Biodiversity Assessment

FULL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE EXTENSION OF OUTDOOR NETBALL COURTS AND INSTALLATION OF NEW PERIMETER FENCING AT SPALDING ACADEMY.

Spalding Academy, Neville Avenue, Spalding, PE11 2EJ.

August 2025

Revision 00

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Evans McDowall Architects have prepared this Biodiversity Assessment in support of Full Planning Application for the extension of existing outdoor netball courts, at Spalding Academy.

1.2 The proposed site is located on the premises of Spalding Academy, off Neville Avenue in the town of Spalding and within the South Holland District of Lincolnshire, approximately 19 miles Northeast of the City of Peterborough and 31 miles Southeast of the town of Grantham. The site can be located through National Grid Reference TF 25691 22578, and postcode PE11 2EJ.

1.3 The Site has a total area of 1420m^2 (0.14ha).

1.4 The location of the Site is indicated on the below aerial photograph and on the accompanying Site Location and Site Block Plans (EX001 & EX002).



Figure 01. Aerial view of showing the location of the proposed development site.

Objectives

1.5 The purpose of this biodiversity assessment is to determine a pre-works and post-works comparison of biodiversity units through applying the Small Sites Metric calculation tool. This is achieved using information pertaining to the on-site habitat condition, area and species composition, which are assessed against the predicted impacts arising from the works.

Proposed Works

1.6 In line with the proposed site plan, prepared by Evan McDowall Architects Ltd in July 2025 – Drawing number PP001; Rev 00 & PP100; Rev 00 (see Appendix I) the current proposals involve the construction of an area of tarmacadam to form an extension to existing outdoor netball courts and the erection of perimeter fencing.

1.7 The removal of an approximate 600m^2 area of modified grassland would be required to facilitate the new netball court.

1.8 The landscape proposals involve the introduction of 24no. new broadleaved tree specimens are to be introduced within the Site.

2.0 Methodology

Site Walkover

2.1 A UK Habitat Classification Survey was completed on 15th July 2025 by Andrew McDowall (Director / Architect) of Evans McDowall Architects. The habitats at the application site were assessed and classified in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification System. A UKHabs plan of the application site is included under Appendix II. Photographs are also featured under Appendix III.

Biodiversity Assessment

2.2 The Biodiversity Assessment was undertaken following guidance contained within CIRIA publication Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principals for Development and involved the following components:

- A desk-based assessment using Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) to identify statutory protected nature conservation sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Special Area of Conservation (SACs) occurring on or within significant proximity to the site;
- The assessment also included a review of pre-existing ecological data for the works area, together with data on statutory designated sites and Priority Habitats;
- Measuring habitat parcels on the ground, combined with the use of online measuring tools;
- A review of the expected impacts of the proposed development works referred to within the respective plans, including the extent of habitat loss/modification.
- Inputting existing habitat data into the 'Small Sites Metric (Biodiversity Metric 4.0)', issued July 2025, in addition to data pertaining to predicted post-works habitat types as a result of completing the scheme. This would be used to determine a biodiversity unit scoring.
- A review of changes in biodiversity units as a result of carrying out the works.

3.0 Results

Desk Based Assessment

3.1 Statutory Designated Sites for Nature Conservation

3.2 The Site does not fall within the boundary of any statutory designated site or SSSI. The nearest designated site is located approximately 3.5km away at Cowbit Wash SSSI.

Strategic Significance

3.3 Further, the Site is not identified as a 'Local Site' within the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan and is therefore considered to be within an 'Area Not in Local Strategy' with respect to statutory designated sites for nature conservation. It is therefore considered that the Site, and the majority of the habitats within it, are to considered of 'low' strategic significance.

3.4 Inset Map No. 2 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan identifies both 'The Corination Channel' (approximately 250m East of the Site) and 'Arnold's Meadow' (approximately 400m South East of the Site) as 'Local Wildlife Sites' (Policy 28). The area of the proposed works is located approximately 50m inwards of the school boundary and there is a significant buffer of mature trees and urban development / infrastructure betweeen it and any strategically significant site.

Priority Habitats

3.5 A search using MAGIC identified that there are no Priority Habitats located within the Site boundary, with the closest being a portion of 'Deciduous Woodland' located approximately 250m South of the red line boundary running parallel with Birch Grove and the site permiter. This priority habitat is distinguished from the Site via a section of tarmacced road, flanked by a mature belt of trees.

UKHabs Survey

3.6 The application site accommodates an area of modified grassland (recreational field), currently utilised as school playing fields. The Site is largely shielded from public view from all aspects due to residential development immediately bordering the Site to the North, East and West and playing fields to the South. Further, belts of mature trees flank the Site to the West and East.

3.7 All habitats recorded within the application site boundary are described below and provided with reference numbers in association with Appendix II - UKHabs Map.

Polygon Reference - P1
Habitat Type - Modified Grassland
UKHabs Code - g4
Habitat Value - Of Site Value

Polygon 1 is the primary habitat on the Site and comprises an area of recreational field which is maintained at a low sward height with a frequent mowing regime and frequent usage (see Photograph 1, Appendix III). Area is generally of a short sward with several areas of bare ground and the grassland is generally of poor condition (see Photograph 1, Appendix III).

Baseline Survey

3.8 An overview of all on-site habitats and predicted impacts is given in Table 1, below, which encompasses a total, combined footprint of 1420m^2 (0.14ha).

3.9 For simplicity, proposed and existing linear habitats offering negligible ecological value, including fences and walls, have been omitted from this appraisal. Further, no irreplaceable habitats were recorded within the works footprint and no evidence of invasive non-native species was recorded.

UKHabs Habitat	BNG Metric Equivalent	Total Area / Length	Area Lost	Area Retained
Modified Grassland	Modified Grassland	1420m^2	600m^2	820m^2

Figure 02 - Baseline Habitat Record Table

Predicted Impacts and Compensation

3.10 With reference to the scheme descriptions under Section 1 of this report, the Site preparatory activities are expected to result in the loss of areas of modified grassland and the planting of new trees, as reflected in Table 1. An overview of created habitats is given in Table 2, below.

Habitat Created	BNG Metric Equivalent	Total Area / Length
Hardstanding	Developed Land; sealed surface	600m^2
Urban Tree	Urban Tree	977

Figure 03 - Proposed Habitat Created Table

4.0 Pre-Works and Post-Works Comparison of Biodiversity Units

4.1 The information contained within Tables 1 and 2 was inputted into the Small Site Metric calculation tool. Information pertaining to the condition, distinctiveness and strategic significance of each habitat type was automatically generated.

4.2 The Small Site Metric calculation tool was used to generate a pre-works and post-works comparison of biodiversity units. Provided that the proposed landscaping scheme is implemented, the calculator has indicated a GAIN in habitat (area) biodiversity units of 0.0586 units (+10.31% change) post-works. This exceeds the standard National biodiversity net gain expectations mandated as part of the Environment Act 2021 (i.e., +10%). This outcome assumes that areas of compensatory planting have successfully established and that a plan of adequate, long-term management and monitoring is implemented to ensure longevity for a minimum of 30 years.

4.3 The landscape proposals 24no. new broadleaved tree specimens are introduced onto the site.

Appendix 1.0

Proposed Site Layout Plan (PP001 - Rev 00)

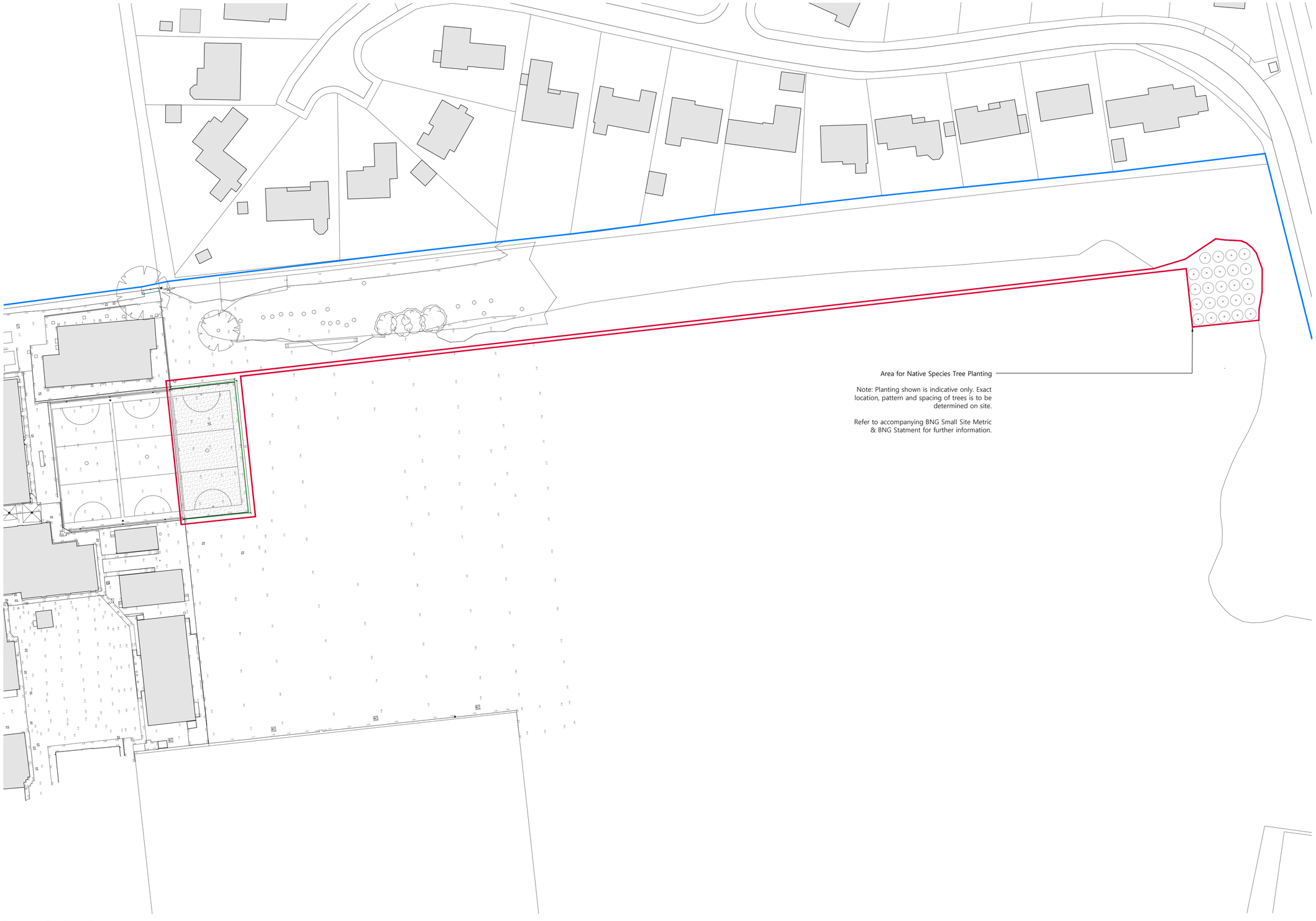
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0 25m 50m

10m 20m 30m 40m

Note: Do not scale. Only use figured dimensions.
All discrepancies to be notified to this office.

Rev	Description	Dr	Date



Note: Planting shown is indicative only. Exact location, pattern and spacing of trees is to be determined on site.

Refer to accompanying BNG Small Site Metric & BNG Statment for further information.

N

Legend:

- Boundary of Application Site
- Boundary of Land in Applicant Ownership
- Denotes line of 2.4m fencing.
- Proposed Native Species Tree Planting.
- Proposed Area of Tarmacadam Surface

Proposed Site Block Plan
Scale 1:500

STATUS
PLANNING

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CLIENT
SPALDING ACADEMY

PROJECT
Netball Court Extension at Spalding Academy, PE11 2EJ

TITLE
Proposed Site Block Plan

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE
EK	EMA	Jul 2025

SCALE	PROJECT NUMBER
1:500 @ A1	2534

DRAWING NUMBER	REV
PP001	00

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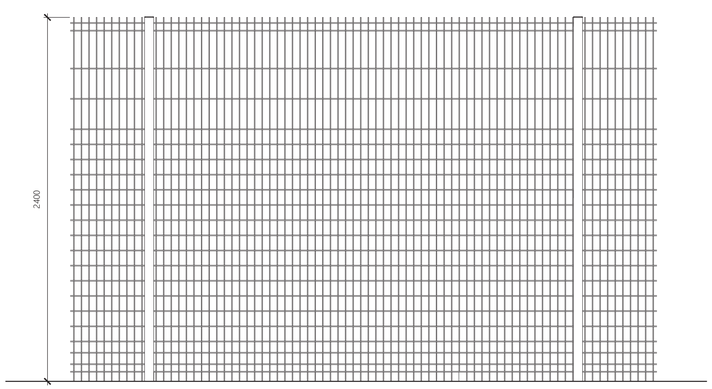
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2m 4m 6m 8m

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400mm 800mm 1200mm 1600mm



Proposed Fencing Elevation

Scale 1:20



Proposed Plan

Scale 1:100

Note: Do not scale. Only use figured dimensions. All discrepancies to be notified to this office.

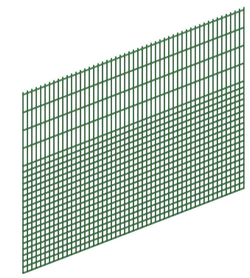
Rev	Description	Dr	Date

N

FENCE SPECIFICATION

Denotes line of proposed 2.4m fencing.

2.4m high powder-coated steel Rebound Paladin Double Mesh fencing to be installed as indicated. Specification and RAL colour to be confirmed by client prior to manufacture.



Legend:

- Boundary of Application Site
- Boundary of Land in Applicant Ownership
- Proposed Area of Tarmacadam Surface

STATUS

PLANNING

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CLIENT

SPALDING ACADEMY

PROJECT

Netball Court Extension at Spalding Academy, PE11 2EJ

TITLE

Proposed Plan & Fencing Elevation

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	DATE
EK	EMA	Jul 2025

SCALE	PROJECT NUMBER
1:100 / 1:20 @ A1	2534

DRAWING NUMBER	REV
PP100	00

Appendix 2.0

UKHabs Map



UKHabs Map

Proposed Site Boundary

Modified Grassland

Appendix 3.0

Site Photographs



Photograph 01 - Polygon 1 - Modified Grassland



Photograph 02 - Polygon 02 - Modified Grassland

Appendix 4.0

Small Site Metric Calculation Tool - Headline Summary
Refer to Accompanying Metric for Full Details

Site Name	Spalding Academy
Sheet Name	Headline Results

Headline Results

Headline	BNG Targets Met ✓
Trading Rules	Trading Rules Satisfied ✓
Next steps	Check for input errors/rule breaks present in the metric ⚠

Baseline Units	*Area habitat units*	0.5680	
	Hedgerow units	Zero Units Baseline	
	Watercourse units	Zero Units Baseline	
Post-development Units	*Area habitat units*	0.6266	
	Hedgerow units	0.0000	
	Watercourse units	0.0000	
Total net unit change	*Area habitat units*	0.0586	✓
	Hedgerow units	0.0000	
	Watercourse units	0.0000	
Total net % change	*Area habitat units*	10.31%	✓
	Hedgerow units	% target not appropriate	
	Watercourse units	% target not appropriate	

Area habitat units required to meet target	0.0000
Hedgerow units required to meet target	0.0000
Watercourse units required to meet target	0.0000