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# Technical Report

## Biodiversity Net Gain Plan

Stokes Lane Solar Farm

Stokes Lane Solar Farm Limited

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Terms of Reference

Atmos Consulting Ltd (Atmos) were commissioned by Stokes Lane Solar Farm Limited to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report to inform a planning application for a proposed solar farm on land north and south of Rookery Farm Lane, Monk Sherborne; hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

### 1.2 Site Location and Description

The Site (approximate central national grid reference SU 60955 55379) is located approximately 750m north west of Basingstoke and 500m west of Sherborne St John within the county of Hampshire, comprising approximately 87.5ha of arable fields bounded by hedgerows. Arable land makes up the majority of the greater landscape, with a golf course directly adjacent to the south eastern Site boundary.

### 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this report are:

- To summarise the habitat baseline and condition of the Site;
- To demonstrate that the mitigation hierarchy has been followed;
- To quantify the baseline biodiversity value of the Site and the measures required to achieve a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain; and
- To indicate the potential need for longer term monitoring over 30-years based on the habitats to be enhanced or created.

## 2. Legislative Requirements

### 2.1 National Legislation

The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** states that planning policy should identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable gains for biodiversity.

Paragraph 193 in Chapter 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment includes the following requirements for planning applications to demonstrate:

*a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*

*c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons<sup>(63)</sup> and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and*

*d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.*

The relevant primary legislation for the statutory framework for biodiversity net gain is principally set out under **Schedule 7A (Biodiversity Gain in England) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990**. This legislation was inserted into the 1990 Act by Schedule 14 of the **Environment Act 2021**, and was amended by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2024 made consequential amendments to other parts of the 1990 Act.

From 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, all qualifying developments are required to demonstrate a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain. This objective is for development to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value relative to the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat, evidenced via completion of the **statutory biodiversity metric**. This increase must demonstrate it has followed the **biodiversity gain hierarchy** first through onsite biodiversity gains, second registered offsite biodiversity gains or third statutory biodiversity credits.

For 'small sites' defined as residential developments on land less than 0.5ha in size or between 1 and 9 dwellings, or commercial developments on land less than 1ha in size or less than 1,000 sqm, these are required to also demonstrate 10% gain via the 'small sites metric'.

Where achievement of 10% BNG relies on 'significant on-site enhancements' or where off-site habitat measures are required in order to deliver 10% BNG, a **Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP)** will be required as a condition of consent. A **Biodiversity Gain Plan** will also be required as a condition of consent (this report).

Further detail on the criteria are available in the secondary guidance at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

### 2.2 Local Planning Policy

There are no specific BNG requirements separate from statutory guidance within the Basingstoke and Dean Council Local Plan.



### Local Strategic Significance

To determine the 'strategic significance' of the habitats as part of the BNG assessment any habitats referenced within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire as 'Formally identified in local strategy'. Following Basingstoke and Deane guidance, as the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire is still under review until December 2025, the Landscape, Biodiversity and Trees SPD should be used in its absence. Habitats that have not specifically listed within the local habitat initiatives but have been deemed as important habitats within the local area have been classified as 'Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy' and all other habitats have been classified as 'Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy'.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Reasoning for Approach

##### 3.1.1 Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy

The process must demonstrate how the Proposed Development has sought to protect or minimise losses of the most valuable habitats within the Assessment Boundary. This is done by implementing the 'Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy', as follows:

- **Avoid Adverse Effects:** The first priority is to minimise negative impacts on existing habitats within the development site. This is particularly important for areas with medium, high, or very high distinctiveness (scoring 4 or more on the [Statutory Biodiversity Metric](#)).
- **Mitigate Unavoidable Effects:** If adverse impacts cannot be entirely avoided, the next step involves minimising and mitigating these impacts as much as possible.
- **Enhance On-Site Habitats:** Once impacts have been minimised, the focus shifts to enhancing the quality of existing habitats within the development site.
- **Create New On-Site Habitats:** If further improvements are needed to achieve the 10% net gain requirement, developers should explore creating new habitats within the development area.
- **Secure Off-Site Biodiversity Units:** If achieving the required net gain on-site proves insufficient, developers can secure **off-site biodiversity units**. ILM excels in facilitating this step for developers, with a diverse portfolio of high-quality Biodiversity Gain Sites that generate these units. These units represent habitat creation or restoration elsewhere, contributing to the overall 10% biodiversity net gain requirement.
- **Purchase Biodiversity Credits:** As a last resort, if all previous options have been exhausted, developers can purchase statutory biodiversity credits. However, this option should only be considered after exploring all other possibilities within the hierarchy.

##### 3.1.2 Irreplaceable Habitats

Irreplaceable habitats are those which are very difficult (or take a very long time) to restore, create or replace once they have been destroyed. This may be due to their age, uniqueness, species diversity and rarity. They include some of England's most ecologically valuable terrestrial and intertidal habitats.

The definition and list of irreplaceable habitats for BNG are set out in the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024. The list includes:

- ancient woodland
- ancient and veteran trees
- blanket bog
- limestone pavements
- coastal sand dunes
- spartina saltmarsh swards
- mediterranean saltmarsh scrub
- lowland fens

The presence of irreplaceable habitats on Assessment Boundary must be recorded in the statutory biodiversity metric. However, the 10% BNG requirement does not apply when irreplaceable habitats

are proposed to be lost. Instead, bespoke compensation would be required, and planning permission for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitat will only be granted in wholly exceptional circumstances and where a suitable compensation strategy exists. It is therefore best to avoid any adverse impacts on irreplaceable habitat present within a proposed development site.

### 3.2 Assessment Boundary Survey and Habitat Condition Assessment

A UK Habitat (UKHAB) Classification survey of the solar Site was undertaken on 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 with the grid connection later surveyed on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (Figure 1). The condition of the habitats present was assessed using the information available from these surveys to inform the biodiversity calculator.

### 3.3 Proposed Development Layout

A landscaping plan (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)) has been produced for the Proposed Development (refer to: 58759 Stokes Lane Solar Farm ES Volume 4 Figure 2-5: LEMP). Further enhancements are outlined in the present report.

### 3.4 Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations

In order to calculate the baseline Biodiversity Unit (BU) value of the Assessment Boundary, the effects of the proposed development and to quantify the proposed mitigation, enhancement and habitat creation measures, a biodiversity metric was populated. This utilised the DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric to calculate the overall net gain achieved by the development. It followed three steps.

1. Firstly, the existing baseline habitat data, in UKHAB format, was entered into the metric by selecting the correct habitat type from the drop-down menu, as well as its extent, condition and strategic significance. Where present, this was done separately for the three habitat modules in the metric, i.e. area-based habitats (such as fields and ponds), hedgerows & lines of trees, and watercourses. This determined the baseline BU value of the Assessment Boundary;
2. Secondly, the amount of each baseline habitat to be retained or enhanced was entered. This therefore also calculated any habitat losses;
3. Thirdly, the proposed habitat enhancements were entered into the metric along with their target condition and strategic significance; and
4. Finally, the proposed habitat creation measures were entered into the metric, along with their proposed extent and target condition, as well as their strategic significance.

The habitat enhancement and creation measures, when compared to the baseline minus the habitat loss, indicate the overall biodiversity net gain (or loss). Further details are provided in Section 3 and Appendix A and Appendix B including the assumptions and metric results.

### 3.5 Biodiversity Net Gain Calculations

In order to calculate the baseline biodiversity unit value (BU) of the Site, the effects of the proposed development and to quantify the proposed mitigation, enhancement and habitat creation measures, a biodiversity metric was populated. This utilised the latest DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric to calculate the overall net gain achieved by the development. It followed three steps.

5. First, the existing baseline habitat data, in UKHAB format, was input into the metric via selecting the most appropriate habitat type from the drop-down menu. This included area-



based habitats (such as fields and ponds) and linear habitats (hedgerows). This determines the baseline biodiversity unit (BU) value of the Site;

6. Second, the projected habitat enhancements were input. These were based on the strategic significance of certain habitats, along with areas of retained habitats which were capable of being enhanced to improve biodiversity; and
7. Finally, the proposed habitat creation measures were input into the metric. These, when compared to the baseline minus the habitat loss, indicate the overall biodiversity net gain (or loss).

Further details are provided in Section 3 and Appendix A including the assumptions and metric results.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Habitat Baseline

The habitats present within the Site and their condition are summarised in the tables below. The calculations can be found in the accompanying Statutory Biodiversity Metric file (58759 Monk Sherborne Farm Baseline Statutory\_Biodiversity\_Metric\_Calculation\_Tool\_Macro\_enabled).

### 4.2 Area-based Habitats

The area-based habitats present within the Site are summarised in the Table below.

**Table 1: Area-based Habitats in Baseline**

| Habitat Type                   | Area (ha) | Distinctiveness | Condition                | Strategic Significance                                     | Baseline BU   |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Blackthorn scrub               | 0.06      | Low             | Poor                     | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.24          |
| Cereal crops                   | 59.02     | Low             | Condition Assessment N/A | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 118.04        |
| Developed land; sealed surface | 3.30      | Low             | N/A - Other              | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.00          |
| Blackthorn scrub               | 0.6       | Low             | Poor                     | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.24          |
| Modified grassland             | 0.05      | Medium          | Good                     | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.29          |
| Modified grassland             | 0.18      | Medium          | Poor                     | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.37          |
| Non-cereal crops               | 24.71     | V.Low           | Condition Assessment N/A | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 49.42         |
| Other woodland; broadleaved    | 0.02      | Medium          | Moderate                 | Formally identified in local strategy                      | 0.18          |
| <b>Total</b>                   |           | <b>87.44</b>    |                          |  | <b>168.54</b> |

The calculations above included both default assumptions (that are inbuilt into the Biodiversity Metric) and criteria which were selected from a series of drop-down menus. The condition criteria passed for each habitat are shown below.

#### Calculations Detail

##### Condition Assessment

- Condition assessments are not required for arable or urban habitats.
- Modified grassland within the Site that were classified as being in 'good' condition passes all condition criteria.
- Modified grassland within the Site that were classified as being in 'poor' condition fails essential condition criteria A and condition criteria B.
- Blackthorn scrub within the Site that were classified as being in 'poor' condition passes condition criteria C and E
- Other woodland; broadleaved were classified as being in 'moderate' condition scoring a total of 29.

### 4.3 Linear-based Habitats

The linear-based habitats present within the Site are summarised in the Table below.

**Table 2: Area-based Habitats in Baseline**

| Habitat Type   | Area (ha)   | Distinctiveness | Condition | Strategic Significance                                     | Baseline BU  |
|--|-------------|-----------------|-----------|--|--------------|
| Line of trees  | 1.61        | Low             | Moderate  | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 6.44         |
| Native hedgerow  | 2.66        | Low             | Moderate  | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 10.65        |
| Native hedgerow  | 0.10        | Low             | Poor      | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.19         |
| Native hedgerow with trees                                 | 0.16        | Low             | Moderate  | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 1.25         |
| Native hedgerow with trees                                 | 0.86        | Low             | Poor      | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 3.44         |
| Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch | 0.97        | Low             | Good      | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 17.46        |
| Non-native and ornamental hedgerow                         | 0.05        | Low             | Poor      | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.05         |
| Species-rich native hedgerow with trees                    | 0.88        | High            | Moderate  | Formally identified in local strategy                      | 12.10        |
| Species-rich native hedgerow with trees                    | 0.67        | High            | Good      | Formally identified in local strategy                      | 13.97        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>7.96</b> |                 |           |  | <b>65.56</b> |

The calculations above included both default assumptions (that are inbuilt into the Biodiversity Metric) and criteria which were selected from a series of drop-down menus. The condition criteria passed for each habitat are shown below.

### Calculations Detail

#### Condition Assessment

- Hedgerows with trees within the Site that were classified as being 'moderate' condition failing three condition criteria B1, C2 and E1 or some failed the functional group C.
- Hedgerows with trees within the Site that were classified as being 'poor' condition failing six of the condition criteria and two functional groups A1, A2, C1, D1, D2 and E1.
- Hedgerows within the Site that were classified as being 'moderate' condition failed either three condition criteria or a functional group.
- The line of trees within the Site were all classified as being 'moderate' condition passing three of the condition criteria A, B and E.

#### 4.3.1 Irreplaceable Habitats and Habitat Distinctiveness

There are no irreplaceable habitats located within the Site or adjacent areas. The highest distinctiveness area habitat on Site was 'blackthorn scrub', 'mixed scrub' and 'other broadleaved woodland' that are classified as having 'medium' distinctiveness. The highest distinctiveness linear habitat was 'species-rich hedgerow with trees' that are classified as having 'high' distinctiveness.

## 4.4 Proposed Habitats

The Site post-development is shown in Appendix A.

### 4.4.1 Biodiversity Calculations

The proposed habitat creation, retention and enhancement measures outlined in the landscaping design for the Site (Appendix A) were entered into the Biodiversity Metric.

The results for area-based habitats are summarised in Table 3, overleaf. The results for hedgerows/lines of trees are summarised in Table 4.

Table 3: Summary of BNG from Area Habitats

| Habitat Types                  | Distinctiveness | Strategic Significance  | Retained     |              | Enhanced    |             | Created      |               | Target Conditions        | Notes                          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                |                 |   | Ha           | BU           | Ha          | BU          | Ha           | BU            |                          |                                |
| Blackthorn scrub               | Medium          | Area/compensation not in local strategy/<br>no local strategy | 0.03         | 0.10         | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00          | Poor                     |                                |
| Cereal crops                   | Low             | Area/compensation not in local strategy/<br>no local strategy | 10.15        | 20.3         | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00          | Condition Assessment N/A |                                |
| Developed land; sealed surface | V.Low           | Area/compensation not in local strategy/<br>no local strategy | 3.4          | 0.00         | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.13         | 0.00          | N/A - Other              |                                |
| Mixed scrub                    | Medium          | Area/compensation not in local strategy/<br>no local strategy | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00        | 0.00        | 2.535        | 9.79          | Poor                     | Native woodland/scrub planting |
| Modified grassland             | Low             | Area/compensation not in local strategy/<br>no local strategy | 0.048        | 0.29         | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00          | Good                     | Wildflower meadow              |
| Modified grassland             | Low             | Area/compensation not in local strategy/<br>no local strategy | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.18        | 0.61        | 38.13        | 132.26        | Moderate                 | Wildflower meadow              |
| Non-cereal crops               | Low             | Area/compensation not in local strategy/<br>no local strategy | 5.21         | 10.42        | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00          | Condition Assessment N/A |                                |
| Other neutral grassland        | Medium          | Area/compensation not in local strategy/<br>no local strategy | 0.026        | 0.10         | 0.00        | 0.00        | 27.61        | 102.84        | Poor                     | Species rich grassland         |
| Other woodland; broadleaved    | Medium          | Formally identified in local strategy                         | 0.02         | 0.18         | 0.00        | 0.00        | 0.00         | 0.00          | Moderate                 |                                |
| <b>Sub-totals</b>              |                 |   | <b>29.01</b> | <b>31.30</b> | <b>0.18</b> | <b>0.61</b> | <b>68.41</b> | <b>244.89</b> |                          |                                |
| <b>Total BU</b>                |                 |   |              |              |             |             |              |               |                          | <b>276.8</b>                   |
| <b>Total BNG %</b>             |                 |   |              |              |             |             |              |               |                          | <b>64.23%</b>                  |

### Area Habitats

As shown in Table 3, implementing the Proposed Development footprint and landscaping design will result in an overall gain of **64.23%** through the creation of good condition modified grassland under the solar panel array, the creation of good condition other neutral grassland and moderate condition mixed scrub replacing the low distinctiveness arable habitats and many habitats are being retained within the Site.

**Table 4: Summary of BNG for Linear Habitats**

| Habitat Types  | Distinctiveness | Strategic Significance                                     | Retained |       | Enhanced |      | Created |       | Target Conditions | Notes         |
|--|-----------------|--|----------|-------|----------|------|---------|-------|-------------------|---------------|
|  |                 |  | km       | BU    | km       | BU   | km      | BU    |                   |               |
| Line of trees  | Low             | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 1.61     | 6.44  | 0.00     | 0.00 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Moderate          |               |
| Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch | High            | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.97     | 17.46 | 0.00     | 0.00 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Good              |               |
| Native hedgerow with trees                                 | Medium          | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.16     | 1.25  | 0.00     | 0.00 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Moderate          |               |
| Native hedgerow with trees                                 | Medium          | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy |          | 0.00  | 0.86     | 3.44 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Poor              |               |
| Native hedgerow  | Low             | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 2.42     | 9.66  | 0.00     | 0.00 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Moderate          |               |
| Native hedgerow  | Low             | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy |          | 0.00  | 0.00     | 0.00 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Poor              |               |
| Non-native and ornamental hedgerow                         | V.Low           | Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy | 0.05     | 0.05  | 0.00     | 0.00 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Poor              |               |
| Species-rich native hedgerow with trees                    | High            | Formally identified in local strategy                      | 0.67     | 13.87 | 0.00     | 0.00 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Good              |               |
| Species-rich native hedgerow with trees                    | High            | Formally identified in local strategy                      | 0.16     | 2.16  | 0.43     | 5.96 | 0.00    | 0.00  | Moderate          |               |
| Species-rich native hedgerow                               | High            | Formally identified in local strategy                      | 1.61     | 6.44  | 0.00     | 0.00 | 1.47    | 13.23 | Good              |               |
| <b>Sub-totals</b>  |                 |  | 6.02     | 50.89 | 1.29     | 9.40 | 1.47    | 13.23 |                   |               |
| <b>Total BU</b>  |                 |  |          |       |          |      |         |       |                   | <b>22.66</b>  |
| <b>Total BNG %</b>   |                 |  |          |       |          |      |         |       |                   | <b>34.56%</b> |

### Hedgerows/Lines of Trees

As shown in Table 4, implementing the Proposed Development footprint and landscaping design will result in an overall gain of **34.56%** through the retention of most linear features and the enhancement of existing hedgerows to species rich hedgerows in good condition and the creation of additional species rich native hedgerows in good condition.



#### 4.4.2 Trading Rules

The proposed on-Assessment Boundary changes to the habitats results in the trading rules being passed.

##### High Distinctiveness

- Species-rich native hedgerow with trees had an overall project wide gain of 14.06 BU and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.

##### Medium Distinctiveness

- Other neutral grassland had an overall project wide gain of 102.84 BU and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Blackthorn scrub project wide loss of -0.14 BU this has been accounted for with a surplus of biodiversity units from the creation of mixed scrub, therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Mixed scrub had an overall project wide gain of 9.65 BU and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Other broadleaved woodland had no change in BU units within the Site and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Species-rich native hedgerow had an overall project wide gain of 13.23 BU and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Native hedgerow with trees project wide loss of -3.44 BU this has been accounted for with a surplus of biodiversity units from the creation of species-rich native hedgerow, therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.

##### Low Distinctiveness

- Other cereal crop had an overall project wide loss of -97.74 BU this has been accounted for with a surplus of biodiversity units from the creation of other low distinctiveness habitats (modified grassland) and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Non-cereal crop had an overall project wide loss of -39.00 BU this has been accounted for with a surplus of biodiversity units from the creation of other low distinctiveness habitats (modified grassland) and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Modified grassland had an overall project wide gain of 132.51 BU and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Native hedgerow project wide loss of -3.44 BU this has been accounted for with a surplus of biodiversity units from the creation of medium distinctiveness habitats therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.
- Line of trees had no change in BU units within the Site and therefore trading standards have been passed for this habitat.

#### 4.4.3 Assumptions and criteria

The calculations above are based on both default assumptions that are built into the Metric and criteria/assumptions selected from a series of drop-down menus. They include the following for transparency:

### Habitat Creation

- Habitats proposed to be wildflower mix will be modified grassland in 'moderate' condition with the habitat which will be required to pass a minimum of four condition criteria including essential criteria A.
- Habitats proposed to be species rich grassland mix will be other neutral grassland in 'poor' condition.
- Habitats proposed to be trees/hedgerow trees will be native hedgerow with trees in 'good' condition and will require to fail no more than two condition criteria and no more than one failure in any functional group.
- Habitats proposed to be native woodland/scrub planting will be mixed scrub in 'moderate' condition which will require to pass a minimum of three condition criteria.

### Habitat Enhancement

- Modified grassland with a base line condition of 'poor' is proposed in areas to be enhanced to 'moderate' condition. For this habitat to achieve this condition the grassland will require to pass a minimum of four condition criteria including essential criteria A.

## 5. Conclusion

It has been demonstrated that the Proposed Development will achieve substantially greater than the minimum 10% statutory requirement for biodiversity net gain with the overall biodiversity net gain for area habitats of **64.23%** and overall biodiversity net gain for linear habitat of **34.56%**.

This overall biodiversity net gain for the area based habitats is achieved through the creation of other neutral grassland, modified grassland, mixed scrub and the retention of higher distinctness habitats such as other woodland broadleaved. The overall biodiversity net gain for the linear based habitats is achieved through the retention of most linear features, the enhancement of hedgerows to be species rich native hedgerows and creation of new species rich native hedgerows.

The overall **64.23%** of BNG for the Proposed Development substantially exceeds the 10% BNG requirement set out in the NPPF and therefore the Proposed Development complies with both national and local planning policy.

## 6. Figures

### Figure 1: UKHab Baseline Figure

# Appendices

## Appendix A. Biodiversity Net Gain Metric Results

Stokes Lane Solar Farm

Headline Results

Scroll down for final results ▲

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|  |                   |        |        |
|--|-------------------|--------|--------|
| On-site baseline   | Habitat units     | 168.54 |        |
|  | Hedgerow units    | 65.56  |        |
|  | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |
| On-site post-intervention<br>(Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)                       | Habitat units     | 276.80 |        |
|  | Hedgerow units    | 88.22  |        |
|  | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |
| On-site net change<br>(units & percentage)   | Habitat units     | 108.26 | 64.23% |
|  | Hedgerow units    | 22.66  | 34.56% |
|  | Watercourse units | 0.00   | 0.00%  |
| Off-site baseline  | Habitat units     | 0.00   |        |
|  | Hedgerow units    | 0.00   |        |
|  | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |
| Off-site post-intervention<br>(Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)                      | Habitat units     | 0.00   |        |
|  | Hedgerow units    | 0.00   |        |
|  | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |
| Off-site net change<br>(units & percentage)  | Habitat units     | 0.00   | 0.00%  |
|  | Hedgerow units    | 0.00   | 0.00%  |
|  | Watercourse units | 0.00   | 0.00%  |
| Combined net unit change<br>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement) | Habitat units     | 108.26 |        |
|  | Hedgerow units    | 22.66  |        |
|  | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |
| Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions   | Habitat units     | 0.00   |        |
|  | Hedgerow units    | 0.00   |        |
|  | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |



### FINAL RESULTS

|  |                          |        |
|--|--------------------------|--------|
| <b>Total net unit change</b><br>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement) | <i>Habitat units</i>     | 108.26 |
|  | <i>Hedgerow units</i>    | 22.66  |
|  | <i>Watercourse units</i> | 0.00   |
| <b>Total net % change</b><br>(Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)    | <i>Habitat units</i>     | 64.23% |
|  | <i>Hedgerow units</i>    | 34.56% |
|  | <i>Watercourse units</i> | 0.00%  |
| <b>Trading rules satisfied?</b>  | Yes ✓                    |        |

| Unit Type                | Target | Baseline Units | Units Required | Unit Deficit |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Habitat units</i>     | 10.00% | 168.54         | 185.39         | 0.00         |
| <i>Hedgerow units</i>    | 10.00% | 65.56          | 72.12          | 0.00         |
| <i>Watercourse units</i> | 10.00% | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00         |

No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓  
No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓  
No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓