

Rampion 2 Wind Farm Category 6: Environmental Statement Volume 4, Appendix 22.15: Biodiversity Net Gain information (clean) Date: April 2024 Revision B

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Rampion Extension Development Limited (RED) has made a commitment for the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm ('Rampion 2' and 'the Proposed Development') to deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of at least 10% for all onshore and intertidal (above the low water mark) habitats subject to permanent or temporary losses as a result of the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. This BNG is measured using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric ('the metric') (Defra, 2023) (updated in 2024).
- 1.1.2 A commitment to BNG is a positive benefit of the Proposed Development, however it is not a form of mitigation. Mitigation for individual ecological features is described within [Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2](#) (Document Reference: 6.2.22) of the ES.
- 1.1.3 BNG is calculated based on a realistic worst-case scenario based on [Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2](#) (Document Reference: 6.2.4) of the ES and the 'Maximum design scenario' described in [Section 22.7 of Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2](#) (Document Reference: 6.2.22) of the ES.
- 1.1.4 This Appendix should be read in conjunction with:
- [Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2](#) (Document Reference: 6.2.4) of the ES;
 - [Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2](#) (Document Reference: 6.2.22) of the ES;
 - [Appendix 22.1: Policy and legislation tables, Volume 4](#) (Document Reference: 6.4.22.1) of the ES; and
 - [Appendix 22.3: Extended Phase 1 habitat survey report, Volume 4](#) (Document Reference: 6.4.22.3) of the ES.

1.2 Purpose of this Appendix

- 1.2.1 This biodiversity net gain information describes the methods and results of the analysis using the metric, the assumptions used to define a realistic worst-case scenario, the approach to refining BNG calculations at the detailed design stage, approach to delivering newly created and enhanced habitats to meet the target and how these will be secured for a period of at least 30 years.

Structure of this Appendix

- 1.2.2 The remainder of the Appendix is structured as follows:
- **Section 2: Legislative and policy context;**

- **Section 3: Measuring Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG);**
- **Section 4: Biodiversity metric outputs;**
- **Section 5: Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain;**
- **Section 6: Glossary of terms and abbreviations; and**
- **Section 7: References.**

2. Legislative and policy context

2.1 Legislation and national policy

- 2.1.1 The UK Government has repeatedly expressed the need to reverse the current trend in biodiversity loss being suffered across the UK, with a move towards a transitional position of no net loss followed by a realisation of BNG within various strategy documents. The “*Natural Environment White Paper - The natural choice: securing the value of nature*” (2011) and related strategy document “*Biodiversity 2020: A system for England’s wildlife and ecosystems services*” (2011) first described a transition towards BNG (to be achieved by 2020) to be implemented via government policy (for example through describing the concept robustly in the National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2021)). However, there has been a realisation that the current voluntary and arbitrary system has failed to deliver the aims of the strategy. Therefore, a universal system for delivering BNG in England was described in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)’s “*A Green Future: Our 25-year plan to improve the environment*” (2018). This has culminated in a mandatory system for BNG, being written into legislation in the Environment Act 2021. This system will differ dependent on whether the development in question is covered by the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) or the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 2.1.2 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) will need to deliver BNG in line with the relevant National Policy Statement (NPS) (or where a BNG policy is absent a Biodiversity Gain Statement published by the Secretary of State) by November 2025. The current Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) was published in 2011 (Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)) and therefore does not include a statement regarding BNG. The replacement for this NPS (‘draft EN-1’), published in March 2023 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)) contains a statement encouraging applicants to deliver BNG (see paragraph 4.5.5) measured using the most current version of the Defra and Natural England (2023) (updated in 2024) biodiversity metric. It also recommends delivery of BNG in a manner that best contributes to the achievement of wider strategic outcomes for biodiversity (as described in a Local Nature Recovery Strategy where available). It is expected that this will be altered to be in line with the Environment Act 2021 post the mandatory requirement coming in to force in 2025. Regardless, it is clear that Rampion 2 is not currently mandated to provide BNG based on a Development Consent Order Application (DCO) in 2023.
- 2.1.3 RED is seeking to deliver a renewable energy project that provides a positive legacy for the environment, both through delivery of low carbon electricity and by mitigating and compensating for the effects associated with construction and operation. As part of this effort, RED is making a commitment, to be secured through a requirement within the DCO, to deliver a BNG for onshore habitats of at least 10% in order to deliver a positive outcome for biodiversity.

2.2 Local planning policy

2.2.1 **Appendix 22.1: Policy and legislation tables, Volume 4** (Document Reference: 6.4.22.1) of the ES provides local planning policy relevant to the delivery of BNG. This is both by direct references to BNG, or in older documents, references to enhance biodiversity. The relevant policies are listed below:

- Arun District Council (2018), Adopted Arun Local Plan 2011 – 2031 (July 2018) - Policy ENV DM5 Development and biodiversity;
- South Downs National Park Authority (2019), Adopted South Downs Local Plan 2014 – 2033 (July 2019) – Strategic Policy SD9 Biodiversity and geodiversity;
- Horsham District Council (2015), Horsham District Planning Framework (excluding the South Downs National Park) (2015) – Policy 31 Green infrastructure and biodiversity;
- Horsham District Council (2020) Draft Horsham District Local Plan 2019 – 2036 (2018) - Policy 31 Green infrastructure and biodiversity;
- Mid Sussex District Council (2018) Mid-Sussex District Plan 2014 – 2031 (2018) – Policy DP38 Biodiversity.

2.2.2 These policies outline the expectations of local planning authorities that the majority of developments should seek to enhance biodiversity as a matter of course, as opposed to resulting in a net deterioration of the environment.

3. Measuring Biodiversity Net Gain

- 3.1.1 The approach to BNG for the Proposed Development has been developed to be in line with the mandatory system developed by Natural England that is underpinned by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and this Biodiversity Net Gain Information Annex should be read in conjunction with the associated guidance (Defra 2023, updated 2024). BNG is a concept that in principle is straightforward (i.e. provide more biodiversity than that which is lost to development). The metric works by considering:
- extent of habitat (measured in hectares (ha) or kilometres dependent on whether the habitat is linear or area-based);
 - how distinctive the habitat is (its complexity, rarity, diversity etc.);
 - its condition (its structure and management); and
 - its strategic location.
- 3.1.2 These elements are used both to determine the biodiversity value (measured in ‘habitat units’, ‘hedgerow units’ and/or ‘river units’ – see Table 6.1 for definitions) of the losses due to a particular development, but also the gains made from its proposed habitat enhancement and creation measures.
- 3.1.3 The biodiversity value of the gains is refined based on a number of risk multipliers that account for the difficulty of habitat creation (e.g. it is easier to create ‘medium distinctiveness’ habitats such as other neutral grassland, than a ‘very high distinctiveness’ active raised bog), the time it takes for a habitat to reach target condition (e.g. a grassland reaches target condition quicker than a woodland), the location of delivery (i.e. habitat creation local to the biodiversity loss is worth more than habitat creation unrelated to the impact) and the time of delivery (e.g. before, during or after the losses have occurred).
- 3.1.4 The metric is also framed by a set of principles that seek to ensure:
- adherence to the mitigation hierarchy (i.e., avoid, mitigate, compensate, enhance);
 - the exclusion of designated sites and irreplaceable habitats from the main calculations (encouraging their avoidance and ensuring any losses are compensated for on a case-by-case basis);
 - the “like for like or better” replacement of habitats (e.g., removal of valuable woodland, requires replacement of woodland habitat, as opposed to replacement with grassland or other habitats that may provide more biodiversity unit value per hectare of creation). These elements are known as the “trading rules” (see **Table 3-1**);
 - habitats provided to deliver BNG will be managed for a minimum period of 30 years; and
 - losses and deterioration of irreplaceable or very high distinctiveness habitat cannot be accounted for through this metric.

Table 3-1 Trading rules within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric

Habitat distinctiveness (baseline)	Distinctiveness of replacement habitat required
Very high	<i>“Losses are not permitted within this metric AND bespoke assessment and compensation are required.”</i>
High	<i>“Losses must be replaced with area units of the same habitat type.”</i>
Medium	<p><i>“Losses must be replaced by area units of either:</i></p> <p><i>Medium distinctiveness habitats within the same broad habitat type</i></p> <p><i>OR</i></p> <p><i>Any habitat from a higher distinctiveness band (from any broad habitat type)”</i></p>
Low	<i>“Losses must be replaced with area units of the same or higher distinctiveness band”</i>
Very low	<i>“Not applicable” (i.e., replacement not required)</i>

3.1.5 It is also notable that this system does not remove the legal obligations with regard to protected or notable species, or statutorily designated sites. These are considered where necessary and detailed within **Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2** (Document Reference: 6.2.22) of the ES.

3.1.6 The adoption of the metric for Rampion 2 results in the provision of a calculation of biodiversity losses due to permanent infrastructure and temporary construction works (based on a realistic worst-case scenario), and gains associated with reinstatement of habitats subject to temporary works and the creation of new habitat at the onshore substation site. Also calculated is the estimated size of the deficit¹ (measured in habitat, hedgerow and river units – referred to collectively as biodiversity units in this Appendix) that will need to be met through the purchase of biodiversity units from third party providers.

3.1.7 The following assumptions form the basis for the realistic worst-case scenario used as the basis for calculations:

- the proposed DCO Order Limits do not represent temporary habitat loss as they are drawn to enable micro-siting, the maximum design scenario (e.g., up

¹ The deficit is the number of biodiversity units required to achieve a state of no net loss (i.e. compensation) and a BNG of at least 10%. Separate deficits are calculated for habitat, hedgerow and river units.

to four cables), provide limits of deviation and different approaches to construction;

- the onshore cable corridor (where open cut trenching is proposed), trenchless crossing compounds, temporary construction compounds, temporary construction accesses and onshore substation footprint represent temporary and permanent habitat loss (operational access points are excluded as light access once or twice per year with a van or 4x4 required only, using existing tracks or driving along field edges as per current practice by land managers). Therefore, the habitats that make up these areas represent the baseline;
- within specified areas of loss, the **Vegetation Retention Plan** within **Appendix B** of the **Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)** (Document Reference: 7.2) specifies those habitats that are to be retained;
- all habitat within trenchless crossing areas will be retained (other than in a small number of occurrences where a haul road is still required);
- habitats temporarily affected by construction will be reinstated within two years of loss other than in specific locations such as the onshore substation (see embedded environmental measure C-103);
- reinstated habitats (other than woodland) will be replaced with the same habitat type and at the same habitat condition as in the baseline (i.e. there is no enhancement proposed²);
- woodland (all types) lost temporarily will be replaced with scrub (due to need to protect transmission cables from root damage caused by large trees);
- areas listed on the Priority Habitat Inventory as floodplain and coastal grazing marsh that support grassland (as opposed to where arable conversion has taken place) are specified as this habitat type (i.e., not as the improved pasture shown on Phase 1 habitat maps – see **Appendix 22.3: Extended Phase 1 habitat survey report, Volume 4** (Document Reference: 6.4.22.3) of the ES;
- management of hedgerows, scrub and trees along existing tracks and highways (as per typical management to reduce overhang), or the reduction in height of hedgerows and scrub (to 0.9m) for visibility splays at access/egress points from the highway is assumed to be retained habitat (see **Outline Code of Construction Practice**) (Document Reference: 7.2);
- strategic significance has been applied to each habitat as described in **Table 4-1; Table 4-2** and **Table 4-3**. However, this has been completed without any Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) being published. Should an LNRS be published post DCO award this will be further considered during the detailed design phase (see **Section 5**); and

² No enhancement is specified as ensuring specified enhancements of biodiversity are achieved in a narrow corridor across multiple landowners is unrealistic, especially as the transmission assets will need to be sold to an Offshore Transmission Operator once completed (as per Electricity (Competitive Tenders for Offshore Transmission Licences) Regulations 2009).

- habitats that can be temporarily lost and reinstated to baseline condition within 2 years of loss are entered into the metric and shown as retained. For Rampion 2, this status has not been attributed to any habitats as the commitment to reinstate has been stated as 2 years (see **Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2** (Document Reference: 6.2.22) of the ES) at this juncture as a detailed schedule will not be available until the detailed design phase.

4. Biodiversity Metric Outputs

4.1 Baseline conditions

- 4.1.1 A classification of the habitats on-site and their condition was undertaken between April 2020 and March 2023 (see [Appendix 22.3: Extended Phase 1 habitat survey report, Volume 4](#) (Document Reference: 6.2.22) of the ES). The approach taken to gather the ecological baseline for the sites accords with that outlined in the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) 'Good Practice Guidelines for Habitats and Species' (2021) and generally following the condition assessment criteria as outlined in the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Technical Annex 2 – Technical Information (Natural England and Other Parties, 2023³). As the guidelines for habitat condition have evolved over the course of the data collection period (from those published with The Biodiversity Metric 2.0, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.0), professional judgement has been used to determine a final condition status, using survey notes against the latest published criteria. This has also been necessary for areas where habitats were recorded from Public Rights of Way (PRoW) due to land access restrictions, where habitat type could be established however details underpinning habitat condition criteria could not.
- 4.1.2 The baseline conditions across the onshore cable route are expected to remain relatively static between the submission of the DCO Application and the commencement of construction works. However, some changes may occur such as changes in locations of agri-environment prescriptions, the planting of new hedgerows and changes associated with highway works or local planning applications coming forward. Given the scale of the Proposed Development and the uncertainty in what will or will not be present by the expected construction commencement in 2025 all calculations have been undertaken based on existing survey information. During the detailed design phase, a full survey of affected habitats will be undertaken using the UK Habitat Classification version 2 and the condition assessment criteria published alongside the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2023) (updated in 2024).
- 4.1.3 **Table 4-1 to Table 4-3** show a summary of the data input to the Statutory Biodiversity metric to form the baseline with each habitat type and its size noted, the unit value of each habitat type and information on the extent of habitat retained⁴, reinstated or permanently lost. The information is presented by local authority area (Arun District, Horsham District and Mid-Sussex District). **Table 4-4 to Table 4-6** are also included showing the same information for the South Downs National Park. Please note that this is not additional habitat losses, rather it is a subset of losses already displayed for Arun District and Horsham District.

³ This guidance has been used, as it was in place during the period when field survey data was being collated.

⁴ Within the metric areas referred to in this Appendix to be 'reinstated' are entered as 'Site Habitat Creation'.

Table 4-1 Baseline input of area-based habitat units and habitat status following temporary and permanent habitat loss

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Arun District (including area within South Downs National Park)							
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (CFGM)⁵	Moderate	1.75	24.15	0.00	1.75	0.00	Formally identified in local strategy. CFGM in the Arun Valley. Areas lie within Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) (namely Climping to Houghton).
Other neutral grassland	Moderate	0.06	0.53	0.00	0.06	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Occurs in several small patches both within and outside BOAs and the South Downs National Park (SDNP).
Modified grassland	Poor	10.18	20.36	0.00	10.18	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Modified grassland	Moderate	2.55	10.20	0.00	2.55	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat

⁵ Habitat type in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric is “Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM”

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
							is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Cereal crops	Condition assessment N/A	51.91	103.82	0.00	51.91	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Arable field margins tussocky⁶	Condition assessment N/A	1.34	5.36	0.00	1.34	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Ruderal / Ephemeral	Poor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Bare ground	Poor	0.15	0.30	0.00	0.15	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat

⁶ A proxy for habitat strips along arable field edges (a habitat that changes frequently due to typical farm management)

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
							is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Developed land sealed surface	N/A – Other	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. overlap)
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	0.08	0.70	0.00	0.08	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Several woodland blocks within or close to various BOAs and / or the SDNP. Reinstatement as mixed scrub.
Mixed scrub	Moderate	0.20	1.76	0.00	0.20	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Scrub within or close to various BOAs and / or the SDNP.
Rural tree	Good	0.05	0.66	0.00	0.05	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Arun District totals		68.32	167.84	0.00	68.32	0.00	
Horsham District (including area within South Downs National Park)							
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (CFGM)	Moderate	0.75	10.35	0.00	0.75	0.00	Formally identified in local strategy. CFGM in the Adur Valleys. Area lies within Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) known as Woodmill Stream to Adur.
Other neutral grassland	Moderate	0.90	7.92	0.00	0.90	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Occurs in several small patches both within and outside BOAs and the South Downs National Park (SDNP).
Modified grassland	Poor	59.64	119.28	0.00	56.04	3.6	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Modified grassland	Moderate	14.91	59.64	0.00	14.91	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
							the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Cereal crops	Condition assessment N/A	25.56	51.12	0.00	17.19	8.37	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Arable field margins tussocky	Condition assessment N/A	0.66	2.64	0.00	0.66	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Ruderal / Ephemeral	Poor	0.03	0.06	0.00	0.03	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Bare ground	Poor	0.11	0.22	0.00	0.11	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Developed land sealed surface	N/A – Other	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. overlap)
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	0.06	0.83	0.00	0.06	0.00	Formally identified in local strategy within SDNP. Reinstated with mixed scrub.
Other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	0.26	2.29	0.12	0.14	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Several woodland blocks within or close to various BOAs and / or the SDNP. Reinstated with mixed scrub.
Mixed scrub	Moderate	0.79	6.95	0.00	0.79	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Scrub within or close to various BOAs and / or the SDNP.
Rural tree	Good	0.18	2.38	0.00	0.18	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Three individual oak trees not related to hedgerows, woodland etc.

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Horsham District totals		104.16	263.67	0.12	92.07	11.97	
Mid-Sussex District							
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (CFGM)	Moderate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A – not present.
Other neutral grassland	Moderate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A – not present.
Modified grassland	Poor	2.91	5.82	0.00	2.91	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA.
Modified grassland	Moderate	0.73	2.92	0.00	0.73	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA.

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Cereal crops	Condition assessment N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A – not present.
Arable field margins tussocky	Condition assessment N/A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A – not present.
Ruderal / Ephemeral	Poor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A – not present.
Bare ground	Poor	0.91	1.82	0.00	0.91	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA.
Developed land sealed surface	N/A – Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A – not present.
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A – not present.
Other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	0.12	1.06	0.00	0.00	0.12	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Mixed scrub	Moderate	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.01	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
Rural tree	Good	0.00	0.000.	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A – not present.
Mid-Sussex District totals	-	4.68	11.70	0.00	4.56	0.12	

Table 4-2 Baseline input of hedgerow units and hedgerow status following temporary and permanent habitat loss

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
Arun District (including area within South Downs National Park)							
Species-rich native hedgerow	Good	0.0363	0.48	0.0281	0.0083	0.00	All hedgerows / tree lines have been assumed to be 'Location ecologically desirable but not
Species-rich native hedgerow	Moderate	0.0726	0.64	0.0561	0.0165	0.00	

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
Species-rich native hedgerow	Poor	0.0363	0.16	0.0281	0.0083	0.00	in local strategy' to represent their importance as habitats in their own right and for connectivity.
Native hedgerow	Moderate	0.1617	0.71	0.0990	0.0627	0.00	
Native hedgerow (intact native hedgerow)	Poor	0.1617	0.36	0.0990	0.0627	0.00	
Native hedgerow (defunct native hedgerow)	Poor	0.0644	0.14	0.0462	0.0181	0.00	
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Good	0.0083	0.16	0.0066	0.0017	0.00	
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Moderate	0.0165	0.22	0.0099	0.0066	0.00	

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Poor	0.0083	0.05	0.0066	0.0017	0.00	
Native hedgerow with trees	Moderate	0.0891	0.78	0.0363	0.0528	0.00	
Native hedgerow with trees	Poor	0.0891	0.39	0.0363	0.0528	0.00	
Line of trees (broadleaved)	Moderate	0.7669	3.37	0.5394	0.2274	0.00	
Line of trees (mixed)	Moderate	0.0563	0.25	0.0470	0.0094	0.00	
Arun District totals		1.5673	7.72	1.0385	0.5289	0.00	
Horsham District (including area within South Downs National Park)							
Species-rich native hedgerow	Good	0.1604	2.12	0.1239	0.0364	0.0000	All hedgerows / tree lines have been assumed to

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
Species-rich native hedgerow	Moderate	0.3208	2.82	0.2479	0.0729	0.0000	be 'Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy' to represent their importance as habitats in their own right and for connectivity.
Species-rich native hedgerow	Poor	0.1604	0.71	0.1239	0.0365	0.0000	
Native hedgerow	Moderate	0.7144	3.14	0.4374	0.1768	0.1002	
Native hedgerow (intact native hedgerow)	Poor	0.7144	1.57	0.4374	0.2770	0.0000	
Native hedgerow (defunct native hedgerow)	Poor	0.2843	0.63	0.2041	0.0000	0.0802	
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Good	0.0365	0.72	0.0292	0.0073	0.0000	
Species-rich native	Moderate	0.0729	0.96	0.0437	0.0295	0.0000	

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
hedgerow with trees							
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Poor	0.0365	0.24	0.0292	0.0073	0.0000	
Native hedgerow with trees	Moderate	0.3937	3.46	0.1604	0.00	0.2333	
Native hedgerow with trees	Poor	0.3937	1.73	0.1604	0.00	0.2333	
Line of trees (broadleaved)	Moderate	1.607	7.07	1.2632	0.3440	0.0000	
Line of trees (mixed)	Moderate	0.1181	0.52	0.0984	0.0197	0.0000	
Horsham District totals		5.0131	25.70	3.3590	1.0071	0.6470	
Mid-Sussex District							

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
Species-rich native hedgerow	Good	0.0233	0.31	0.0180	0.0053	0.000	All hedgerows / tree lines have been assumed to be 'Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy' to represent their importance as habitats in their own right and for connectivity
Species-rich native hedgerow	Moderate	0.0467	0.41	0.0360	0.0106	0.000	
Species-rich native hedgerow	Poor	0.0233	0.10	0.0180	0.0053	0.000	
Native hedgerow	Moderate	0.1039	0.46	0.0636	0.0403	0.000	
Native hedgerow (intact native hedgerow)	Poor	0.1039	0.23	0.0636	0.0403	0.000	
Native hedgerow (defunct native hedgerow)	Poor	0.0413	0.09	0.0297	0.0117	0.000	
Species-rich native	Good	0.0053	0.10	0.0042	0.0011	0.000	

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
hedgerow with trees							
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Moderate	0.0106	0.14	0.0064	0.0042	0.000	
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Poor	0.0053	0.03	0.0042	0.0011	0.000	
Native hedgerow with trees	Moderate	0.0572	0.50	0.0233	0.0339	0.000	
Native hedgerow with trees	Poor	0.0572	0.25	0.0233	0.0339	0.000	
Line of trees (broadleaved)	Moderate	0.0760	0.33	0.0654	0.0105	0.000	
Line of trees (mixed)	Moderate	0.0056	0.02	0.0047	0.0009	0.000	
Mid-Sussex District totals		0.5596	2.99	0.3605	0.1991	0.000	

Table 4-3 Baseline input of river units and habitat status following temporary habitat loss

Habitat type	River condition	Length (km)	River units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Notes
Arun District (including areas within South Downs National Park)							
Other rivers and streams	Moderate	0.03	0.20	0.00	0.03	0.00	All streams and ditches have been assumed to be 'Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy' to represent their importance as habitats in their own right and for connectivity.
Other rivers and streams	Poor	0.03	0.40	0.00	0.03	0.00	
Ditches	Poor	0.30	1.32	0.00	0.30	0.00	
Arun District totals		0.36	1.92	0.00	0.36	0.00	
Horsham District (including areas within South Downs National Park)							
Other rivers and streams	Moderate	0.12	0.79	0.00	0.12	0.00	
Other rivers and streams	Poor	0.12	1.58	0.00	0.12	0.00	
Ditches	Poor	0.06	0.26	0.00	0.06	0.00	
Horsham District totals		0.30	2.64	0.00	0.30		

There are no watercourses within the Mid-Sussex District area under consideration.

Table 4-4 Baseline input of area-based habitat units and habitat status following temporary and permanent habitat loss in the South Downs National Park

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (CFGM)	Moderate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A.
Other neutral grassland	Moderate	0.92	8.10	0.00	0.92	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
Modified grassland	Poor	51.08	102.16	0.00	51.08	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Modified grassland	Moderate	12.77	51.08	0.00	12.77	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Cereal crops	Condition assessment N/A	48.18	96.37	0.00	48.18	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Arable field margins tussocky	Condition assessment N/A	1.24	4.96	0.00	1.24	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Ruderal / Ephemeral	Poor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Bare ground	Poor	0.22	0.44	0.00	0.22	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. Habitat is widespread and common and not the target of any BOA (although areas do overlap).
Developed land sealed surface	N/A – Other	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy. overlap)

Habitat type	Habitat condition	Extent (ha)	Habitat units	Areas retained (ha)	Areas to be reinstated (ha)	Areas permanently lost (ha)	Strategic significance
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	0.06	0.83	0.00	0.06	0.00	Formally identified in local strategy..
Other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	0.26	2.33	0.00	0.26	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
Mixed scrub	Moderate	0.76	6.69	0.00	0.76	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
Rural tree	Good	0.08	1.06	0.00	0.08	0.00	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
TOTAL	-	115.74	13.00	0.00	115.74	0.00	

Table 4-5 Baseline input of hedgerow units and hedgerow status following temporary and permanent habitat loss in the South Downs National Park

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
Species-rich native hedgerow	Good	0.1059	1.4	0.0820	0.0241	0.00	All hedgerows / tree lines have been assumed to

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
Species-rich native hedgerow	Moderate	0.2117	1.86	0.1636	0.0481	0.00	be 'Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy' to represent their importance as habitats in their own right and for connectivity.
Species-rich native hedgerow	Poor	0.1059	0.47	0.0818	0.0241	0.00	
Native hedgerow	Moderate	0.4715	2.07	0.2887	0.1828	0.00	
Native hedgerow (intact native hedgerow)	Poor	0.4715	1.04	0.2887	0.1828	0.00	
Native hedgerow (defunct native hedgerow)	Poor	0.1876	0.41	0.1347	0.0529	0.00	
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Good	0.0241	0.48	0.0192	0.0048	0.00	
Species-rich native	Moderate	0.0481	0.64	0.0289	0.0192	0.00	

Habitat type	Hedgerow condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Strategic significance
hedgerow with trees							
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Poor	0.0241	0.16	0.0192	0.0048	0.00	
Native hedgerow with trees	Moderate	0.2598	2.29	0.1059	0.1540	0.00	
Native hedgerow with trees	Poor	0.2598	1.14	0.1059	0.1540	0.00	
Line of trees (broadleaved)	Moderate	1.0607	4.67	0.8337	0.2271	0.00	
Line of trees (mixed)	Moderate	0.0779	0.34	0.0649	0.0130	0.00	
TOTAL		3.3086	16.96	2.2170	1.0917	0.00	

Table 4-6 Baseline input of river units and habitat status following temporary habitat loss in the South Downs National Park

Habitat type	River condition	Length (km)	River units	Length retained (km)	Length reinstated (km)	Length permanently lost (km)	Notes
Other rivers and streams	Moderate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	All streams and ditches have been assumed to be 'Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy' to represent their importance as habitats in their own right and for connectivity.
Other rivers and streams	Poor	0.04	0.53	0.00	0.04	0.00	
Ditches	Poor	0.04	0.18	0.00	0.04	0.00	
TOTAL		0.08	0.71	0.00	0.08	0.00	

- 4.1.4 The total number of baseline units calculated for the worst-case realistic scenario are (across Arun, Horsham and Mid-Sussex Districts):
- Habitat units: 443.21;
 - Hedgerow units: 36.41; and
 - River units: 4.56.
- 4.1.5 The total number of units lost (net) to the Proposed Development are:
- Habitat units: 76.99;
 - Hedgerow units: 6.19; and
 - River units: 2.67.
- 4.1.6 The net losses in **paragraph 4.1.5** account for temporary and permanent loss of habitat and the reinstatement of habitats within the draft Order Limits during construction. They do not include the addition of ‘new’ habitat creation at the onshore substation site at Oakendene, or within the extension of the existing National Grid Bolney substation.
- 4.1.7 At the point of DCO application – this Annex takes a simplified approach to estimating the net losses – assuming no advanced delivery of units and no time delay. The net losses do not account for the construction schedule (see **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** (Document Reference: 6.2.4)). In reality, gains in biodiversity units will be delivered pre-commencement of construction both through advanced planting at the Oakendene substation location and through the securing of biodiversity units (see Section 5). However, habitats being temporarily lost to development will not be reinstated for up to two years. Within the metric advanced creation of habitats and delay in creating habitats following loss can be accounted for. However, without a detailed design of each stage it is not possible to confidently make assumptions. However, as the approach detailed in Section 5 will provide a large number of biodiversity units pre-commencement of construction it is a reasonable assumption to make that overall advances or delays would not alter the overall outcome markedly at this juncture (i.e. they will balance each other out). It should be noted that final calculations based on the detailed design will underpin the final delivery of the BNG commitment and account for all advances and delays shown in the detailed delivery timetable (see **Section 5**).

4.2 Habitat creation measures at onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation

- 4.2.1 Habitat creation (see **Section 6** Glossary, **Table 6-1** for definition) at the onshore substation site at Oakendene includes elements that will be delivered prior to construction commencing, those that will follow completion of the compound fencing and sustainable drainage infrastructure and finally habitats established following completion of construction.
- 4.2.2 The habitats to be created at the onshore substation site at Oakendene include:
- Other woodland; broadleaved – 0.8ha;

- Wet woodland – 1.9ha;
- Mixed scrub 0.9ha; and
- Individual trees – 9 standards to be planted.

4.2.3 The habitats to be created at the existing National Grid Bolney substation extension include:

- Individual trees – 31 standards to be planted.

4.2.4 The habitats to be created at the onshore substation site are assumed to be elements of BNG that will be secured in the long term (managed and monitored for at least 30 years) and therefore included in these outline calculations (see **Annex A**). However, this would need to be agreed with the landowner during future land rights negotiations. Any changes to the position described will be reflected in the calculations following detailed design.

4.2.5 The habitats to be created are outlined in **Table 4-7**. **Table 4-8** provides an overview of the losses and gains for the Proposed Development within the proposed DCO Order Limits.



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Table 4-7 Proposed area-based habitat creation and calculated units delivered at the onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension

Habitat type	Extent (ha)	Target condition	Time to target condition	Units delivered	Strategic significance
Other woodland; broadleaved	0.8	Moderate	15	4.13	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
Wet woodland	1.9	Moderate	15	9.85	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
Mixed scrub	0.9	Moderate	5	6.63	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
Individual trees	1.5	Moderate	27	5.04	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy.
TOTAL	5.1	-	-	25.65	

Table 4-8 Baseline input and calculated losses and gains of biodiversity units for the Proposed Development

Unit type	Baseline units	Post-construction units	Net unit change	Percentage change (%)	Unit shortfall inc. 10% BNG
Habitat	443.21	391.88	-51.35	-11.59	95.66
Hedgerow	36.41	30.22	-6.19	-17.00	9.83
River	4.56	1.89	-2.67	-58.55	3.12

- 4.2.6 Error! Reference source not found. shows that there will be a net loss to biodiversity as a result of the Proposed Development without the delivery of additional off-site biodiversity units. This loss is driven by permanent habitat loss (at the onshore substation site and the connection at the existing National Grid Bolney substation) and the reduction in biodiversity caused by the risk multipliers assigned to the reinstatement works that are aiming to deliver (for the vast majority of situations) the same habitat type at the same condition as in the current baseline.
- 4.2.7 In order to satisfy trading rules⁷, particular habitat units will be required to meet the BNG commitment. These are:
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh;
 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland;
 - Other woodland; broadleaved;
 - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees; and
 - Other rivers and streams.
- 4.2.8 Given the nature of some of the habitats (CFGM, lowland mixed deciduous woodland and other rivers and streams), it is likely that a large number of the units required to satisfy the trading rules will be delivered through enhancement of current habitats. This is because creation of these habitats is challenging as it is reliant on physical elements including topography (e.g., within a flood zone).
- 4.2.9 Habitat creation to deliver other types of woodland, grassland and scrub are likely to be created, leading to an overall increase in the extent of habitats that are managed for biodiversity.
- 4.2.10 The completed metric workbooks for Arun District Council (denoted by ADC), Horsham District Council (HDC), Mid-Sussex District Council (MS) and South Downs National Park (SNDP) are provided in **Annex A**.

⁷ Including additional rules around replacement of woodland of medium distinctiveness with woodland only as per Natural England and Other Parties, 2023 (User Guide - paragraph 6.8).



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5. Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain

5.1 Accounting for detailed design of the Proposed Development

- 5.1.1 The design of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development is described within [Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2](#) (Document Reference: 6.2.4) of the ES. The onshore elements of the Proposed Development include the flexibility, within specified limits, to design the Proposed Development to correspond with the rapidly evolving nature of the renewables industry. This flexibility has implications for the extent of habitat loss, for example should the maximum number of circuits (four cables) not be required then the size of the construction working area would be reduced, as would also be apparent if the number of temporary construction compounds were reduced. Therefore, a realistic worst-case scenario has been developed to both inform the assessment within [Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2](#) (Document Reference: 6.2.22) of the ES and the BNG calculations described within this biodiversity gain information.
- 5.1.2 However, this is likely to be an over-estimation of the losses that are likely to occur. Detailed design is likely to see the maximum design scenario reduced as efficiencies in delivery cost, schedule and electrical transmission are accounted for in detail.
- 5.1.3 The detailed design scenario will therefore be used to determine a more accurate estimation of the number of off-site units that will need to be delivered to ensure the commitment of delivering at least 10% BNG is met.
- 5.1.4 It is noted that the detailed design will be delivered in phases (e.g., detailed design of the onshore substation may precede that of the transmission cable). Therefore, the calculation of biodiversity losses and gains will also be delivered on a phase-by-phase basis. This is secured through Requirement 14 of the [Draft Development Consent Order \[REP2-002\]](#).

5.2 Timing of delivery

- 5.2.1 To avoid a deficit in biodiversity growing as the construction programme progresses, the Proposed Development will follow two courses of action. The first is to enable a progressive reinstatement of habitats, whilst the second is to secure 70%⁸ of the deficit (as calculated in Error! Reference source not found. – i.e., as a realistic worst-case scenario) prior to commencement of construction. Any remaining shortfall identified following detailed design will be secured prior to construction works being completed. This ensures that opportunities to deliver

⁸ It is expected that 70% of the deficit as calculated at Error! Reference source not found., will likely be equivalent to that which will be necessary to provide to secure the commitment once detailed design has been completed.

BNG within areas of temporary construction are retained should negotiations with the landowner be positive (for example reinstatement of a construction compound to a wildflower meadow, as opposed to an area of pasture).

5.2.2 Prior to commencement of construction, the Proposed Development will secure:

- 67 habitat units;
- 7 hedgerow units; and
- 2 river units.

5.2.3 When delivering these units ahead of the commencement of construction, RED will focus on obtaining units derived from the following habitats: coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, species rich native hedgerow with trees and other rivers and streams,

5.3 Sourcing Biodiversity Units

5.3.1 RED will not seek to secure and manage land for the purposes of BNG directly. This is because the onshore transmission assets, as required by law, will need to be passed to an Offshore Transmission Owner (OFTO) once energised, who may not have the capability for ongoing management. Therefore, biodiversity units would be sourced from landowners whose land is within the Proposed DCO Order Limits via a third party (such as strategic BNG scheme or via a habitat bank) and / or habitat banks that are being set up to service the mandatory BNG market that is created through the Environment Act 2021.

5.3.2 RED has not secured any off-site units currently. This is because the commencement of construction is not scheduled until 2026, and the detailed design phase is scheduled to take place post-DCO award. However, discussions have been held with affected landowners and a number of stakeholders.

5.3.3 At least three landowners with interest over large land holdings (including in Biodiversity Opportunity Areas identified by the Local Nature Partnership) have expressed detailed interest to RED for the delivery of biodiversity units in support of meeting the BNG commitment.

5.3.4 In addition to the landowners, the following organisations have been contacted:

- The Weald to Waves Project (part of the Sussex Regeneration Collective) which is coordinating landowners and identifying opportunities for biodiversity enhancement and associated funding streams across an area that overlaps with the proposed DCO Order Limits. This project is in the early stage of development and therefore, marketable biodiversity units should be available at the necessary juncture to enable the Proposed Development; and
- Commercial entities involved in habitat banking who have confirmed that they are in the process of developing relationships with various landowners and projects (such as the Weald to Waves Project) to bring biodiversity units to the developing market.

5.3.5 South Downs National Park Authority and West Sussex County Council have also identified that the Sussex Nature Partnership (in collaboration with the Environment Agency) is currently in the process of identifying strategic areas for

the delivery of BNG. Horsham District Council have also identified the Wilder Horsham initiative as being a potential provider.

5.3.6 The location of the biodiversity units will be important, both to minimise risk multipliers applying in the metric, but also to ensure that the positive legacy is local to the affected area. The location of the biodiversity units will be focused on areas inside or within close proximity to the proposed DCO Order Limits wherever possible⁹ with the intention being to deliver proportionally within the affected Local Planning Authority areas (e.g. BNG proportionate to losses within Arun District will be provided within Arun District if possible). However, dependent on availability of biodiversity units this area could be extended across West Sussex. However, a strict prioritisation exercise will take place with units being favoured (subject to reasonable cost consideration and type of unit needed to satisfy metric trading rules) in the following order:

- within the proposed DCO Order Limits or within 2km of them on land owned / managed by affected parties (this would attract a spatial risk of ‘compensation inside LPA or NCA or deemed to be sufficiently local to site of biodiversity loss’). Priority within this category would be given to any areas of land available for habitat enhancement / creation within a future Local Nature Recovery Strategy or through a strategic project;
- within 2km of the proposed DCO Order Limits on land owned / managed by those not directly affected by permanent or temporary land take due to the Proposed Development (this would attract a spatial risk of ‘compensation inside LPA or NCA or deemed to be sufficiently local to site of biodiversity loss’). Priority within this category would be given to any areas of land available for habitat enhancement / creation within a future Local Nature Recovery Strategy or through a strategic project ;
- within the River Arun Lower or Adur Upper Operational Catchments (this would attract a spatial risk of ‘compensation inside LPA or NCA or deemed to be sufficiently local to site of biodiversity loss’). Priority within this category would be given to any areas of land available for habitat enhancement / creation within a future Local Nature Recovery Strategy or through a strategic project ;
- within the National Character Areas (NCAs) of South Coast Plain, South Downs or Low Weald when in West Sussex (this would attract a spatial risk of ‘compensation inside LPA or NCA or deemed to be sufficiently local to site of biodiversity loss’). Priority within this category would be given to any areas of land available for habitat enhancement / creation within a future Local Nature Recovery Strategy or through a strategic project ; and
- within other NCAs in West Sussex (this would attract a spatial risk of ‘compensation outside LPA or NCA but in neighbouring LPA or NCA’).

5.3.7 Based on current understanding, it is likely that all required biodiversity units could be delivered within the first two bullet points in **paragraph 5.3.6**. Identifying the most appropriate biodiversity units from a long list will take into account their

⁹ Proximity is based on Local Planning Authority (LPA) areas and National Character Areas (NCA) within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

location, extent and linkages to other habitat complexes in the surrounding area. This is to maximise the ecological functions that they would provide within the landscape.

5.4 Securing Biodiversity Net Gain

- 5.4.1 Biodiversity gain information based on the detailed design would be drafted for discussion and agreement with the relevant local planning authorities in discussion with the statutory nature conservation body (i.e. Natural England or the Environment Agency).
- 5.4.2 In parallel to the calculations of the need for off-site biodiversity units at the detailed design stage, options for delivering BNG will be determined. A short-list of options¹⁰ would be compiled that would ensure that trading rules could be satisfied, that were most local to the losses or connected to strategic projects key to the Local Nature Recovery Network. This would be informed by discussions with biodiversity unit providers (to identify availability) and the local authorities (including West Sussex County Council and SDNPA) to understand local priorities.
- 5.4.3 Prior to securing the necessary units to meet the commitment, the short-list would be discussed with the relevant local authorities to agree the biodiversity units to be provided pre-commencement of construction. This discussion would enable the biodiversity gain information to be finalised for sign off the relevant local authorities.
- 5.4.4 Once the biodiversity gain information has been formally agreed, the biodiversity units would then be purchased and proof of transaction provided to the relevant local authorities. These biodiversity units would be entered on to Natural England's register of land for off-site biodiversity gain¹¹.
- 5.4.5 The commitment to Biodiversity Net Gain is secured through Requirement 14 of the **Draft Development Consent Order [REP2-002]**.

¹⁰ Potentially secured through options agreements (dependent on how the market develops in the intervening period).

¹¹ This register is expected to be in general usage by the end of 2023.

6. Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Table 6-1 Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Term (acronym)	Definition
Baseline Conditions	The environment as it appears (or would appear) immediately prior to the implementation of the Proposed Development together with any known or foreseeable future changes that will take place before completion of the Proposed Development.
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)	The code sets out the standards and procedures to which developers and contractors must adhere to when undertaking construction of major projects. This will assist with managing the environmental impacts and will identify the main responsibilities and requirements of developers and contractors in constructing their projects.
Development Consent Order (DCO) Application	An application for consent under the Planning Act 2008 to undertake a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project made to the Planning Inspectorate who will consider the application and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State, who will decide on whether development consent should be granted for the Proposed Development.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development over and above the existing circumstances (or 'baseline').
Environmental Statement (ES)	The written output presenting the full findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment.
LPA	Local Planning Authority
Habitat creation	Habitat created within the draft Order Limits that is replacing the current habitat type. Reinstatement is the term used to note habitats that are being replaced like for like following temporary losses.
National Policy Statements (NPS)	Part 2 of the Planning Act 2008 sets out the national policy against which NSIP applications are assessed. NPSs set out guidance to inform the decision-making process for NSIPs. NPSs relevant to energy generation include: Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (DECC, 2011a);

Term (acronym)	Definition
	National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (DECC, 2011b); and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (EN-5) (DECC, 2011c).
NCA	National Character Area
No net loss	The quantity of biodiversity units that need to be delivered to compensate for predicted losses
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OFTO	Offshore Transmission Owner
Proposed DCO Order Limits	The proposed DCO Order Limits combines the search areas for the offshore and onshore infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development. It is defined as the area within which the Proposed Development and associated infrastructure will be located, including the temporary and permanent construction and operational work areas.
Proposed Development	The development that is subject to the application for development consent, as described in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).
Reinstatement	Replacement of habitats temporarily lost with the same habitat type and target habitat condition as recorded in the baseline.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDNPA	South Downs National Park Authority
	Habitat units are those measured in hectares and include habitats such as grassland, woodland and scrub.
	Hedgerow units are measured in kilometres and cover hedgerows and tree lines.
Units	River units are measured in kilometres and cover watercourses and wet ditches.

7. References

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Annex A

Biodiversity Net Gain Metric Calculations

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Start page

Project details			
Planning authority:	Arun District Council		
Project name:	Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm		
Applicant:	Rampion Extension Development Ltd		
Application type:	Development Consent Order		
Planning application reference:			
Completed by:	Alan Kirby		
Date of metric completion:	17 April 2024		
Reviewer:	Craig Brookes		
Calculation iteration:	1		
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	No ✓		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	68.27	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

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Cell style conventions	
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	Enter data
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View all

Reset view

On-site baseline map Insert

On-site post intervention map Insert

On-site baseline map reference number

On-site post-intervention map reference number

Off-site baseline map Insert

Off-site post intervention map Insert

Off-site baseline map reference number

Off-site post-intervention reference number

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ⚠

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	167.84		
	Hedgerow units	7.72		
	Watercourse units	1.91		
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	142.39		
	Hedgerow units	6.88		
	Watercourse units	1.03		
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	-25.45	-15.16%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠
	Hedgerow units	-0.84	-10.82%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠
	Watercourse units	-0.89	-46.40%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-25.45		
	Hedgerow units	-0.84		
	Watercourse units	-0.89		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-25.45
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-0.84
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	-0.89

Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-15.16%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-10.82%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	-46.40%

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

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
<i>Habitat units</i>	10.00%	167.84	184.63	42.23
<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.00%	7.72	8.49	1.61
<i>Watercourse units</i>	10.00%	1.91	2.11	1.08

Input errors/rule breaks present in metric ▲

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Start page

Project details			
Planning authority:	Horsham District Council		
Project name:	Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm		
Applicant:	Rampion Extension Development Ltd		
Application type:	Development Consent Order		
Planning application reference:			
Completed by:	Alan Kirby		
Date of metric completion:	17 April 2024		
Reviewer:	Craig Brookes		
Calculation iteration:			
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	No ✓		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	103.98	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

Main menu

Results

Cell style conventions	
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On-site post-intervention map reference number

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Off-site post intervention map Insert

Off-site baseline map reference number

Off-site post-intervention reference number

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ⚠

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	263.67		
	Hedgerow units	25.70		
	Watercourse units	2.64		
On-site post-intervention <small>(Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Habitat units	239.51		
	Hedgerow units	20.57		
	Watercourse units	0.86		
On-site net change <small>(units & percentage)</small>	Habitat units	-24.17	-9.17%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠
	Hedgerow units	-5.13	-19.96%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠
	Watercourse units	-1.78	-67.41%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention <small>(Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site net change <small>(units & percentage)</small>	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	

Combined net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	Habitat units	-24.17		
	Hedgerow units	-5.13		
	Watercourse units	-1.78		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-24.17
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-5.13
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	-1.78

Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-9.17%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-19.96%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	-67.41%

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲
---------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Area created must match area lost for both onsite and offsite ▲

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
<i>Habitat units</i>	10.00%	263.67	290.04	50.53
<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.00%	25.70	28.27	7.70
<i>Watercourse units</i>	10.00%	2.64	2.90	2.04

Input errors/rule breaks present in metric ▲

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Start page

Project details			
Planning authority:	Mid-Sussex District Council		
Project name:	Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm		
Applicant:	Rampion Extension Development Ltd		
Application type:	Development Consent Order		
Planning application reference:			
Completed by:	Alan Kirby		
Date of metric completion:	17 April 2024		
Reviewer:	Craig Brookes		
Calculation iteration:			
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	No ✓		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	4.68	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

Main menu

Results

Cell style conventions	
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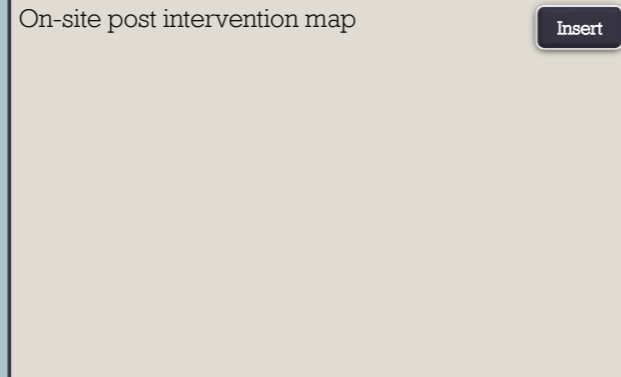
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On-site post intervention map Insert



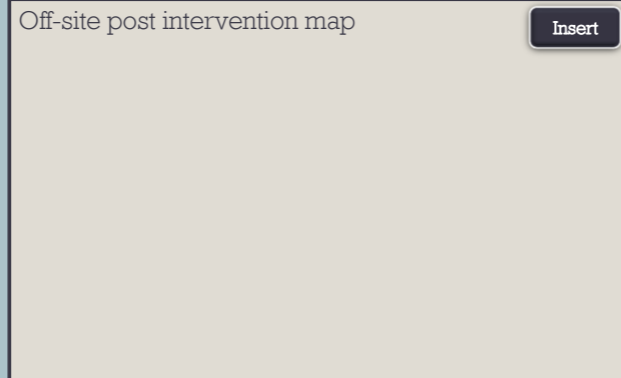
On-site baseline map reference number

On-site post-intervention map reference number

Off-site baseline map Insert



Off-site post intervention map Insert



Off-site baseline map reference number

Off-site post-intervention reference number

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results Δ

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	11.70	
	Hedgerow units	2.99	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	9.98	
	Hedgerow units	2.77	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	-1.73	-14.74%
	Hedgerow units	-0.22	-7.40%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

On-site net gain is less than target set Δ
 On-site net gain is less than target set Δ

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-1.73	
	Hedgerow units	-0.22	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-1.73
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-0.22
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00

Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-14.74%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-7.40%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲
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Area created must match area lost for both onsite and offsite ▲

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
<i>Habitat units</i>	10.00%	11.70	12.87	2.90
<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.00%	2.99	3.29	0.52
<i>Watercourse units</i>	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Input errors/rule breaks present in metric ▲

Area habitat summary	
Total Net Unit Change	-1.73
Total Net % Change	-14.74%
Trading Rules Satisfied	No - check trading summaries ▲

Ref	Existing area habitats			Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline Total habitat units	
	Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Irreplaceable habitat		Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier			
1	Grassland	Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFCM	No	0	High	6	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	Same habitat required =	0.00	
2	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	No	0	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	0.00	
3	Grassland	Modified grassland	No	2.91	Low	2	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	5.82	
4	Grassland	Modified grassland	No	0.73	Low	2	Moderate	2	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	2.92	
5	Cropland	Cereal crops	No	0	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	0.00	
6	Cropland	Arable field margins tussocky	No	0	Medium	4	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	0.00	
7	Sparsely vegetated land	Ruderal/Ephemeral	No	0	Low	2	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	0.00	
8	Urban	Bare ground	No	0.91	Low	2	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	1.82	
9	Urban	Developed land, sealed surface	No	0	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Compensation Not Required	0.00	
10	Woodland and forest	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	No	0	High	6	Moderate	2	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	Same habitat required =	0.00	
11	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	No	0.12	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	1.06	
12	Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	No	0.01	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	0.09	
13	Individual trees	Rural tree	No	0	Medium	4	Good	3	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy	Medium strategic significance	1.1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (3)	0.00	
14														
15														
16														
17														
18														
				Total habitat area	4.68									11.70
				Site Area (Excluding area of individual trees, green walls, intertidal hard structures)	4.68									

Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area habitat lost	Units lost	bespoke compensation agreed for losses of VHDH or irreplaceable habitat	Comments		
							User comments	Planning authority comments	Habitat reference number
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
		0.00	0.00	2.91	5.82				
		0.00	0.00	0.73	2.92				
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
		0.00	0.00	0.91	1.82				
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
		0.00	0.00	0.12	1.06				
		0.00	0.00	0.01	0.09				
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.68	11.70				

Total area lost (excluding area of individual trees, green walls and intertidal hard structures)	4.68
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The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Start page

Project details			
Planning authority:	South Downs National Park Authority		
Project name:	Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm		
Applicant:	Rampion Extension Development Ltd		
Application type:	Development Consent Order		
Planning application reference:			
Completed by:	Alan Kirby		
Date of metric completion:	17 April 2024		
Reviewer:	Craig Brookes		
Calculation iteration:			
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	No ✓		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	115.66	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

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Results

Cell style conventions	
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View all

Reset view

On-site baseline map Insert

On-site post intervention map Insert

On-site baseline map reference number

On-site post-intervention map reference number

Off-site baseline map Insert

Off-site post intervention map Insert

Off-site baseline map reference number

Off-site post-intervention reference number

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ⚠

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	274.00		
	Hedgerow units	16.96		
	Watercourse units	0.70		
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	256.13		
	Hedgerow units	15.53		
	Watercourse units	0.26		
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	-17.87	-6.52%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠
	Hedgerow units	-1.43	-8.41%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠
	Watercourse units	-0.44	-63.12%	On-site net gain is less than target set ⚠

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-17.87		
	Hedgerow units	-1.43		
	Watercourse units	-0.44		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-17.87
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-1.43
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	-0.44

Total net % change <small>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</small>	<i>Habitat units</i>	-6.52%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	-8.41%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	-63.12%

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

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
<i>Habitat units</i>	10.00%	274.00	301.40	45.27
<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.00%	16.96	18.66	3.12
<i>Watercourse units</i>	10.00%	0.70	0.77	0.51

Input errors/rule breaks present in metric ▲

