

BNG Statement

Mill Lane Flood Defence Scheme

This statement is intended to describe how the scheme can comply with the Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, without off-site compensation.

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal is included in the application.

The BNG Metric, the spreadsheet data, is included in the application.

The site currently consists predominantly of species-poor grassland, and poor blackthorn scrub with a small group of small trees at the southern end, within the scrub.

A hedgerow along Mill Lane is interrupted at the very northern tip of the flood defence.

There is a margin between the new flood bank and the eastern boundary of the field.

While this is outside the area of the proposed works it is a possible area for enhancement and tree planting. For illustration this area has been included in the BNG calculation.

With this margin included, the BNG calculations arrive at **Baseline Habitat Unit count of 1.05.**

We intend to deliver and comfortably exceed the BNG+ requirements on site.

The requirements for the grassland, Area 1 on the plan, will be satisfied with appropriate seeding on the new bank, and recognition that the new bank has a 5% larger surface area. (Although this increase is not entered in the Metric.)

The ten small, 10cm average, trees within Area 2 will be replaced by new planting of 15 trees within the margin.

If timing allows, we plan to move vulnerable saplings during the coming dormant period, ahead of the works.

The requirements for the blackthorn scrub in Area 2 and 3 will be met by replanting on the bank and additionally within the margin. Again, the increase in area due to the additional area of the bank needs to be recognised.

Further habitat units could be generated by reseeding the margin between the embankment and the east boundary, Area 4 on the plan, improving the existing grassland once it is behind the flood defence.

However, the four owners of the field, who do not live locally, have given permission for the construction of an earth flood defence on their land, but they do not live locally and will not wish to incur long-term liabilities. This is a constraint.

In summary, we believe that we have demonstrated that we can create a replanting and management plan to discharge the BNG requirements on site once permission is granted.

