

Stanbury House, Basingstoke Road, Spencer's
Wood
(1001083-03)

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

March 2025

Quality Management	
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Proposals

- 1.1.1 Aspect Ecology is advising Cooper Estates Strategic Land Ltd in respect of the land at Stanbury House, Basingstoke Road, Spencer's Wood (hereafter referred to as 'the site'), which is proposed for development to provide 63 new dwellings, along with associated infrastructure and landscaping. To inform the planning application, Aspect Ecology has undertaken a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment to determine the level of BNG that can be achieved under the scheme. This work is based on the Statutory Biodiversity Metric tool¹ issued by Defra and informed by associated guidance issued by Defra, in combination with guidance developed by CIRIA, CIEEM and IEMA.

1.2 Biodiversity Net Gain Legislation, Policy and Best Practice

Legislation

- 1.2.1 In England, Biodiversity Net Gain has been mandatory since 12th February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).
- 1.2.2 Schedule 7A identifies (Part 2) that planning permissions in England (with certain exceptions) are deemed to have been granted subject to a condition requiring the submission of a *Biodiversity Gain Plan* prior to commencement of development. The Biodiversity Gain Plan must include details in regard to Biodiversity Net Gain, demonstrating how the development will achieve a gain in calculated biodiversity value of at least 10%.
- 1.2.3 Government advice² sets out the information LPAs require in order to consider BNG as part of a planning application, in line with Section 7(1A) of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015 (as amended). In particular, this sets out that planning applications should be accompanied by the following information (alongside references to where this can be located in this report):
- A statement confirming whether the applicant believes that planning permission, if granted, would be subject to the biodiversity gain condition (see section 1.3 of this report);
 - In cases where the applicant believes that planning permission, if granted, would be subject to the biodiversity gain condition:-
 - i. the pre-development ('baseline') biodiversity value of the on-site habitat on the date of application (or an earlier date) including the completed Metric calculation tool (showing the calculations, the publication date and version of the Metric used to calculate that value) (see Table 3.3 and Appendix 1083-03/BNG2 of this report);
 - ii. where the applicant wishes to use an earlier date, the proposed earlier date and the reasons for that date (not applicable to this project);
 - iii. a statement confirming whether the biodiversity value of the on-site habitat is lower on the date of application (or an earlier date) because of the carrying on of activities ('degradation') (see section 3.2 of this report);

¹ Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Auditing and Accounting for Biodiversity – Calculation Tool. 23 July 2024

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain-what-local-planning-authorities-should-do> (updated 08/05/24)

- iv. where unauthorised degradation has taken place between 30th January 2020 and the submission of the planning application, the relevant date should be immediately before these activities were carried out (not applicable to this project);
- v. a description of any irreplaceable habitat on the land, that exists on the date of application (or an earlier date) (see section 3.3 of this report); and
- vi. a plan drawn to an identified scale (including the direction of north), showing on-site habitat existing on the date of application (or an earlier date), and any irreplaceable habitat (see Plan 1083-03/BNG1).

Good Practice Principles for Development

1.2.4 CIRIA, CIEEM and IEMA have developed a set of principles on good practice to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain³, accompanied by a practical guide⁴. These principles provide a framework that helps improve the UK's biodiversity by contributing towards strategic priorities to conserve and enhance nature while progressing with sustainable development. They also provide a way for industry to show that projects follow good practice. Ten key principles are identified:

- 1) **Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy.** Do everything possible to first avoid and then minimise impacts on biodiversity. Only as a last resort, and in agreement with external decision-makers where possible, compensate for losses that cannot be avoided. If compensating for losses within the development footprint is not possible or does not generate the most benefits for nature conservation, then offset biodiversity losses by gains elsewhere.
- 2) **Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere.** Avoid impacts on irreplaceable biodiversity - these impacts cannot be offset to achieve No Net Loss or Net Gain.
- 3) **Be inclusive and equitable.** Engage stakeholders early, and involve them in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the approach to Net Gain. Achieve Net Gain in partnership with stakeholders where possible, and share the benefits fairly among stakeholders.
- 4) **Address risks.** Mitigate difficulty, uncertainty and other risks to achieving Net Gain. Apply well-accepted ways to add contingency when calculating biodiversity losses and gains in order to account for any remaining risks, as well as to compensate for the time between the losses occurring and the gains being fully realised.
- 5) **Make a measurable Net Gain contribution.** Achieve a measurable, overall gain for biodiversity and the services ecosystems provide while directly contributing towards nature conservation priorities.
- 6) **Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity.** Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity by using robust, credible evidence and local knowledge to make clearly-justified choices when:
 - Delivering compensation that is ecologically equivalent in type, amount and condition, and that accounts for the location and timing of biodiversity losses

³ CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2016) *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development*.

⁴ CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2019) *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. A practical guide*.

- Compensating for losses of one type of biodiversity by providing a different type that delivers greater benefits for nature conservation
 - Achieving Net Gain locally to the development while also contributing towards nature conservation priorities at local, regional and national levels
 - Enhancing existing or creating new habitat
 - Enhancing ecological connectivity by creating more, bigger, better and joined areas for biodiversity
- 7) **Be additional.** Achieve nature conservation outcomes that demonstrably exceed existing obligations (i.e. do not deliver something that would occur anyway).
- 8) **Create a Net Gain legacy.** Ensure Net Gain generates long-term benefits by:
- Engaging stakeholders and jointly agreeing practical solutions that secure Net Gain in perpetuity
 - Planning for adaptive management and securing dedicated funding for long-term management
 - Designing Net Gain for biodiversity to be resilient to external factors, especially climate change
 - Mitigating risks from other land uses
 - Avoiding displacing harmful activities from one location to another
 - Supporting local-level management of Net Gain activities
- 9) **Optimise sustainability.** Prioritise Biodiversity Net Gain and, where possible, optimise the wider environmental benefits for a sustainable society and economy.
- 10) **Be transparent.** Communicate all Net Gain activities in a transparent and timely manner, sharing the learning with all stakeholders.

1.3 Statement on Whether Biodiversity Gain Condition Applies and Purpose of this Report

- 1.3.1 Based on the site proposals and habitats present, it is considered that a planning permission, if granted in respect of the proposals, would be subject to the Biodiversity Gain planning condition under the legislation. Accordingly, this report provides a BNG assessment, including details of the existing calculated biodiversity value(s) and associated information, accompanied by a completed Metric calculation tool (Excel workbook) in line with the legislative requirements. In addition, going beyond the scope of the statutory BNG requirements, this report provides an assessment of the likely net change in biodiversity value under the proposed development, and a consideration of how a 10% gain can be delivered.

2 Methodology

2.1 Baseline Habitat Survey

2.1.1 The site has been subject to a number of ecological surveys since 2006 to inform a previous development scheme for the site and the adjacent land. The adjacent land is in receipt of planning (ref: APP/X0360/W/15/3097721) and is largely built out. The site was most recently surveyed in April 2023 and February 2025 in order to ascertain the general ecological value of the land contained within the boundaries of the site and to identify the main habitats and ecological features present.

2.1.2 The site was surveyed based on standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology⁵, whereby the habitat types present are identified and mapped, together with an assessment of the species composition of each habitat. The site was classified into areas of similar botanical community types, with a representative species list compiled for each habitat identified. Habitats were classified in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification system, version 2.0⁶, and condition assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in the Metric Technical Annex⁷ and using professional judgement. In line with guidance⁸, the fine scale minimum mapping unit (MMU) of 25sqm or 5m in length has been used where possible / relevant.

2.2 Survey Constraints and Limitations

2.2.1 All of the species that occur in each habitat would not necessarily be detectable during survey work carried out at any given time of the year, since different species are apparent during different seasons. The initial Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken within the optimal season, therefore allowing a robust assessment of habitats and botanical interest across the site.

2.3 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

2.3.1 To quantify the level of BNG that can be delivered under the proposed development, the change in biodiversity value resulting from the scheme has been calculated using the Metric calculation tool, as informed by the associated User Guide⁹. This takes account of the size, distinctiveness and ecological condition of existing and proposed habitat areas to provide a proxy measure of the present and forecast biodiversity value of a site and therefore determine the overall change in biodiversity value.

2.3.2 In line with the 'information that LPA's require' (see paragraph 1.2.3. above), the pre-development ('baseline') biodiversity value of the on-site habitat has been calculated based on the habitat survey information collected during the baseline habitat survey (see 2.1 above).

2.3.3 Going beyond the minimum statutory requirements (which only require the baseline habitat value to be defined at the planning application stage – see paragraph 1.2.3 above), the post-development biodiversity value has also been calculated, based on the 'Illustrative

⁵ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010, as amended) '*Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit.*'

⁶ UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)

⁷ Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1 - Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology

⁸ The UK Habitat classification User Manual. Version 1.1. 2020

⁹ Defra (Feb 2024) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – User Guide

Landscape Masterplan' (Indigo Landscape Architects Ltd, drawing no. '1070-MP-01' rev B, dated 4th March 2025). A number of assumptions have been made in terms of the landscaping and management proposals, based on comparative developments and what is realistic and feasible under the proposed land uses and landscape space types. Further details of assumptions made in populating the metric are provided in Chapter 4 below.

2.4 Strategic Significance

2.4.1 Strategic significance refers to the local significance of habitat parcels based on their location and the habitat type. The Metric gives additional unit value to habitat parcels that are mapped within a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) or, where no LNRS has been published, to habitats mapped / listed in alternative documents specified by the Local Planning Authority (e.g. Draft LNRS, Local Plans, Biodiversity Action Plans, Green Infrastructure Strategies, etc.). Strategic significance has been assigned to the pre- and post-development habitats in accordance with the methodology set out in Tables 7 and 8 of the User Guide, as follows:

- High (formally identified in local strategy);
- Medium (location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy);
- Low (area / compensation not in local strategy).

3 Pre-development ('Baseline') Habitats

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 A summary of the classification and condition rationale for the pre-development ('baseline') habitats is set out at Table 3.1 below, with pre-development hedgerows set out at Table 3.2. below.
- 3.1.2 Detailed condition assessment sheets are provided at Appendix 1083-03/BNG1, with habitat locations depicted on Plan 1083-03/BNG1.

3.2 Degradation and Consideration of Date of Pre-development Biodiversity Value under the Legislation

- 3.2.1 Land immediately adjacent to the site is in receipt of planning permission, which at the time of writing is nearing completion of construction. The north-eastern area of the site is currently in use as a site compound for the adjacent permitted development, and as such, has been largely cleared of grassland and now comprises bare ground and temporary built structures. It is therefore clear that the clearance works at the site have progressed in line with an existing planning permission, with the clearance understood to have been progressed after 25 August 2023, such that paragraph 6A of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) appears to apply. Survey data is available before this date, and therefore paragraph 6B of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) does not apply.
- 3.2.2 Survey data is available from 4th April 2023, and therefore it is proposed that the pre-development biodiversity value is taken from this date, prior to the on-site habitat degradation, in line with the relevant legislation.

3.3 Irreplaceable Habitats

- 3.3.1 No irreplaceable habitats are present within the site.

3.4 Strategic Significance

- 3.4.1 None of the habitats within the site are mapped within a published LNRS or any specified alternative documents. Therefore, in accordance with the User Guide, low strategic significance has been applied to the pre-development habitats.

Table 3.1. Pre-development Habitats

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Modified Grassland	Poor	Grassland within the site which is species-poor and dominated by fast-growing grasses. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is coded g4, and accordingly, is assigned as Modified Grassland. This grassland is species-poor and therefore does not pass criterion A which is essential for achieving 'Moderate' or 'Good' condition and thus is in 'Poor' condition.
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	Woodland located in the south-east of the site. It scored 29 out of 39 when assessed against the condition criteria and therefore is in 'Moderate' condition.
Rural Tree	Good	Given the rural context of the site, the trees have been assigned as Rural Tree. These trees pass all of the condition

		criteria and are thus in 'Good' condition.
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Table 3.2. Pre-development Hedgerows

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Native Hedgerow (H1a & H2a)	Good	Native hedgerows supporting low numbers of woody species which pass at least six condition criteria with no more than one failure in any functional group and are thus in 'Good' condition.
Native Hedgerow with Trees (H2)	Moderate	This hedgerow comprised native species with trees spaced less than 20m apart. This hedgerow fails both criteria in section B of the condition assessment and is thus in 'Moderate' condition.

Table 3.2. Pre-development Water Courses

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Ditch	Poor	The ditches are relatively shallow in nature with very little associated flora, and all were found to be dry or damp at the time of most recent survey. None of the ditches at the site were recorded to hold significant water throughout the survey work undertaken.

3.5 Pre-development Biodiversity Value of On-site Habitats

3.5.1 The pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat has been calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. A full copy of the Metric is provided as a separate Excel workbook. The overall pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat is set out within Table 3.3 (below).

Table 3.3. Pre-development ('baseline') biodiversity value of the on-site habitat based on the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, published 29 November 2024, updated 23 July 2024

Onsite baseline	Overall Units
Habitats	9.94
Hedgerows and tree lines	1.96
Watercourse	0.35

4 Post-development Habitats and BNG Assessment Result

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The BNG legislation places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to request the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat on the date of application (or an earlier date) as part of qualifying planning applications. This information is provided in the previous chapter of this report. Going beyond the scope of the statutory requirements, this chapter considers the likely change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposed development. Such information is not required under the legislation until planning has been approved (to be set out within a Biodiversity Gain Plan), but this information is provided now in order to provide the LPA with information as to how a 10% gain in biodiversity will be delivered.

4.2 Assumptions

4.2.1 When inputting the post-development habitat areas and condition to the Metric, the following assumptions have been made:

- Newly created habitat under the proposals will be managed appropriately to reach the assigned target condition (anticipated to be defined by a future management plan)

4.3 Strategic Significance

4.3.1 No strategic significance has been applied to the post-development habitats within the site.

4.4 Habitat Type and Condition

4.4.1 Summaries of the proposed post-development habitat creation / enhancement are set out in Tables 4.1 to 4.4 below. Post-development habitat locations are shown on Plan 1083-03/BNG2.

Table 4.1. Post-development onsite Habitat Creation

Habitat	Target Condition	Condition Rationale
Grassland – Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Proposed wildflower grassland provided around attenuation basins, hedgerow, and at the site boundary. Through planting of an appropriate species-rich mix, management to prevent encroachment of scrub and bracken as well as an absence of non-native species this habitat is anticipated to achieve at least a moderate condition within five years.
Grassland – Modified Grassland	Poor	Areas of amenity grassland to be created near to the built development. Given the proposed use of these areas with informal paths running through this grassland, it is anticipated these areas will only achieve poor condition.
Lake – Ornamental Lake or Pond	Moderate	Attenuation basins to be created within areas of open space and designed to hold water permanently. Through ensuring the water is of good quality and

		appropriate management, this habitat is expected to achieve at least moderate condition within three years.
Vegetated garden	N/A	This includes all of the vegetated gardens within the proposals. No assessment for the condition of this habitat is required.
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	N/A	This includes all roads, parking and buildings within the site. No assessment for the condition of this habitat is required.
Urban Trees	Moderate	Native trees to be planted throughout the site within areas of open space and adjacent the built development, expected to achieve moderate condition within 30 years with suitable management.

Table 4.2. Post-development onsite Linear Feature (Hedgerow) Enhancement.

Habitat	Target Condition	Condition Rationale
Native Hedgerow with Trees	Moderate - Good	Hedgerow H2 will be enhanced to good condition through planting to fill in the gaps in the hedgerow and suitable management.

Table 4.3. Post-development onsite Linear Feature (Hedgerow) Creation.

Habitat	Target Condition	Condition Rationale
Species-Rich Native Hedgerow	Moderate	Species-rich native hedgerow to be created within the site. Through suitable management this habitat would be expected to reach moderate condition within 5 years.
Species-rich Native Hedgerow with Trees	Moderate	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees to be created within the site. Through suitable management this habitat would be expected to reach moderate condition within 5 years.

Table 4.4. Post-development Watercourse Feature (Hedgerow) Enhancement.

Habitat	Target Condition	Condition Rationale
Ditches	Poor- Moderate	The ditches present on the site will be enhanced to moderate condition through planting of marginal aquatic vegetation along at least 75% of their length and reducing the level of shading through management of the bramble.

4.5 Anticipated Change in Biodiversity

The anticipated change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposals has been calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, based on the assumptions and considerations set out above. A copy of the Metric is provided separately as an Excel workbook and relevant extracts from the completed calculator tool are provided at Appendix 1083-03/BNG2.

When considering the current proposals, the Metric calculates that the development will likely result in the following changes in biodiversity, summarised in Table 4.5 (below):

Table 4.5. *Anticipated change in biodiversity*

	Change in Units	% Change
Onsite Habitats	-1.01	-10.20%
Onsite Hedgerows and tree lines	+0.94	49.67%
Onsite Watercourses	0.30	86.72%

4.5.1 On the basis of the considerations and proposals set out (including the assumptions and limitations set out above and within the comments in the spreadsheet tool), the Statutory Metric calculator indicates a net habitat biodiversity unit change for the proposals within the site boundary of -1.01 Habitat Units (representing a calculated loss of 10.20%), +0.94 Hedgerow Units (representing a calculated gain of 49.67%), and +0.30 Watercourse Units (representing a calculated gain of 86.72%) within the site boundary.

4.5.2 As can be seen from the above, under the proposed development a 10% net gain in biodiversity for on-site habitats will not be delivered within the site itself. To achieve a 10% net gain in habitat units, a total of 2.01 off-site units are required.

4.5.3 Under the relevant legislation, consideration of how the 10% gain will be delivered offsite is determined post-planning, via a Biodiversity Gain Plan. Given the low number of habitat units and the low distinctiveness of the existing on-site habitats, offsetting through the creation of offsite habitats is expected to be readily achievable. The exact approach to be pursued can be confirmed by way of a Biodiversity Gain Plan following grant of planning permission.

4.6 Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy

4.6.1 The Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy and its effect for the purpose of the statutory framework for BNG is set out in Articles 37A and 37D of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. This hierarchy (which does not apply to irreplaceable habitats) sets out a list of priority actions:

- i. firstly, in relation to on-site habitats which have a medium, high and very high distinctiveness (a score of four or more according to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric), the avoidance of adverse effects from the development and, if they cannot be avoided, the mitigation of those effects; and
- ii. secondly, in relation to all on-site habitats which are adversely affected by the development, the adverse effect should be compensated by prioritising in order, where possible, the enhancement of existing onsite habitats, creation of new on-site habitats, allocation of registered offsite gains and finally the purchase of biodiversity credits.

4.6.2 In relation to point (i), there are no very high distinctiveness habitats within the site. The only high distinctiveness habitat present is lowland mixed deciduous woodland, and this habitat is entirely retained within the proposals. The native hedgerow with trees and ditches are classified as medium distinctiveness and are entirely retained within the proposals. The individual rural trees are also classified as medium distinctiveness, however, as it has not been feasible to avoid adverse effects on this habitat, mitigation is provided.

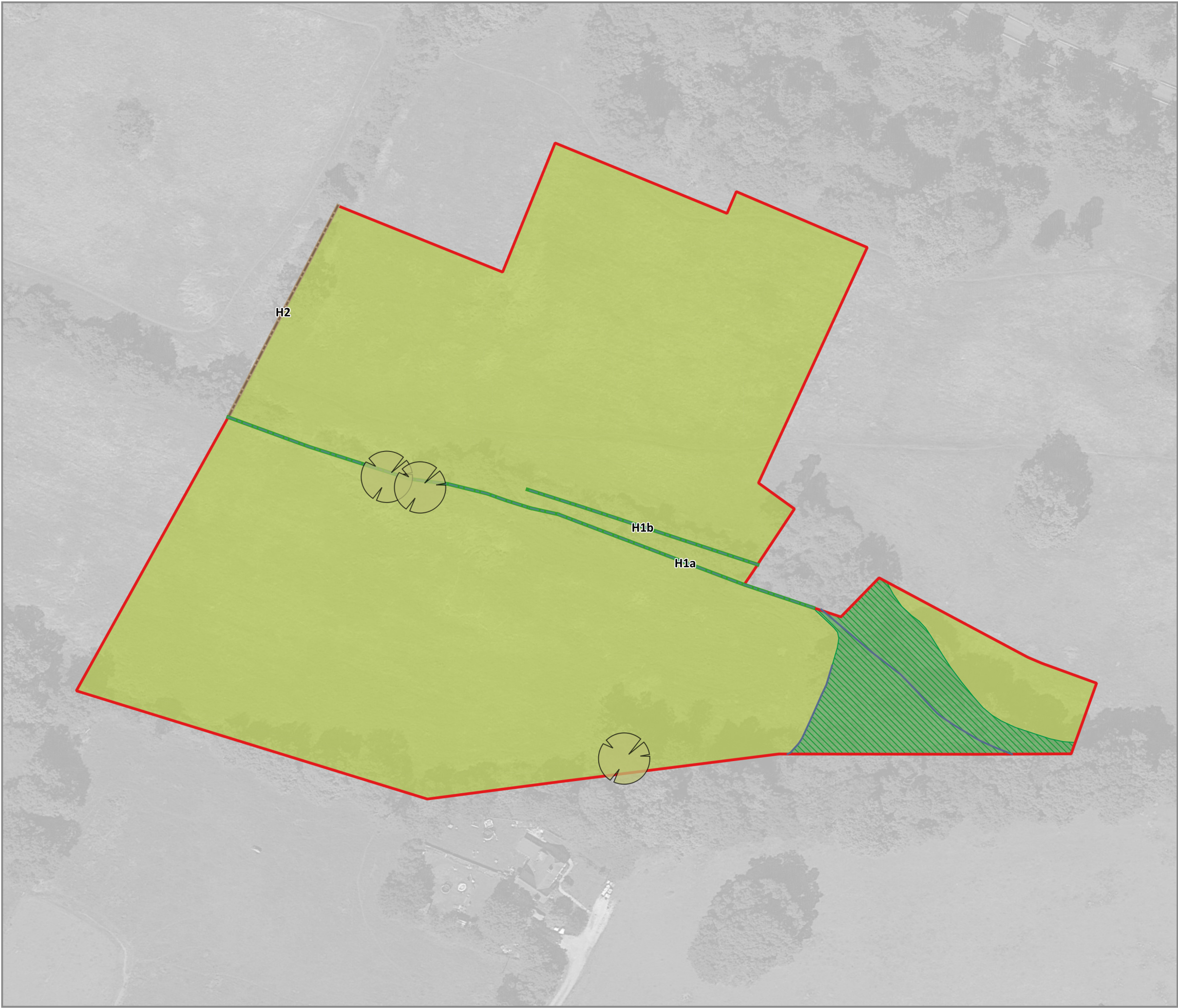
4.6.3 In relation to point (ii), adverse effects have been compensated by enhancing existing on-site habitats and creating new on-site habitats.

5 Summary and Conclusions

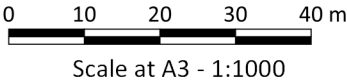
- 5.1 Aspect Ecology is advising Cooper Estates Strategic Land Ltd in respect of the land at Stanbury House, Basingstoke Road, Spencer's Wood, which is proposed for development to provide 60 new dwellings, along with associated infrastructure and landscaping.
- 5.2 BNG is a process that is considered both during the determination of planning applications and then post planning via a number of set documents (including a Biodiversity Gain Plan and, where required, a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan). Following on from the amendments to Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, government advice has been published which sets out the information that LPAs require in order to consider BNG as part of a planning application. The necessary information is included within this report, therefore the LPA's statutory requirements under the BNG legislation have been satisfied.
- 5.3 In addition, going beyond the scope of the statutory requirements (which only require the baseline habitat value to be defined at the planning application stage – see paragraph 1.2.3 above), a preliminary BNG assessment of the post-development value has been undertaken, which concludes that the proposed development will result in a net loss in habitat units amounting to 1.01 units (10.20%) and a net gain in hedgerow and watercourse units of +0.94 (49.67%) and +0.30 (86.72%), respectively. To achieve a 10% net gain in habitat units, a total of 2.01 off-site units would therefore be required.

Plan 1083-03/BNG1:

Pre-development Habitat Mapping



- Key:
- Site Boundary
 - Modified grassland - Poor Condition (2.5900ha)
 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (0.1675ha)
 - Ditches (0.095km)
 - Native hedgerow - Good Condition (0.235km)
 - Native hedgerow with trees - Moderate Condition (0.065km)
 - Very Large Urban Tree - Good condition [3]



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Stanbury Ho., Basingstoke Rd,
Spencers Wood
Pre-development Habitat Mapping

1083-03/BNG1

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May 2025

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Plan 1083-03/BNG2:

Post-development Habitat Mapping

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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Developed land; sealed surface: Building (0.4100ha)
- Proposed Developed land; sealed surface: Hardstanding (0.8000ha)
- Proposed Modified grassland (0.4475ha)
- Proposed Ornamental lake or pond (0.0375ha)
- Proposed Other neutral grassland (0.4000ha)
- Proposed Vegetated garden (0.4950ha)
- Retained Lowland mixed deciduous woodland (0.1675ha)
- Enhanced Ditches (0.095km)
- Enhanced Native hedgerow with trees - Moderate Condition (0.065km)
- Proposed Species-rich native hedgerow with trees (0.04km)
- Proposed Species-rich native hedgerow (0.075km)
- Retained Native hedgerow - Good Condition (0.21km)
- Proposed Urban Tree [110]
- Retained Urban Tree [1]

0 10 20 30 40 m

Scale at A3 - 1:900

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Stanbury Ho., Basingstoke Rd,
Spencers Wood
Post-development Habitat Mapping

1083-03/BNG2

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Appendix 1083-03/BNG1:

Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENT MATRIX FOR STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC

Habitat type/criteria		Feature Reference							
<i>Grassland (low distinctiveness)</i>									
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	Fail							
B	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 vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Pass							
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Pass							
D	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.	Pass							
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Pass							
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Pass							
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA4).	Pass							
Condition (6+ criteria including A = good; 4-5 criteria including A = moderate; 3 criteria or fewer or fails A = poor)		Poor							

[illegible]

HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENT MATRIX FOR STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC

Habitat type/criteria		Feature Reference							
<i>Individual trees / Tree Blocks and Groups</i>		T62	T72	T73					
A	Tree is a native species (or at least 70% within block are native)	Pass	Pass	Pass					
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps less than 10% of total area and no more than 5m wide individually. Automatically passed for individual trees.	Pass	Pass	Pass					
C	Tree is mature (or at least 50% within block are mature)	Pass	Pass	Pass					
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Pass	Pass	Pass					
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present (e.g. deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark)	Pass	Pass	Pass					
F	More than 20% of tree canopy is oversailing vegetation beneath	Pass	Pass	Pass					
Condition		Good	Good	Good					

HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENT MATRIX FOR STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC



Habitat type/criteria	Feature Reference							
Ditch								
A The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Pass							
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.	Fail							
C There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and/or duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Pass							
D A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	Fail							
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.	Pass							
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.	Fail							
G Less than 10% of ditch is heavily shaded	Fail							
H Absence of non-native plant and animal species	Pass							
Condition	Poor							

Appendix 1083-03/BNG1:

Relevant Output from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric
Calculation Tool

ecology • landscape planning • arboriculture



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