

## Biodiversity Net Gain Statement

SGN Plc Gas compound  
Land junction opposite  
115 Havant Road  
Emsworth  
PO10 7LG



Hadley Utilities Ltd

In considering the matter of Biodiversity Net Gain, the local authority document, Biodiversity Net Gain - Supplementary Information to Local List (consultation 2024), has been duly considered.

Given the highlighted parameters for a Biodiversity Net Gain plan to be submitted are (in part):

Non-residential

- Floor space to be created is less than 1,000m<sup>2</sup>
- Site area is less than 1 hectare

No new floor space is being created, but the site area does measure some 0.14Ha.

However, as per the document, Biodiversity Net Gain: exempt developments (2023, as amended) states:

Non-residential developments below the BNG threshold are:

A development that does not impact a priority habitat and impacts less than:

- 25 square metres (5m by 5m) of on-site habitat
- 5 metres of on-site linear habitats such as hedgerows

Development context:

This application seeks consent to simply replace the perimeter fence in order to improve security because the site has been identified as an 'at risk' site by both SGN security staff and Sussex Police. It is not seeking any changes to access roads, the extensive below ground infrastructure, any above ground infrastructure or to any biodiversity assets within or beyond the site. It does not affect any priority habitat/hedgerows.

To clarify, SGN Plc cannot plant anything which could affect the below ground infrastructure as this poses a direct threat (through root growth) to the network which could lead to an interruption of the gas supply. They do not intend to alter the fabric of the buildings in terms of additions unless it is essential to the transportation of gas, is required under an emergency works order or required under the provisions of the Gas Act. Sites such as the one subject to this application have no grassed areas for operational reasons. It is rare for trees to be allowed to grow at such sites.

There are no identified protected species reported at the site, or immediately adjacent to it where working space will be needed to replace the fencing.

Cumulatively, the total development area of the proposed replacement itself measures some 4.53m<sup>2</sup>, including the access gates despite them not touching the ground. The posts will be set where the current posts are and the indicated construction details are based on existing features, therefore like for like.

## Conclusion:

In light of the above information (and in conjunction with the planning statement and plans), the proposed development does not impact an onsite priority habitat and similalry impacts less than 25 square metres of onsite habitat that has a biodiversity value greater than zero and less than then 5 metres in length of onsite linear habitat. As such the scheme is exempt from the requirement to provide a biodiversity gain plan under Paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

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