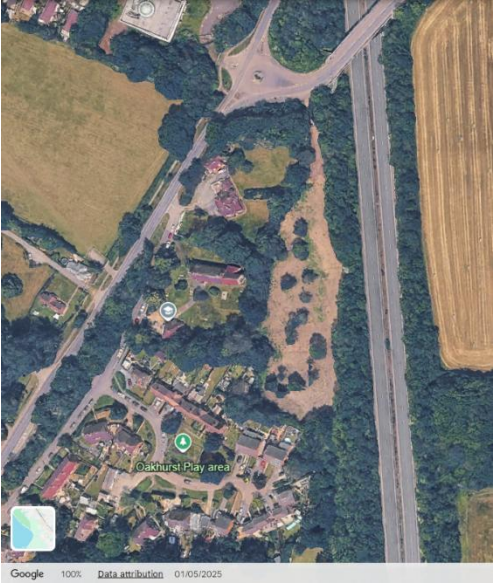
This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- ❖ Statutory BNG Metric - Land at Mill Lane, BN6 9JA - V1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)
- ❖ Proposed Plan
- ❖ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) - Land at Mill Lane, BN6 9JA - V1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)

Executive Summary

- ❖ The current landscaping proposal generates a net loss of area-based habitat units (-69.75%), a net loss of watercourse units (-85.98%) and a net change of linear-based habitat units (N/A%). As such, the proposed development is not compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was not achieved for area-based, linear-based or watercourse habitat units.
- ❖ The trading conditions have not been satisfied.

Introduction

BNG Informative	
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations 14th May 2026
	The baseline biodiversity value of the site is not derived from the site as observed during the PEA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026) as evidence of habitat degradation had occurred. Therefore, the baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from assumptions inferred from historic satellite imagery (i.e. GoogleEarth) and evidence from the PEA survey.
	 
Irreplaceable Habitat Statement	No irreplaceable habitats as listed under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations (2024) are currently present nor were present before 30 th January 2020.
Metric Version & Publication Date	Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool first published 29 th November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 3 rd July 2025.
BNG Target Uplift	+10%

National Character Area (NCA)	121 – Low Weald
Strategic Significance	The West Sussex LNRS has not yet been published. However, in line with guidance, all baseline habitats have been recorded as low.
Limitations	
Evidence of recent habitat clearance was identified through the analysis of aerial imagery, supplemented by on-site observations during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA). This clearance included an area of felled woodland, which historical imagery (Google Earth) indicates was formerly other woodland; broadleaved. To ensure the ecological value of these recently cleared habitats is fully accounted for, the woodland has been included within the baseline assessment. In instances where definitive evidence regarding their pre-clearance condition is unavailable, this assessment operates on the precautionary principle by assuming a favourable condition.	

Baseline

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats (A-1)

Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Other woodland; broadleaved	0.685482	The majority of the site is woodland that has been recently cleared. This retrospective habitat has been classified based on historical imagery and evidence gathered within the PEA survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, 2026).	Assumed good condition due to habitat degradation.	Low Strategic Significance
Developed land; sealed surface	0.016506	An access track to the north of the site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Urban tree	0.0326	2x medium sycamore trees. Included within the baseline as they have been retained from the woodland felling.	Moderate condition, as determined within the PEA survey.	Low Strategic Significance
Urban tree	0.1344	6x medium silver birch trees and 1x large English oak tree. Included within the baseline as they have been retained from the woodland felling.	Good condition, as determined within the PEA survey.	Low Strategic Significance

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Watercourse-Based Habitats (C-1)

Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Ditches	0.051	A ditch is present within the woodland, running in an east-west orientation across the centre of the site.	Good condition. The condition of this habitat has been boosted as it is likely to have been damaged during the woodland felling.	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (A-1)	Urban tree	0.0326	2x medium sycamore trees. Included within the baseline as they have been retained from the woodland felling.	Moderate condition, as determined within the PEA survey.	Low Strategic Significance
	Urban tree	0.1344	6x medium silver birch trees and 1x large English oak tree. Included within the baseline as they have been retained from the woodland felling.	Good condition, as determined within the PEA survey.	Low Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Other neutral grassland	0.15953	Grassland will be created primarily to the south and east of the site, outside of the vegetated gardens.	Poor condition	Low Strategic Significance
	Developed land; sealed surface	0.302989	Dwellings, parking, access and associated landscaping.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Vegetated garden	0.23947	Gardens associated with the dwellings.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Urban tree	0.0448	11x small trees will be planted within the grassland, outside of the vegetated gardens.	Poor condition	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Linear-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (B-2)	Native hedgerows	0.187628	Two native hedgerows will be planted throughout the site. One will be along the eastern border, and one within the grassland to the south of the site.	Poor condition	Low strategic significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site					
Watercourse Habitats					
	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (C-2)	Ditches	0.024	The existing ditch on site will be moved to the south, with some sections culverted underneath the development.	Poor condition	Low strategic significance
	Culvert	0.027		Poor condition	Low strategic significance

Change of Biodiversity Value

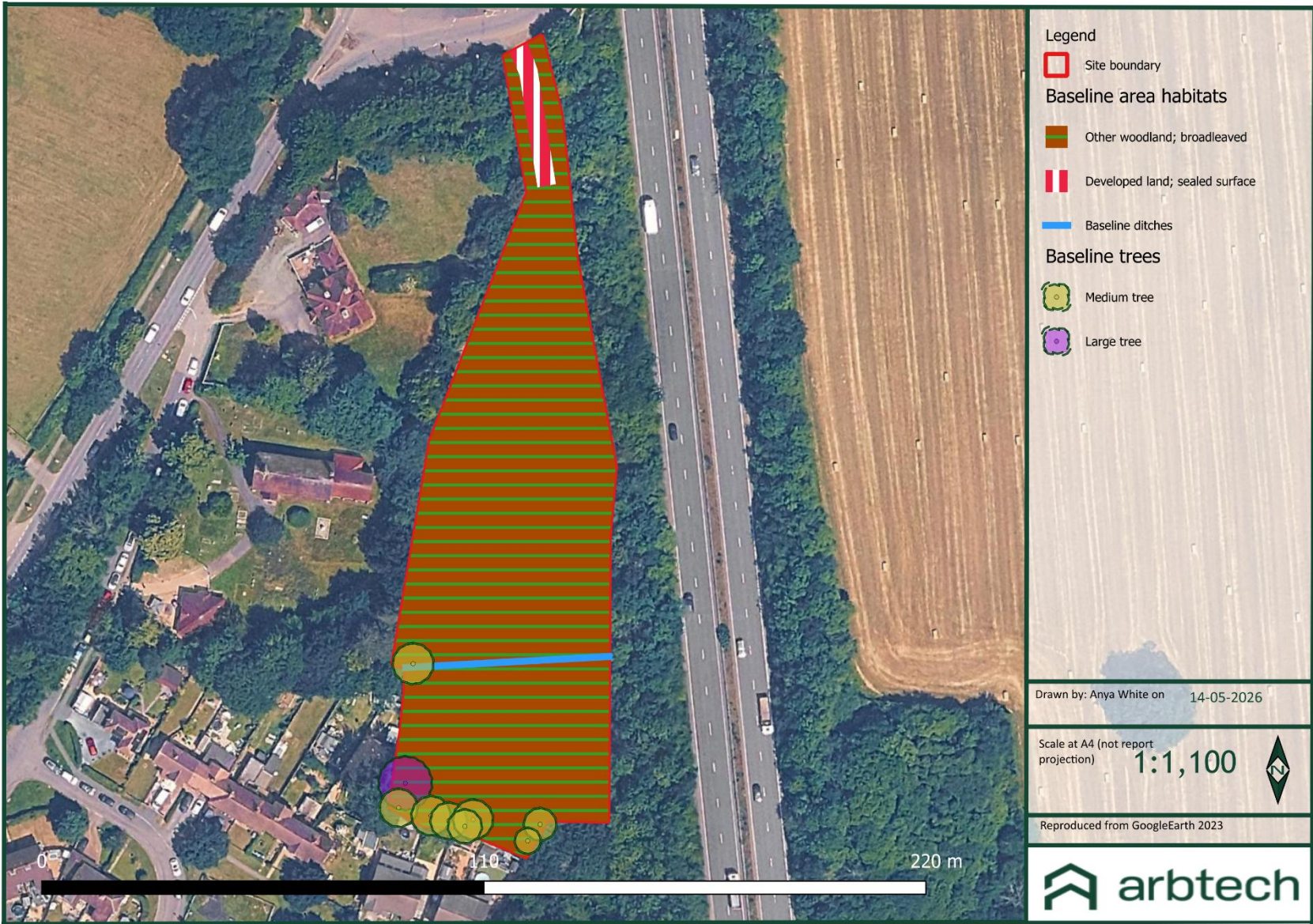
		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
On-Site	Baseline	❖ 10.10 units	❖ 0.00 units	❖ 0.61 units
	Post-Development	❖ 3.06 units	❖ 0.36 units	❖ 0.09 units
	Net Change	-7.04 units	+0.36 units	-0.53 units
Overall Net Change		-69.75%	N/A%	-85.98%

Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

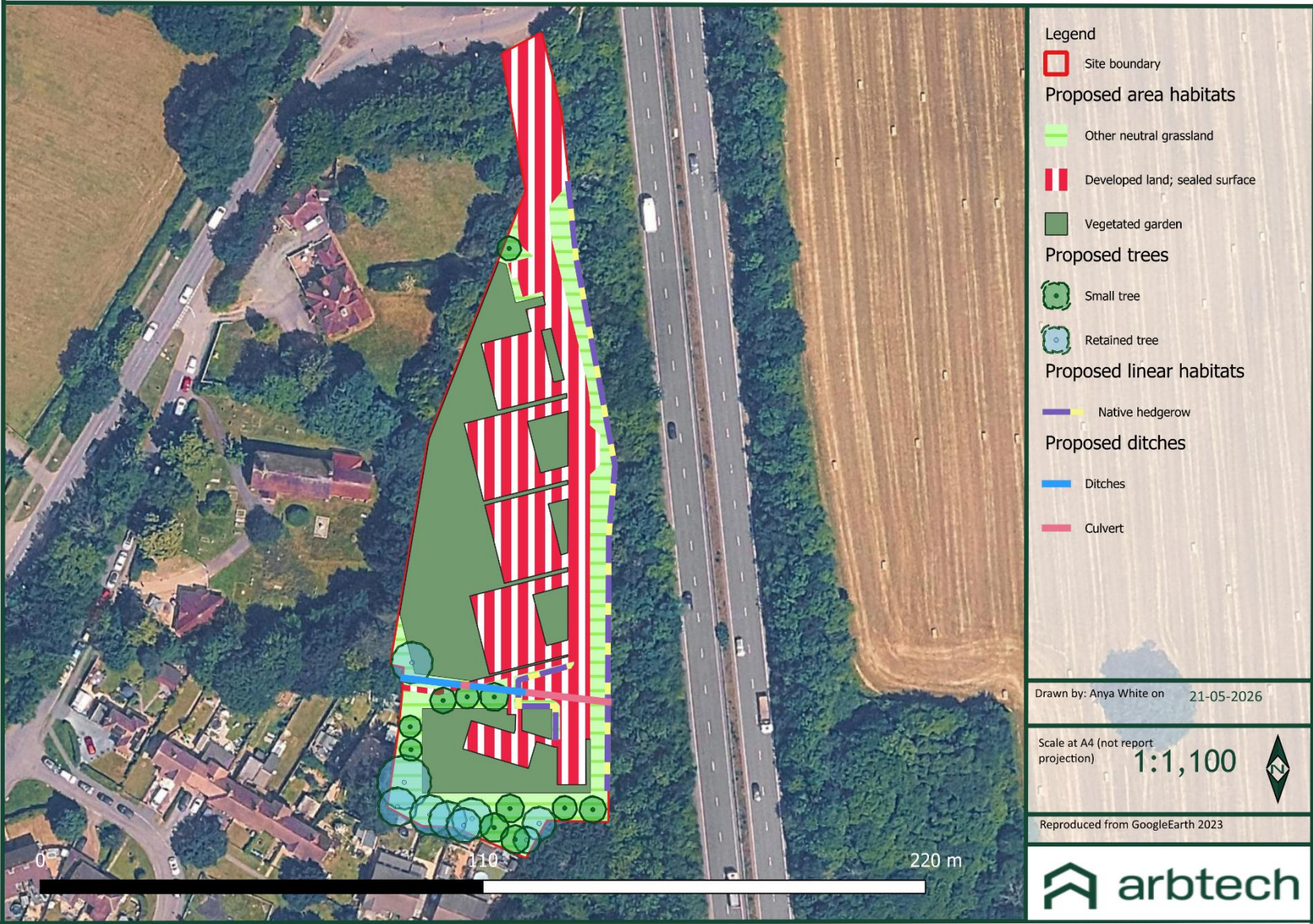
BNG Informative	
Results	The current landscaping proposal generates a net loss of area-based habitat units (-69.75%), a net loss of watercourse habitats (-85.98%) and a net change of linear-based habitat units (N/A%) with unmet trading rules. In line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (2024), any loss of a habitat must be replaced on a like-for-like or like-for-better principle. At present, trading conditions are not satisfied for the loss of woodland and ditches (medium distinctiveness). With unmet trading conditions and a net loss, the proposal fails principal Rules 1 and 2 of BNG and is not compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024). In order to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for area-based habitats, a minimum area-based unit score of 11.11 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 8.05 units. However, in order to satisfy trading rules, 8.23 units of medium or better distinctiveness woodland must be provided. Similarly, to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for watercourse habitats, a minimum linear-based unit score of 0.67 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 0.59 units. Of these units, 0.55 units must be of a medium distinctiveness watercourse habitat to satisfy trading rules.
Recommendations and Next Steps	In order to achieve the required net gain in biodiversity as a result of the proposed development, the provision of additional or alternative landscaping should be explored and the proposed plans amended accordingly to achieve a net gain on site. The provisioning of additional landscaping should first be considered within the site boundary. There is limited scope on site and this provision may not be possible to achieve on site or adjacent with the current arrangement, due to the presence of vegetated gardens, and the fact that woodland felling has already occurred. Based on the proposed plans, it is unlikely that net gain will be achieved by ways of habitat creation/enhancement without significant changes to the proposals on site or require unfeasible commitments off-site. As such, a financial contribution to off-site ecological enhancements (i.e. purchasing biodiversity units) within an approved scheme is required to make up the +10% net gain for area-based habitat units. The mechanism for securing this off-setting will need to be proposed to and confirmed by the LPA and would be linked to the application through a planning obligation Section 106 (s106) agreement. The proposed habitat compensation must be of an appropriate distinctiveness to meet the trading rules of BNG.

	A summary as to what off-site units will be required is detailed in the table below. <table><tr><td></td><td>Distinctiveness</td><td>Broad Habitat Group</td><td>Habitat</td><td>Units Required</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Area-Based</td><td>Medium</td><td>Woodland</td><td>Other woodland; broadleaved</td><td>8.23</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Total</td><td>8.23</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Watercourse</td><td>Medium</td><td>Ditches</td><td>Ditches</td><td>0.55</td></tr><tr><td>Any</td><td>Any</td><td>Any</td><td>0.04</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Total</td><td>0.59</td></tr></table>		Distinctiveness	Broad Habitat Group	Habitat	Units Required	Area-Based	Medium	Woodland	Other woodland; broadleaved	8.23	Total			8.23	Watercourse	Medium	Ditches	Ditches	0.55	Any	Any	Any	0.04	Total			0.59
	Distinctiveness	Broad Habitat Group	Habitat	Units Required																								
Area-Based	Medium	Woodland	Other woodland; broadleaved	8.23																								
	Total			8.23																								
Watercourse	Medium	Ditches	Ditches	0.55																								
	Any	Any	Any	0.04																								
	Total			0.59																								
Pre-Commencement	A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered. These additional requirements can only be actioned following the finalisation of the BNG assessment – be it on-site or off-site net gains sought.																											
BNG Mitigation Hierarchy																												
Avoidance	N/A – retrospective																											
Minimisation	N/A – retrospective																											
Mitigation	Land that is not buildings, hardstanding or driveway is to become vegetated garden, as stated in the rules surrounding private gardens.																											
Offset	Compensation for area-based and watercourse habitats will be sought offsite.																											

Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan



LAND AT MILL LANE, SAYERS COMMON, WEST SUSSEX BN6 9JA



SCALE 1950 © AI

DRAFT

1. [How to Use the Google Analytics Debugger](#)



The Workshop, until a further notice, will be held at the
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Appendix 4: Headline BNG Results

FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	-7.04		
	Hedgerow units	0.36		
	Watercourse units	-0.53		
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	-69.75%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲	
	Hedgerow units	N/A	0 baseline units - % cannot be calculated	
	Watercourse units	-85.98%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲	
Trading rules satisfied?		No - Check Trading Summaries ▲		
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Area habitat units	10.00%	10.10	11.11	8.05
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.61	0.67	0.59
No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓				

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Other woodland; broadleaved; assessed using 'Woodland' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria					
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	3
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <10% cover.	<i>Rhododendron</i> or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species >10% cover.	3
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	3
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	3
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted.	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category.	3
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	3

Condition Assessment Criteria					
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator
H	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	3
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	3
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	3
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	3
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	3
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	3
Total Score (out of a possible 39)					39
Condition Assessment Result				Condition Assessment Score	
Total score >32 (33 to 39)				Good (3)	
Total score 26 to 32				Moderate (2)	
Total score <26 (13 to 25)				Poor (1)	
					Good

Ditch; assessed using 'Ditch' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Y	
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20m ditch length.	Y	
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Y	
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	Y	
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	Y	
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50cm in minor ditches and 1m in main drains.	Y	
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	Y	
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species.	Y	
Number of criteria passed		8	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓	
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)	✓	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	✓	

Scattered trees condition assessment.

	Criteria Description	Criteria Passed?
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	N
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Y
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y
		Total 3/6
	Condition Moderate due to passing 3 of 6 criteria and all essential criteria.	

Scattered trees condition assessment.

	Criteria Description	Criteria Passed?
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Y
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Y
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Y
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y
		Total 5/6
	Condition Good due to passing 5 of 6 criteria and all essential criteria.	

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Neutral Grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate or good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20% is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Y	
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Y	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	
Essential criterion for good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N	
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Non-acid grassland types (result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F		Good (3)	✓
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A		Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F		Poor (1)	✓

Hedgerow; assessed using 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet:

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes			
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, & D)	Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	N
A2. Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	N
B1. Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	N
B2. Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness', but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Y

C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N
C2. Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y
D1. Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	N
D2. Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	Y
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees			
Category	Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2	Weighting (score)	
Good	No more than 2 failures in total AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group	3	
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more	2	

	than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and C2 = moderate condition)		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and B2 = poor condition)	1	
Score achieved:	Poor		

Scattered trees condition assessment.

	Criteria Description	Criteria Passed?
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	N
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y
		Total 2/6
	Condition Poor due to passing 3 of 6 criteria and all essential criteria.	

Ditch; assessed using 'Ditch' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Y	
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20m ditch length.	N	
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Y	
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	N	
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	N	
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50cm in minor ditches and 1m in main drains.	N	
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	Y	
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species.	Y	
Number of criteria passed		4	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓	
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	✓	

