bngreport

for
Phase 2 Off Site

Land to South West of Summergrove,
Whitehaven
CA28 8YN
National Grid Field No. NX 9915 9646

October 2024

bringing **e**cological **e**xcellence **t**o **l**ocal **e**nvironments

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants in partnership with Rubecula Ecology were commissioned by John Swift Homes (the applicant) to undertake a Off-site Phase 2 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment of the proposed development on an area of land to Southwest of Summergrove, Whitehaven CA28 8YN, National Grid Field No NX 9915 8061 (the Site).
This report should read in conjunction with the Phase 2 Statutory Metric Calculation Tool which relates to all aspects of the project.

1.2 All assessments and surveys were supervised by Principal Ecologist Graham Workman who has over forty-five years professional experience in the ecology field. He has the specialist knowledge and ecological skills to undertake and complete all the surveys contained within this report. Rebecca Curtis at Rubecula Ecology, MSc in Conservation Biology, BSc in Conservation, Wildlife and Zoo Biology, 6 years field experience, over 10 years' experience using QGIS and various data analysis software and recently completed multiple CIEEM training courses on UKHab, QGIS, DEFRA Metric and Biodiversity Net Gain.

2.0 Non-Technical Summary

2.1 As a result of the development proposal the on-site BNG uplift of 10% was not achievable and has therefore required the clients to complete an off-site BNG. The initial on-site BNG gave a biodiversity net loss of -7.82% compared with the baseline habitats present due to the large amount of poor condition modified grassland lost. There was an increase of 341.42% in hedgerow habitat. This report assesses the off-site BNG completed in the blue line boundary under the client's ownership.

2.2 The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment relies on a number of assumptions which are detailed within this report. The most recent version of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool was used for the calculations of this project (Microsoft excel format). As such, the Biodiversity Metric calculator spreadsheet should always accompany this report and vice versa.

2.3 The baseline habitat calculations are based on site habitat data within the blue line boundary prior to development-related activities starting within the Phase 2 red line boundary. This report assesses the biodiversity value calculations of the existing habitats within both the on-site and off-site areas and the proposed habitat creations made in the off-site blue line boundary. This report provides an overview of the change in Biodiversity Value (Biodiversity Net Gain/Loss) generated by both proposals.

2.4 The BNG Assessment will indicate how a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity has occurred as a result of the habitat proposals in the off-site assessment.

2.5 **Key Results**

The off-site development is estimated to result in an overall habitat Biodiversity Net Gain of 30.09% and a hedgerow Biodiversity Net Gain of 341.42%.This is due to the creation of good condition other neutral grassland.

3.0 Project Description

3.1 The creation and/or enhancements of an area of land within the blue line boundary (within the client's ownership) in order to achieve a net gain of over 10% to replace the loss created by the on-site development within the Phase 2 red line boundary.

4.0 Site Location

4.1 The off-site BNG is located on the land South West of Summergrove, Whitehaven, CA28 8YN, National Grid Field No NY 0015 0726. Entrance to the site is via Dalzell Street. The land is currently in use as grazing pasture for sheep.

4.2 The development site covers an area of approximately 0.4134Ha (4134m²)

4.3 The entire blue line boundary was assessed for the off-site enhancements but only a section was required as this was a large enough area to create the net gain uplift needed (see habitat baseline maps).

4.4 The Local Plan took into consideration - Copeland's Local Green Spaces

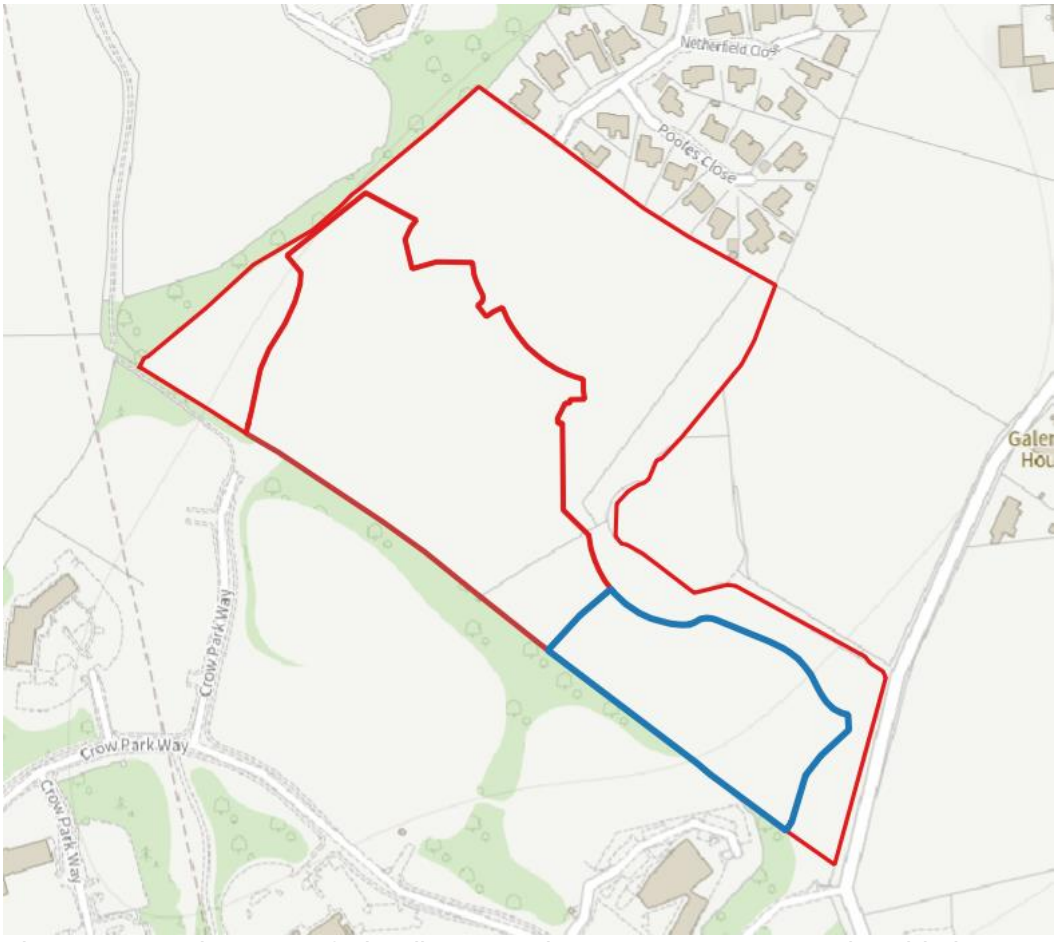

Figure 1. Location Map of Blue-line Boundary, Summergrove Park, Whitehaven.

5.0 Methodology

5.1 Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, baseline and proposed site plans, aerial photographs and a site visit were used to identify features of ecological interest within the redline boundary and areas surrounding

the site.
Habitat parcels and condition assessments were determined using the UKHab Minimum Mapping Unit of 25m² and where appropriate a 1m² quadrat. Essential secondary codes were used and when applicable additional secondary codes to assist the project. Field data information was digitised using QGIS v3.34.4 software, using co-ordinate reference system EPSG: 27700 OSGB 1936 / British National Grid and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric QGIS template at a scale of 1:100.

5.2 Pre-development baseline habitat information

This report is based on data collected during a survey undertaken on the 4th October 2024 at the same time as the Phase 1 and Phase 2 assessments. Habitat identification and condition assessments were undertaken by Graham Workman of Whistling Beetle Ecological Consultants, an experienced Consultant Ecologist and Rebecca Curtis from Rubecula Ecology. Vegetation and habitat types within the site were noted in accordance with the categories specified in the UK Habs Classification (v2.01) and habitat conditions assessed using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment sheets.

5.3 The off-site (blue line boundary) area is a section of the same field being used for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 development. The off-site area is still within the client's ownership but is not required for both developments. The area, like the rest of the field had been sheep grazed. Only a section of this area was required for the 10% BNG uplift.

5.4 The blue line boundary (Parcel 1) consists of poor-condition modified grassland. It was surveyed using a 1m² quadrat and less than 5 species were present.

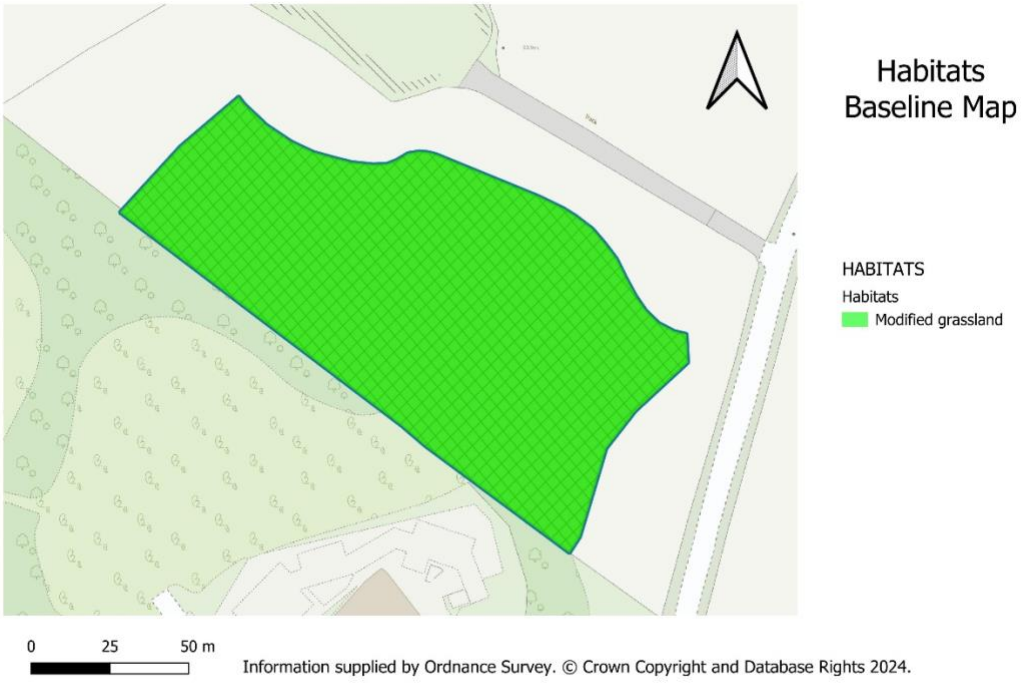

Figure 2. Baseline Habitats Map, Summergrove Park, Whitehaven.

Parcel	Broad Habitat Type	UK Habs	Secondary Codes	Condition	Area
1	Grassland	g4	102	Poor	12031m²

Table.1 UK Habs polygon attributes (See UK Habs Key and parcel Map)

6.0 Post-development habitat information

6.1 Please note, this plan may be superseded or updated without warranting an update of this report, if the changes are insignificant to the impact of the development on biodiversity. The version included within this report is for indicative purposes only and should not be relied upon as the definitive version

There are no irreplaceable habitats on site

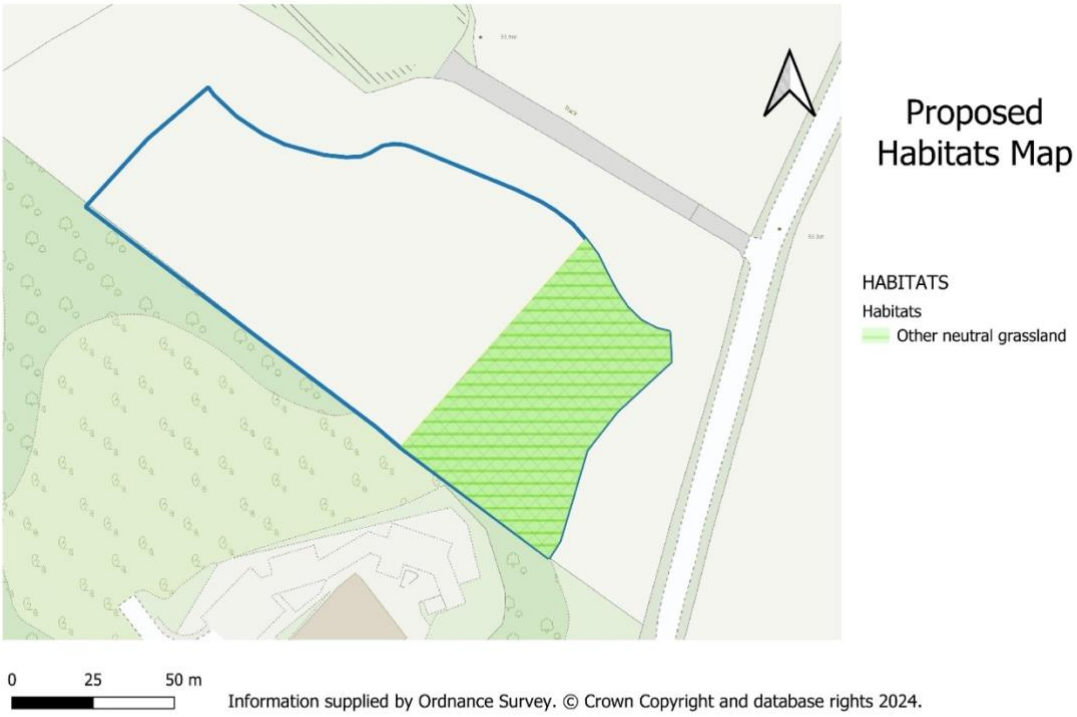

Figure 3. Proposed Habitats Map, Summergrove Park, Whitehaven.

Off-site baseline	*Habitat units*	0.73	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	3.08	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	*Habitat units*	2.35	320.17%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Table 2. Displays the headline unit off-site change as shown in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool

FINAL RESULTS	
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units* *Hedgerow units* *Watercourse units*
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units* *Hedgerow units* *Watercourse units*
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes

Table 3. Displays the final on-site and off-site unit change as shown in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

6.2 In order to achieve the minimum 10% net gain 3665m² of land within the blue line boundary will need to be used.

6.3 A species rich grassland will be created (other neutral grassland). This habitat will help to replace the modified grassland that is being lost but offer more opportunities for wildlife. To ensure a diverse and rich sward the following species wil be used - Common Bent (Agrostis capillaris) Meadow Foxtail (Alopecurus pratensis) Sweet Vernal-grass (Anthoxanthum odoratum) Common Knapweed (Centaurea nigra). Crested Dog's-tail (Cynosurus cristatus) Perennial Rye-grass (Lolium perenne) Cock's-foot (Dactylis glomerata) Lady's Bedstraw (Galium verum) Common Bird's-foot-trefoil (Lotus corniculatus) Meadow Fescue (Schedonorus pratensis) Red Clover (Trifolium pratense) Meadow-grasses (Poa spp.) Meadow Buttercup (Ranunculus acris). These species have been selected to provide opportunities for mammals such as Voles, mice, shrews, Brown Hare, Hedgehog and Moles. It will also provide enhanced opportunities for birds such as Lapwing, Grey Partridge, Skylark, Yellow Hammer, Linnet and other finches, as well as Starling, Kestrel and Barn owl. With correct management this would be expected to reach good condition.

6.4 All enhancements and habitat creations will be subject to a HMMP.

7.0 Biodiversity Net Gain Summary

7.1 This scheme required a minimum of 10% BNG in habitats and this target has now been achieved via off-site habitat creations within the blue line boundary. With the proposed off-site habitat suggestions a 30.09% will be achieved. An off-site hedgerow uplift was not needed for this project as this was achieved on site.

See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool attached for a breakdown of all results.

8.0 Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (MHHP)

8.1 To fully comply with BNG requirements, a 30-year habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP) will be developed. It is expected that this information can be secured by a condition included with the application's decision notice.

The HMMP will include management prescriptions which will achieve the desired condition for each habitat, based on the Statutory Biodiversity Condition scoring. The HMMP will also include the methods and reporting processes to be used for monitoring the success of habitat enhancement and creation along with options for remedial intervention where needed if a habitat is not achieving its targeted condition. Roles and responsibilities, along with financial and legal requirements will be included.

UK Habs Key

102 – sheep grazed

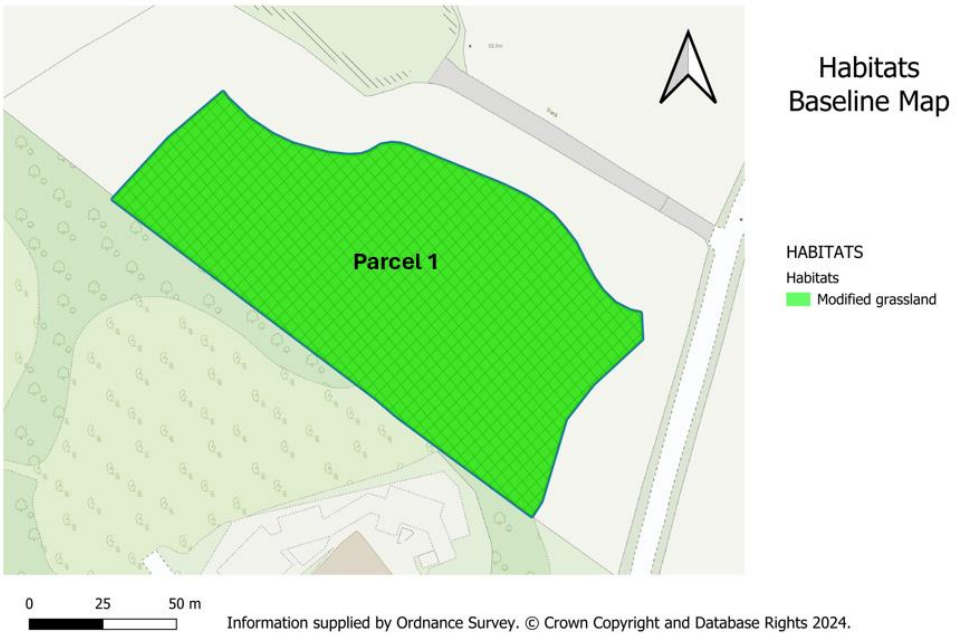

Figure 4 Off-site Habitat Parcels, Summergrove Park, Whitehaven.

9.0 References

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