



Biodiversity Net Gain Statement

Project Title: Construction of 2 single span polytunnels. Planning reference DM/25/2530

Applicant: Jonathan Bradford, Orchard Nursery Plant Centre Ltd

Site Address: Orchard Nursery, Holtye Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3PP

Date: 6th November 2025

Prepared by: Jonathan Bradford

1. Introduction

We have deemed that this development requires the completion of a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. This Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Statement sets out how the proposed development will achieve measurable improvements to biodiversity in accordance with the Environment Act 2021, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and DEFRA's Biodiversity Metric [version 1.2.3].

The purpose of this statement is to:

- Summarise baseline ecological conditions;
- Describe proposed habitat creation and enhancement measures; and
- Demonstrate how the project achieves at least a **10% net gain** in biodiversity value.

2. Baseline Conditions

A baseline biodiversity assessment has been undertaken for the site in line with the DEFRA Metric methodology.

Survey Date: 1st November 2025

Performed By: Jonathan Bradford

Habitat Types Recorded: Grassland, Urban and Cropland

Total Baseline Habitat Units: 3.8174

Total Baseline Hedgerow Units: 1.3360

Notable Species or Features: No notable species found

3. Proposed Development and BNG Measures

The proposed development will integrate biodiversity enhancements throughout the site and ensure a measurable **minimum 10% net gain** in biodiversity value.

Key Proposed Measures Include:

- The creation of a new improved grassland area on a patch of land that is currently spoil from previous development.
- The enhancement of an area of grassland that will be allowed to grow and develop as a wildflower meadow with just 1 cut a year at the correct time to allow the diverse range of plants to self-seed. Any cuttings will be left on the ground for a minimum of 2 weeks to allow the dispersal of seed and insects.
- The existing orchard will be enhanced with the planting of naturalising bulbs, something that we have been doing over the last 3 years already, to create a nectar rich environment for bees and other pollinating insects.
- Being the owners of the land for over 40 years we are continually improving areas of the land to increase our biodiversity with the reduction of chemical controls such as weedkillers to a bare minimum, finding ways to combat issues with other methods.

4. Biodiversity Metric Summary

As per the completed Small Scale Metrics Excel Spreadsheet please see the headline figures below:

Metric Component	Baseline Units	Post-Development Units	Net Change	% Gain
Habitat Units	3.8174	4.2821	0.4647	12.17%
Hedgerow Units	1.3360	1.9581	0.6221	46.56%
Total	5.1534	6.2402	1.0868	21.09%

Overall Biodiversity Net Gain Achieved: 21.09%

5. Long-Term Management and Monitoring

We will continue to assess each habitat to ensure the new / enhanced areas establish and are maintained in good condition, supporting long-term biodiversity outcomes.

Key Actions Include:

- Monitoring habitat condition every 5 years;
- Implementing adaptive management where required;

6. Conclusion

The proposed development demonstrates compliance with the statutory minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain requirement and contributes positively to local ecological networks and nature recovery targets.

All identified measures will be secured through appropriate planning conditions or obligations, and long-term management will ensure the sustainability of biodiversity benefits.

As a naturally biodiverse site we will continue to support our natural environment with our practices and endeavour to improve them continually.