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Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Survey site:

William Hulme's Grammar School, Spring Bridge Road, Manchester, M16 8PR

Client:

United Learning

Assessment date:

8th April 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Manchester City Council. The proposal is described as:

The erection of a small new school building and installation of 4 (no.) MUGA courts

BNG Assessment methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **PEA Methodology and Legislation - 2024.**

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- BNG - William Hulme's Grammar School – V3 – 08-04-2025
- PEA-PRA - William Hulme's Grammar School, M16 8PR - V3 - 04-07-2024

Site Location and Context

The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SJ 83731 94385, SJ 83663 94276 and SJ 83670 94193. There is a cumulative area of 0.5687ha. The site comprises school building, modified grassland, developed land; sealed surface, and artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface.

Site Survey Details

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken by Jessica Sibley BSc (Hons) MSc, Consultant Ecologist (Accredited Agent on Natural England Bat Licence Number: 2022-10404-CL18-BAT).

Date of survey	Temperature (°C)	Humidity (%)	Cloud Cover (%)	Wind (km/h)	Rain
04/04/2024	9	93	50	2	None

Assessment limitations

There were no specific limitations to the assessment.

Executive Summary

The current proposed plan results in a **10.02% net gain in habitat units** and a **unit uplift in hedgerow units**. This is more than the 10% target of biodiversity net gain for habitat units.

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Management Plan must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.

A baseline habitat map is provided in Appendix 1, a post development habitat map in Appendix 2, a proposed development plan in Appendix 3 and condition assessments in Appendix 4.

On Site Baseline Biodiversity Value			
Area Based Habitats (A-1)			
Habitat	**Area (ha)**	**Condition Assessment**	**Strategic Significance**
Developed land; sealed surface (Buildings)	0.0175ha	Habitat condition pre-determined as '**N/A**' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Developed land; sealed surface (Hard surfacing)	0.2162ha	Habitat condition pre-determined as '**N/A**' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.084ha	Habitat condition pre-determined as '**N/A**' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Modified grassland	0.2509ha	**Good**: passes 6 out of 7 criteria. Assessed using the 'Grassland - Low' habitat type condition sheet.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy

Off Site Baseline Biodiversity Value			
Area Based Habitats (A-1)			
Habitat	**Area (ha)**	**Condition Assessment**	**Strategic Significance**
Modified grassland	0.1071ha	**Good**: passes 6 out of 7 criteria. Assessed using the 'Grassland - Low' habitat type condition sheet.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy

On Site Post Development Biodiversity Value			
Area Based Habitats			
Habitat	**Area (ha)**	**Condition Assessment**	**Strategic Significance**
Creation - Developed land; sealed surface (Buildings)	0.0536ha	Habitat condition pre-determined as '**N/A**' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Creation - Developed land; sealed surface (Hard surfacing)	0.4608ha	Habitat condition pre-determined as '**N/A**' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Creation – Modified grassland	0.0367ha	Anticipated to achieve **good** condition.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Creation – Introduced shrubs	0.0082ha	Habitat condition pre-determined as '**N/A**' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Creation – 22 Individual trees	0.0896ha	Anticipated to achieve **poor** condition.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Retention – Modified grassland	0.003ha	See "Baseline Biodiversity Section" above	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy

Off Site Post Development Biodiversity Value			
Area Based Habitats			
Habitat	**Area (ha)**	**Condition Assessment**	**Strategic Significance**
Enhancement – Modified grassland > Other neutral grassland	0.1071ha	Anticipated to achieve **good** condition.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Creation – Individual trees	0.2646ha (65 small native trees)	Anticipated to achieve **moderate** condition.	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy

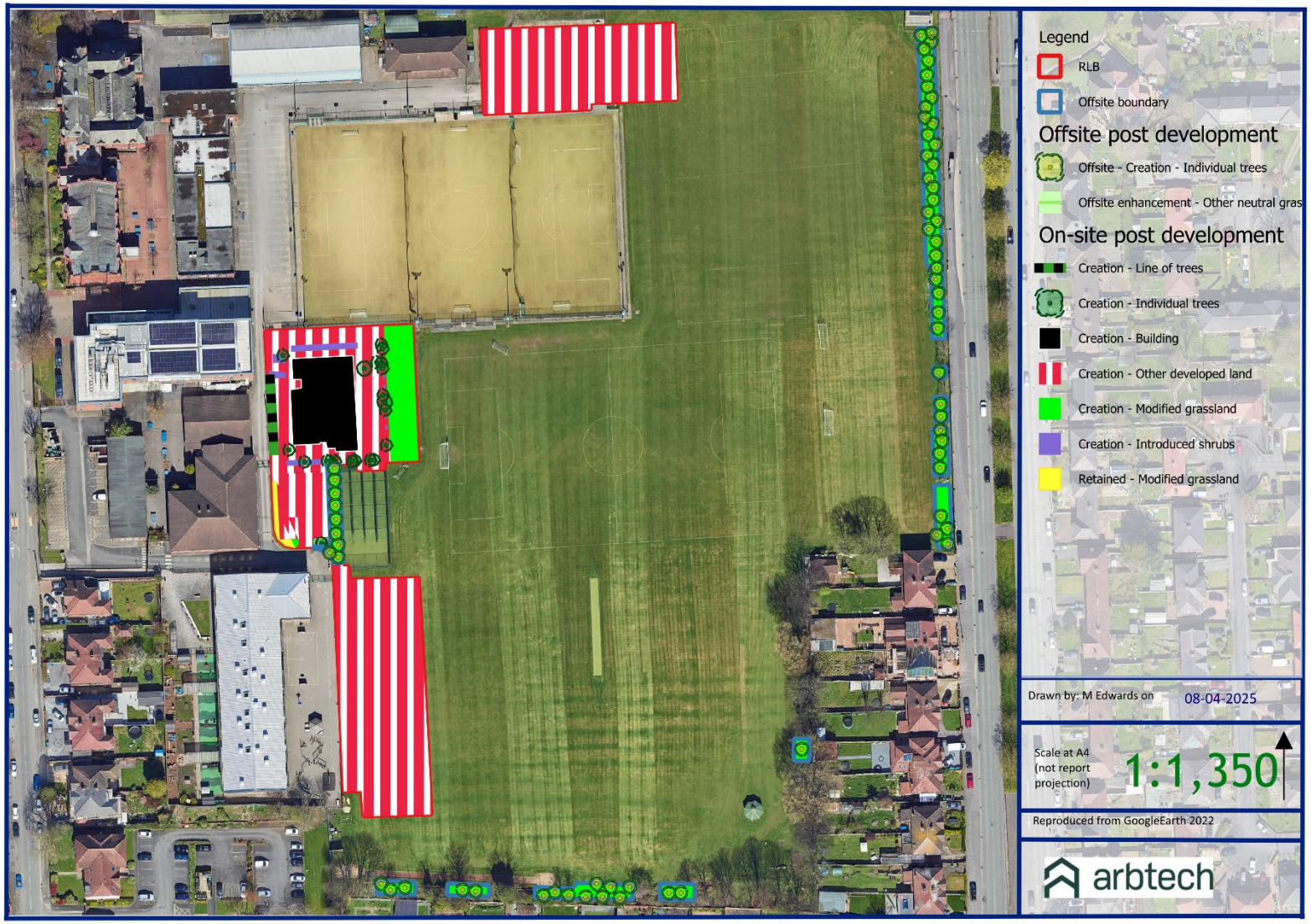
Assessment Overview
Full details are provided in the BNG - William Hulme's Grammar School – V3 – 08-04-2025 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, 2025). The headline results are provided below. **Areas of Habitat** The onsite baseline habitat value of the site is 1.51 units, comprising developed land; sealed surface (building and hard surfacing), artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, and modified grassland. The onsite post development habitat value of the site is 0.47 units, comprising the retention of modified grassland and the creation of developed land; sealed surface (building and hard surfacing), modified grassland, introduced shrubs, other neutral grassland, and individual trees. The offsite baseline habitat value of the site is 0.64 units, comprising modified grassland. The offsite post development habitat value of the site is 1.83 units, comprising the enhancement of modified grassland to other neutral grassland, and creation of individual trees. This overall result is a total net percentage change of 10.02% (i.e. a net gain). **Hedgerows** The baseline hedgerow value of the site is 0.00 units. The post development habitat value of the site is 0.04 units, comprising the creation of line of trees. This results in a unit uplift in hedgerow units.

Recommendations
The current proposed plan results in a **10.02% net gain in habitat units** and a **unit uplift in hedgerow units**. This is more than the 10% target of biodiversity net gain for habitat units. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Management Plan must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.

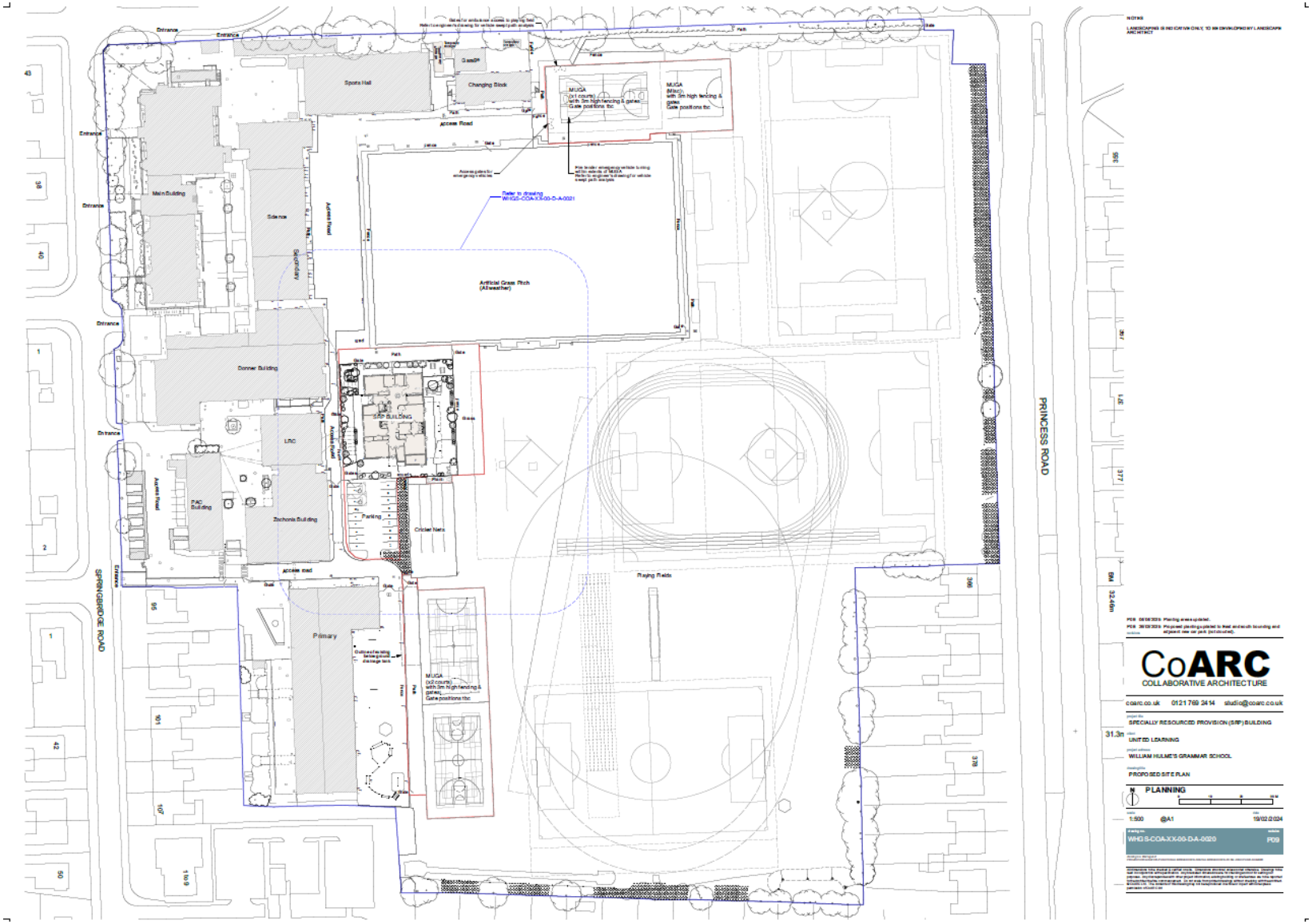
Appendix 1: Baseline habitat plan



Appendix 2: Post development habitat plan



Appendix 3: Proposed development plan



Appendix 4: Baseline condition assessments

Modified Grassland Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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.**	Yes	
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.	No	
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present).	Yes	
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.	Yes	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes	
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	Yes	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes	
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		Y
	Number of criteria passed		six

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	✓
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	

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This report contains recommendations on measures for achieving BNG. These recommendations do not constitute a design for BNG. In submitting these recommendations, Arbtech Consulting has no Design Liability associated with these recommendations for BNG. The strategy sets out the criteria which the landscape team can use to design the creation and management of the site.

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