PROPOSED LODGES AT DELPH BANK TOURING PARK, FLEET HARGATE, LINCOLNSHIRE

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN REPORT

Final

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Report ref: P2025-142 R1 Final

Date: 10/02/2026

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DOCUMENT HISTORY				
Project reference: 2025-142 R1		**Document title: Biodiversity Net Gain Report**		
Revision	**Status**	**Originated**	**Reviewed**	**Date**
Rev. 1	Draft	Polly Godfrey	Naomi Parker	08/01/2026
Rev. 2	Final	Polly Godfrey	Philip Parker	10/02/2026

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Biodiversity net gain is the name given to a process of biodiversity offsetting whereby any habitat loss caused by a new development is mitigated to ensure that there is an overall increase in biodiversity post development. As part of the initial development plans, developers are increasingly required to demonstrate that biodiversity net gain can be achieved. To establish the best way to protect the habitats on site, a metric is used. To achieve biodiversity net gain, developers must show evidence that a development will increase the biodiversity value of a site. This statistic is presented in the value of a biodiversity net gain metric called 'biodiversity units'. The 10% net gain requirement in England became compulsory from the 12/02/2024 for larger developments and from the 02/04/2024 for small sites.

1.2 To accompany the planning application for the construction of five lodges on land south of Delph Bank Touring Park, a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report has been prepared. The field survey was undertaken at the site by project ecologist Polly Godfrey of Philip Parker Associates Ltd on the 11/11/2025.

1.3 The statutory biodiversity net gain metric was used to calculate the baseline and proposed habitats.

1.4 Table 1 below shows the change of all unit categories on site.

Table 1 Summary table of net unit change

Category	Baseline units	Proposed Units	Change in units
Habitat	3.41	3.95	+15.70%
Hedgerow	0.62	1.61	+157.71%
Watercourse	1.32	1.48	+11.44%

1.5 The site meets the 10% net gain requirement in the habitat, hedgerow and watercourse category.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd on behalf of Delph Bank Touring Park are preparing a planning application for the construction of five lodges on land south of Delph Bank Touring Park. The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment will accompany the application to the local planning authority, South Holland District Council.

2.2 The following report includes the findings of the surveys and has been prepared following guidance in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report and Audit Templates prepared by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (2021).

2.3 The BNG assessment will estimate the anticipated net gain provided by the development with the information available at the time of this report's production. The biodiversity net gain calculations can only provide an assumption for the future biodiversity change on and off site.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

HABITAT BASELINE

3.1 The field survey was conducted on the 11/11/2025 by project ecologist Polly Godfrey to assess the baseline habitats and habitat conditions on site.

3.2 The habitats present within the red line boundary were recorded on site using the UK Habitat Classification. All habitats and their area of coverage were subsequently mapped using QGIS mapping software.

3.3 Calculations were undertaken using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool. The habitat plan formulated with QGIS software was used to calculate the habitat baseline and to measure each component area.

HABITAT SCORE

3.4 The following habitat scores and areas are used to calculate the units provided by each habitat area.

- **Distinctiveness**
  The distinctiveness is already assigned by the metric to each habitat and was calculated using national records of occurrence and rarity of each habitat.

- **Condition assessment**
  Whilst on site, a condition assessment was undertaken on the habitats present to determine their quality. The condition sheets list indicators which need to be met before a habitat can reach the threshold for each habitat condition.

- **Strategic significance**
  The strategic significance of the site is determined by the site's connectivity and significance and gives additional value to habitats which are in preferred locations. The strategic significance uses local biodiversity plans and designations to identify priority habitats.

3.5 **Limitations**

The habitat survey was conducted in December which was outside of the optimal period for plant identification. The species recorded on site currently likely represent those present in summer given its previous use. To ensure the species richness is not undervalued two species per m^2 have been assumed could be further present in summer have been added.

3.6 Habitat areas (predevelopment) have been measured using QGIS mapping which uses aerial positioning. The positioning is not always completely accurate but any differences in area will be small and will not significantly impact on the overall score.

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4.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

4.1 The habitats listed below were recorded within the application site and as such, have been included within the on site baseline assessment. See Drawing D1 for extent and location of habitat. For condition assessment results, see Appendix B.

HABITAT BASELINE

Modified grassland (G1 to G3)

4.2 Three areas of modified grassland were present on site. Grassland G1 and G3 were species-poor for modified grassland with less than six species per m2. Grassland G2 was on the other hand recorded as species-rich.

4.3 Grassland G2 and G3 were mown once a week and supported a sward height of between 1-2cm. Grassland G3 bordered the dry ditch and was tussocky/unmanaged with bramble *Rubus fruticocus* present in numerous places.

Figure 1 – Modified grassland G2

Figure 2 – Modified grassland G3

Figure 3 – Modified grassland G1 with longer grassland bordering G2

4.4 ***Condition score:*** The modified grassland areas G1 and G3 were in **poor** condition with grassland G2 in **good** condition.

4.5 ***Strategic significance:*** The modified grassland areas were deemed **not to occur in a local strategy area and do not occur in an ecologically significant location** due to their unlikelihood to support protected species.

Bramble scrub (S1 to S3)

4.6 Three small patches of bramble scrub were present on site.

Figure 4 – Large patch of bramble S1

Figure 5 – Patch of bramble S2

4.7 ***Condition score:*** N/A

4.8 ***Strategic significance:*** The bramble scrub did not occur in a **local strategy and were not in an ecologically desirable location** due to their unlikelihood to support protected species.

Watercourse footprint

4.9 A short section of ditch D4 was present within the application area.

Artificially unvegetated, unsealed surface (U1)

4.10 A gravel access track connected the site to the road. This ran through the existing touring park.

Figure 6 – Gravel access track connecting the road and grassed areas

4.11 ***Condition score:*** N/A

4.12 ***Strategic significance:*** The artificially unvegetated, unsealed surface did not occur in a **local strategy and was not in an ecologically desirable location** due to its unlikelihood to support protected species.

4.13 Table 2 below shows the baseline habitats.

Table 2 The baseline habitat units on site

Habitat type	Description	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Habitat units	Area to be lost/enhanced or retained
On site					
Grassland	Modified grassland	0.6288	Low	3.26	0.1007ha retained
Heathland and scrub	Bramble scrub	0.0383	Medium	0.15	All retained
Watercourse footprint	Watercourse footprint	0.016	Very low	0.0	All retained
Urban	Artificially unvegetated unsealed surface	0.1581	Very low	0.0	All retained
Total		**0.84ha**		**3.41 units**	

HEDGEROW BASELINE

Line of trees (H1)

4.14 A line of trees was present along the southern boundary of the site.

Figure 7 – Native line of trees visible

4.15 ***Condition score:*** The line of trees was in **moderate** condition.

4.16 ***Strategic significance:*** The line of trees did not occur in a **local strategy and was not in an ecologically desirable location** due to its unlikelihood to support protected species.

Table 3 The baseline hedgerow units on site

Hedgerow number	Description	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Hedgerow units	Length to be lost/enhanced or retained
On site					
H1	Line of trees	0.156	Low	0.62	All retained
Total		**0.16km**		**0.62 units**	

WATERCOURSE BASELINE

Ditches (D1, D2 and D4)

4.17 A number of ditches bordered the application area. Ditches D5, D6 and D7 were dry at the time of the survey and from the vegetation present within the base of the ditches were considered likely to be dry most of the year apart from after periods of high rainfall. As such, following guidance from the BNG support document (Defra, 2025) as they don't hold water for more than four months of the year, they have been excluded from the metric.

Figure 8 – Aerial imagery showing the location of all the ditches.

4.18 Ditches D1, D2 and D4 were also dry at the time of the survey but given the size of the ditch they are likely a main drain for the area. After conversation with the landowner, they do retain some water over winter, as such they can't be fully ruled out.

Figure 9 – Ditch D2

Figure 10 – Ditch D4

Figure 11 – Ditch D5

Figure 12 – Ditch D6

4.19 ***Condition score:*** The ditches were in **poor** condition

4.20 ***Strategic significance:*** The ditches did not occur in a **local strategy and were not in an ecologically desirable location** due to their unlikelihood to support protected species due to them being dry over summer.

Culvert (D3)

4.21 A small culvert was present between ditch D2 and D4.

4.22 ***Condition score:*** The culvert can only achieve **poor** condition.

4.23 ***Strategic significance:*** The culvert did not occur in a **local strategy and was not in an ecologically desirable location** due to its unlikelihood to support protected species.

Table 4 The baseline watercourse units on site

Ditch number	Description	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Hedgerow units	Length to be lost/enhanced or retained
On site					
D1, D2, D4	Ditches	0.374	Medium	1.32	D1 and D4 retained with no encroachment. D2 will be encroached.
D3	Culvert	0.006	Low	0.01	All retained
Total		**0.38km**		**1.32 units**	

5.0 PROPOSED BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

5.1 The habitats and areas noted in Section 5 below are based on the current development plan provided by Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd. See Drawing Ds for proposed locations of habitat.

ON SITE

HABITAT CREATION

Developed land, sealed surface (U2, U4)

5.2 Grasscrete will be installed on site to provide access to the lodges. As per the BNG guidance document (Defra, 2025) grasscrete is calculated as a 50:50 split of species-poor modified grassland and concrete. U2 are the concrete part of the access road.

5.3 The five lodges will have a concrete foundations (U4).

5.4 **Condition assessment:** N/A

5.5 ***Strategic significance:*** The proposed developed land, sealed surface will not be **in a local strategy or in an ecologically desirable location.**

5.6 **Temporal modifier**: The developed land, sealed surface will be created within one year of the development commencing therefore it will score a 0 in the metric.

Artificially unvegetated, unsealed surface (U3)

5.7 The access track will be constructed of gravel.

5.8 **Condition assessment:** N/A

5.9 ***Strategic significance:*** The proposed developed land, sealed surface will not be **in a local strategy or in an ecologically desirable location.**

5.10 **Temporal modifier**: The developed land, sealed surface will be created within one year of the development commencing therefore it will score a 0 in the metric

Modified grassland (G4, G5)

5.11 The grass sown between the concrete for the grasscrete will only be able to achieve poor condition.

5.12 **Condition assessment: Poor**

The proposed modified grassland to be sown is to achieve a moderate habitat condition by meeting the following criteria;

- Mowing will reduce the chance of bracken growing
- Mowing will reduce the occurrence of non-native species appearing in grassland.

5.13 ***Strategic significance:*** The proposed modified grassland does **not occur in a local strategy area and was not deemed to be in an ecological significant location** due to the unlikeness of protected species being present.

5.14 **Temporal modifier**: The modified grassland will be sown within one year of the development commencing therefore it will score a 0 in the temporal modifier column.

Other neutral grassland (G6)

5.15 A large area of other neutral grassland will be sown within the triangle of grassland. This will be have paths mown through to allow visitors to explore the area.

5.16 **Condition assessment: Moderate**

The proposed neutral grassland to be sown is to achieve a moderate habitat condition by meeting the following criteria;

- Planted with a suitable seed mix to achieve the appearance and composition to match the neutral grassland habitat type (UKHAB definition)
- Any bare patches will be reseeded
- Mowing will reduce the chance of bracken growing
- Mowing will reduce the occurrence of non-native species appearing in grassland.

5.17 ***Strategic significance:*** The proposed neutral grassland does **not occur in a local strategy area and was not deemed to be in an ecological significant location** due to the unlikeness of protected species being present.

5.18 **Temporal modifier**: The neutral grassland will be sown within one year of the development commencing therefore it will score a 0 in the temporal modifier column.

Individual trees (T1 to T18)

5.19 Eighteen small trees will be planted within the other neutral grassland to add diversity to the habitat.

5.20 **Condition assessment: Moderate**

The proposed individual trees are to be planted to achieve a moderate habitat condition by meeting the following criteria;

- Native species – following a planting scheme recommended by Philip Parker Associates Ltd
- Canopy continuous (individual trees automatically pass this criteria)
- Little or no evidence of an adverse impact caused by anthropogenic activities (vandalism or herbicide use). There is no current pruning regime so the trees should reach over 75% of their expected canopy for age and height. This will be achieved by only pruning when necessary such as tree/limbs that are dangerous for peoples safety.
- The trees will oversail more than 20% vegetation beneath the canopy

5.21 ***Strategic significance:*** The proposed tree planting will **not be in a local strategy and will not be in a location which is ecologically desirable** due to the unlikeliness of the habitat to support protected species

5.22 **Temporal modifier**: The new trees will be planted within one year of the development occurring therefore they will score a 0 in the metric.

Watercourse footprint (D8)

5.23 A small section of ditch will be created within the other neutral grassland.

Table 5 Proposed areas of on site habitat creation

Broad habitat category	Proposed habitat	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Units gained
On site				
Grassland	Other neutral grassland	0.4082	Medium	3.01
Individual trees	Rural trees	0.0733	Medium	0.25
Grassland	Modified grassland	0.037	Low	0.08
Urban	Developed land, sealed surface	0.0496	Very low	0.0
Water course footprint	Ditch	0.0025	Very low	0.0
Total		**0.53ha (excluding individual trees)**		**3.27 units**

Table 6 Net habitat area and unit change

Habitat Baseline	Area (ha)	Units	Proposed	Area (ha)	Units
On site					
Modified grassland	0.6288	3.26	Retained Created	0.1007 0.0084	0.52 0.02
Bramble scrub	0.0383	0.15	Retained	0.0383	0.15
Artificially unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.1581	0.0	Retained Created	0.1581 0.0876	0.0 0.0
Watercourse footprint	0.016	0.0	Retained Created	0.016 0.0025	0.0 0.0
			Other neutral grassland	0.4082	3.01
			Developed land, sealed surface	0.0209	0.0
Total	**On site 0.84ha**	**On site 3.41 Units**	**Total**	**On site 0.84ha (excluding individual trees)**	**On site 3.95 units**

HEDGEROW CREATION

Species-rich native hedgerow – associated with ditch (H2)

5.24 A 98m section of species-rich native hedgerow will be planted along part of the northern edge of the application area. This will be along the existing dry ditch.

5.25 **Condition assessment: Moderate**

The proposed hedgerow to be created is to achieve a moderate habitat condition by meeting the following criteria;

- The hedgerow will be double planted to achieve a depth greater than 1.5m
- The management will include regular trimmings to ensure that the hedgerow thickens at its canopy and base.
- A suitable stand-off will be allowed from works to prevent damage to the hedgerow
- Any invasive species that are noted will be removed.

5.26 ***Strategic significance:*** The proposed hedgerow did not occur in a **local strategy and was not in an ecologically desirable location** due to its unlikelihood to support protected species.

5.27 **Temporal modifier**: The new hedgerow will be planted within one year of the development occurring therefore it will score a 0 in the metric.

Table 6 Proposed lengths of hedgerow creation on site

Hedgerow type	Description	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Hedgerow units gained
Hedgerow	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.098	High	0.98
Total		**0.10km**		**0.98 units**

Table 7 Net hedgerow length and unit change

Hedgerow Baseline	Length (km)	Units	Proposed	Length (km)	Units
On site					
Line of trees	0.156	0.62	Retained	0.156	0.62
			Species-rich native hedgerow associated with ditch	0.098	0.98
Total	**On site 0.16km**	**On site 0.62 units**	**Total**	**On site 0.25km**	**On site 1.61 units**

WATERCOURSE CREATION

Ditch (D2, D8)

5.28 Ditch D2 will be retained, however the construction of the grasscrete will impact on the riparian zone, decreasing the score from major/no encroachment to major/minor encroachment. Therefore, the ditch has been marked as lost and then created again to show the loss.

5.29 Ditch D8 is a small section of new ditch to be created to make up for the loss impact on D2's riparian zone.

5.30 **Condition assessment: Poor**

The proposed ditch to be created is to achieve a poor habitat condition by meeting the following criteria;

- Less than 10% cover of algae and duckweed;
- Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch;
- Less than 10% of the ditch is shaded;
- Any non-native invasive species that are noted will be removed.

5.31 ***Strategic significance:*** The proposed ditch did not occur in a **local strategy and was not in an ecologically desirable location** due to its unlikelihood to support protected species.

5.32 **Temporal modifier**: The new ditch will be created within one year of the development occurring therefore it will score a 0 in the metric.

Table 6 Proposed lengths of ditch creation on site

Ditch number	Description	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Hedgerow units gained
D8	Ditch	0.03	High	0.07
Total		**0.03km**		**0.07 units**

Table 7 Net ditch length and unit change

Ditch Baseline	Length (km)	Units	Proposed	Length (km)	Units
On site					
Ditches	0.374	1.32	Retained Degraded (D2) Created	0.082 0.292 0.03	0.31 1.1 0.07
Culvert	0.006	0.01	Retained	0.006	0.01
Total	**On site 0.38km**	**On site 0.132 units**	**Total**	**On site 0.4km**	**On site 1.49 units**

6.0 PROPOSED HABITAT DESIGN

6.1 This section includes mitigation and enhancement works which can occur on site but cannot be included within the metric and therefore does not gain any credit within the Biodiversity Net Gain calculations.

6.2 **Bug hotel**

A bug hotel could be created and installed within the other neutral grassland to enhance the site for biodiversity.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The table below shows the baseline units, the proposed habitat creation units, and the percentage change of units;

Table 8 Summary table of net unit change

Category	Baseline units	Proposed Units	Change in units
Habitat on site	3.41	3.95	+15.70%
Hedgerow	0.62	1.61	+157.71%
Watercourse	1.32	1.48	+11.44%

7.2 The habitat creation on site produces over a 10% net gain on site.

7.3 The hedgerow creation on site produces a significant positive change in hedgerow units on site.

7.4 The ditch creation on site produces over a 10% net gain on site.

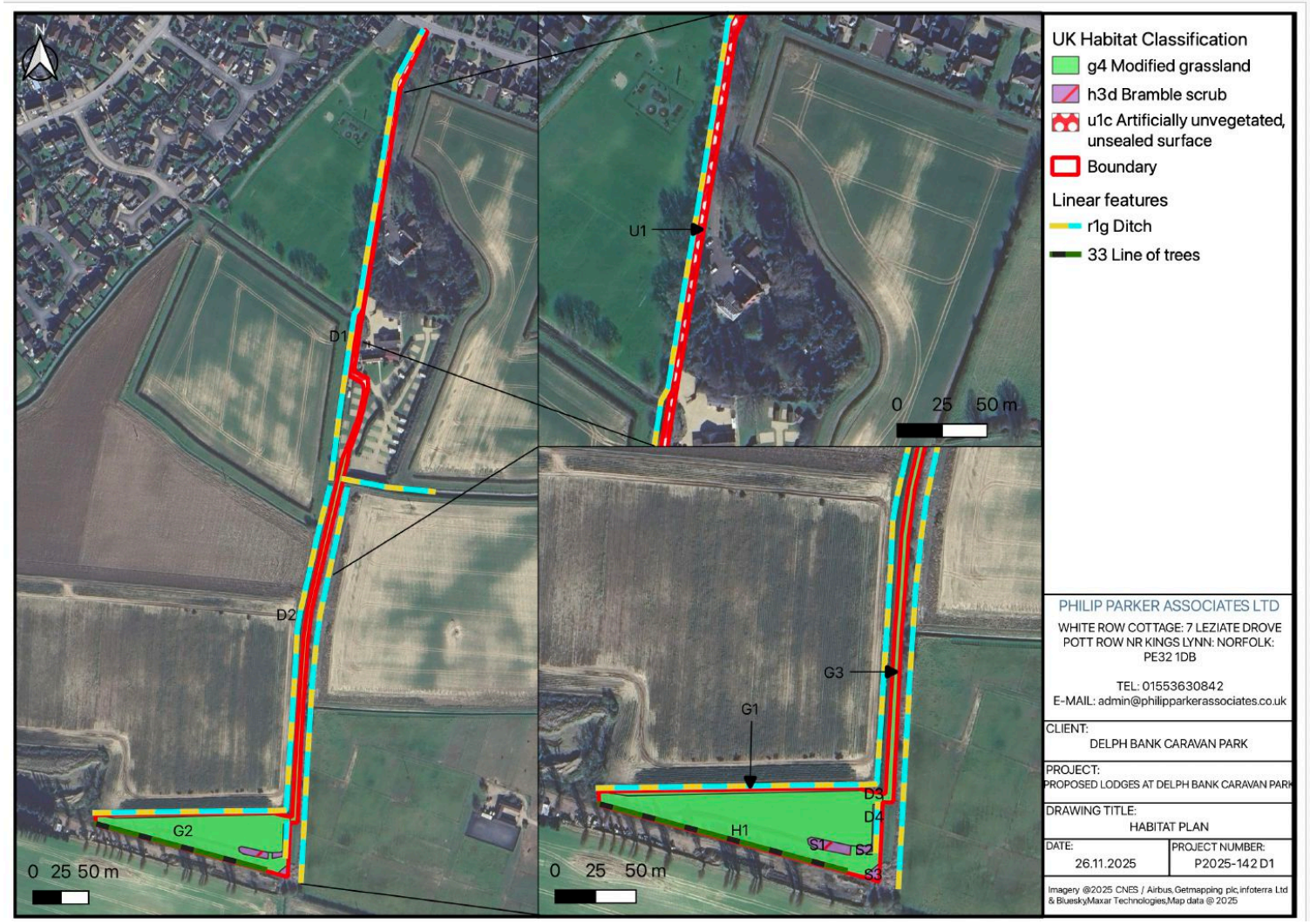
7.5 The habitat type, condition and size as set out in this report must be achieved to reach 10% on the site. This will be secured with a habitat management and monitoring report, plus subsequent monitoring visits by ecologists.

7.6 This report is based on the site visit undertaken on the 11/11/2025. This report presents a true reflection of habitats present and wildlife usage on the site at the time of the survey and remains valid for a period of 12 months from the date of this report.

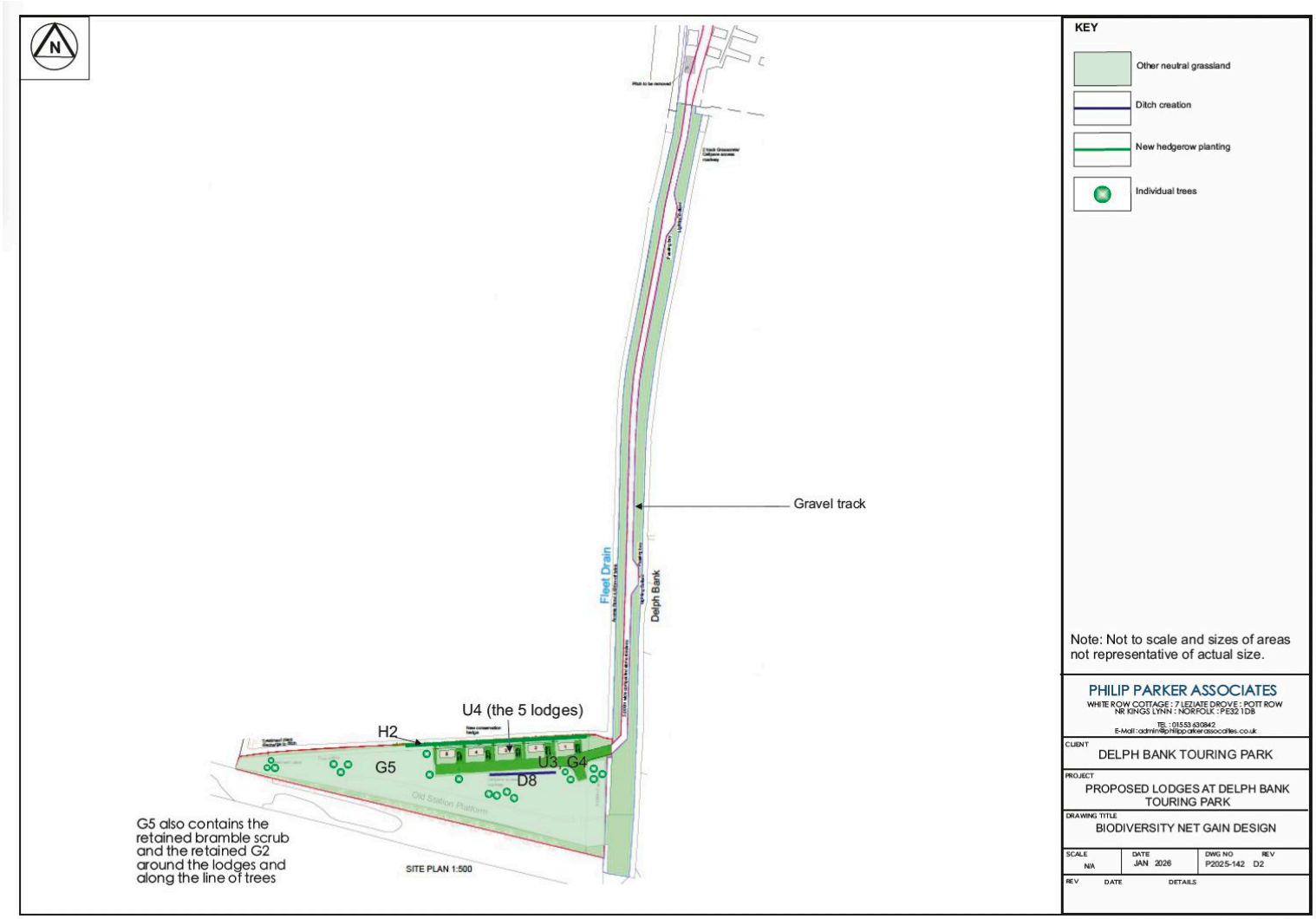
8.0 REFERENCES

- **Butcher,B., Carey, P., Edmonds, R., Norton, L., Treweek, J., 2020**. *UK habitat classification – Habitat Definitions V1.1*
- **CIEEM (2018).** Guidelines for ecological impact assessment in the UK and Ireland – Terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine.
- **CIEEM (2021).** Biodiversity Net Gain Report and Audit Templates Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester, UK.
- **Gurnell, A., Shuker, L., (2022)**. The MORPH survey: Technical reference manual 2022.
- **Natural England, (2023)**. The Biodiversity Statutory Metric – Calculation tool
- **Natural England, (2023b)**. The Biodiversity Statutory Metric – Users guide

DRAWING D1 BASELINE HABITAT PLAN



DRAWING D2 BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN DESIGN



APPENDIX A CALCULATIONS – HEADLINE RESULTS

Delph Bank Touring Park

Headline Results

Scroll down for final results

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On-site baseline	*Area habitat units*	3.41	
	Hedgerow units	0.62	
	Watercourse units	1.32	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	3.95	
	Hedgerow units	1.61	
	Watercourse units	1.48	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	*Area habitat units*	0.54	15.70%
	Hedgerow units	0.98	157.71%
	Watercourse units	0.15	11.44%
Off-site baseline	*Area habitat units*	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	*Area 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)	*Area habitat units*	0.54	
	Hedgerow units	0.98	
	Watercourse units	0.15	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	*Area habitat units*	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	0.54
	Hedgerow units	0.98
	Watercourse units	0.15
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	15.70%
	Hedgerow units	157.71%
	Watercourse units	11.44%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Area habitat units	10.00%	3.41	3.75	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.62	0.69	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	1.32	1.46	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

APPENDIX B CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

Modified grassland

Condition assessment for modified grassland

Criteria for modified grassland		Criteria achieved (Y/N)	
		G1,G3	G2
1	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	N	Y
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N	N
3	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	Y
4	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Y	Y
5	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y	Y
6	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	Y
7	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	Y

Condition assessment result

Score criteria	Score
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion 1	Good
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion 1	Moderate
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 of criteria but failing criterion 1	Poor

Line of trees

Condition assessment of the line of trees

Criteria for line of trees		Criteria achieved (Y/N)
		H1
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Y
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Y
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N

Criteria for line of trees		Criteria achieved (Y/N)
		H1
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice.	N
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Y

Condition assessment result

Score criteria	Score
Passes 5 criteria	Good
"Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate
"Passes 0, 1 or 2 criteria	Poor

Condition assessment for ditches

Criteria for ditches		Criteria achieved (Y/N)
		D1, D2, D4
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	N
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 20 m ditch length.	N
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed Lemna 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.	Y
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m 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

Condition assessment results

Score criteria	Score
Passes 8 criteria	Good
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor

APPENDIX C SPECIES LIST FOR EACH HABITAT GROUP

Modified grassland

The following grass species included perennial rye, cocks foot *Dactylis glomerata*, annual meadowgrass, Yorkshire fog, false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and fescue sp *Festuca sp*. The following herbs present included field speedwell, dandelion, daisy, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, white clover, white dead nettle, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, groundsel, cleavers, bristly oxtongue, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* and cow parsley. Very occasional herbs included yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, ox-eye daisy and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* could also be found throughout the southern grassland.

Line of trees

The species present within the line of trees include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, white willow *Salix alba*, Lombardy poplar *Populus nigra*, oak *Quercus robur* and leylandii conifer *Cupressus × leylandii*.

APPENDIX D SURVEYOR/COMPANY EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

We, Philip Parker Associates, are ecological consultants suitability qualified with fifty years of combined experience in this sector. We have been undertaking habitat assessments under the new UK habitat classification since it was released in September 2022 (now using version 2) and have been completing and submitting biodiversity net gain assessments successfully since the release of the metric version 3.1 in April 2022.

In, particular Polly Godfrey has a BSc in Ecology and Conservation and has been working at Philip Parker Associates for three years. During this time she has undertaken and submitted a number of Preliminary Ecological Appraisals and Biodiversity Net Gain assessments (under metrics 3.1, 4 and statutory). Polly is also certified to undertake MORPH river condition assessments.

All surveyors have a university degree at BSc level or above in a relevant field of this sector. Our surveyors regularly train with a FISC level 4 Botanist Julia Masson, and any plants which cannot be identified are passed over to ensure that they are identified correctly.

Our surveyors have attended a number of conferences and virtual symposiums (many organised by CIEEM) to ensure that our knowledge of biodiversity net gain remains up to date.

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