



Stockheath Common
Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy

Project No

EC2487

Client

Portsmouth County Council

Date

April 2026



Project

Stockheath Common
Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy

Project No:

EC2487

Client:

Portsmouth County Council

Site survey:

Fraser Gurney ACIEEM

Final version completed by:

Jay Yates

Technical check completed by:

Vicky Rusby ACIEEM

Project Manager Disclosure:

The advice which we have prepared and provided is true to the best of our knowledge and utilises information available at the time. The advice has been prepared and provided in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct.

Quality check completed by:

Beth Hill

Date

April 2026

This Assessment is only valid for the named client and the project described. enims Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purpose for which it was commissioned. The assessment is only valid for a period of 12 months. If the scope of works or timing of the project is altered the advice given in this report may not be valid.



Contents

1	Introduction and Methodology	1
1.1	Site Location, Description & Surroundings	1
1.2	Project Overview	1
1.3	Methodology	1
2	Pre-Development Baseline	2
2.1	Strategic significance	2
2.2	On-Site 'Area' Habitats	2
3	Post-Development Habitats	3
3.1	Strategic Significance	3
3.2	Habitat Proposals	3
3.3	On-Site 'Area' Habitats	3
4	Outcome	5
4.1	Total Baseline Biodiversity Value	5
4.2	Total Post Development Biodiversity Value	5
	Appendix A: Baseline Habitat Map	6
	Appendix B: Post Development Habitat Map	7
	Appendix C: Photographs	8



1 Introduction and Methodology

enims Ltd was commissioned by Portsmouth County Council (the client) in April 2026 to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline calculation at Stockheath Common.

1.1 Site Location, Description & Surroundings

The site is a linear strip of land at the eastern and western edges of Stockheath Common, an approximately 0.44ha area near Stockheath Road, Havant, PO9 2GB, centered on National Grid reference (NGR) SU 71301 07534. The site comprises a mown grassland verge between a line of existing trees in the Common and the road edges (Riders Lane and Stockheath Lane).

1.2 Project Overview

The proposed works involves the construction of Low mounds (600mm high max) along the length of verge adjacent to Riders Lane and Stockheath Lane and placement of Large Purbeck limestone boulders, and gate barriers at key locations to prevent unauthorized vehicle access to the common.

1.3 Methodology

Calculations were carried out by Jay Yates a consultant ecologist at enims with experience in habitat survey and who has received CIEEM Statutory Biodiversity Metric Training and is considered a competent assessor. The Calculations were reviewed by Vicky Rusby, ecological consultant and Associate member of CIEEM, with over 8 years in the profession and has experience in habitat survey, condition assessments and the statutory metric. The full biodiversity calculations are given in a separate spreadsheet accompanying this report (the 'metric').

The Defra Statutory Metric (Version 1.0.4) was used. Pre-development habitats, areas (ha), and condition assessments were determined during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) carried out by Fraser Gurney ACIEEM, a Consultant Ecologist within enims Ltd. Fraser is experienced in undertaking habitat assessments and field survey techniques. The PEA was completed on 22nd April 2026. A map of the baseline habitats used to inform the calculations is shown in Appendix A and condition assessments are presented in a separate spreadsheet accompanying this report 'Condition assessment'.

Strategic significance was determined in accordance with the published Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire 2025.



2 Pre-Development Baseline

The baseline habitats and their biodiversity values are set out below. Google Earth historical imagery was used to check the site and no evidence of degradation of the site prior to the ecological survey was observed.

Detailed baseline habitat definitions can be found within the accompanying spreadsheet 'Condition assessment' and photographs are within Appendix C.

2.1 Strategic significance

Strategic significance was determined in accordance with the published Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire 2025. As stated in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide 'once an LNRS has been published, the baseline strategic significance values for habitat parcels in that area should always be scored as low.

2.2 On-Site 'Area' Habitats

Table 1. Pre-development habitat type, size, characteristics and calculated biodiversity value

Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Habitat Units
Modified Grassland	0.4371	Low	Poor	0.87
Individual urban trees (2no. small trees, T1 and T2)	0.0081	Medium	Moderate	0.07
Total				0.94

No linear hedgerow habitats or watercourse habitats were present on-site.



3 Post-Development Habitats

3.1 Strategic Significance

Strategic significance was determined in accordance with the published Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire 2025. The strategic significance values for the proposed habitat parcels are considered low as the site is not within the APIB or the ACIB and there were no potential measures noted at the site.

3.2 Habitat Proposals

Current proposals include:

- Separating the 7m wide grassland verge into three strips, these are:
 - 1m wide mown grass verge adjacent to the road (modified grassland)
 - 3m wide strip of unmown and wildflower seeded mounds (other neutral grassland)
 - 3m wide strip of mown grass for walking access (modified grassland)
- Mixed scrub/shrub planting with a minimum of 3 native woody species present. Clients preference for species includes hawthorn, hazel, dogwood, guelder rose and holly.
- 6no. small individual tree planting of native trees with clients preference being beech, hornbeam or oak.

The post-development habitats and their biodiversity values are set out below, based on current proposals. A precautionary 1-year habitat creation delay has been used for all post-development habitats, as habitat creation is not expected to start until construction of the mounds is complete.

Areas of modified grassland either side of the central 3m wide strip have been considered in the metric as retained habitat. This is due to it being expected that the reinstatement of poor condition, modified grassland following the construction of the mound is to be possible within two years of the initial impact.

In the following tables the total habitat units are taken from the metric where rounding is not factored until the end result and so may differ from total of table addition.

3.3 On-Site 'Area' Habitats

3.3.1 Retained 'Area' Habitats

Table 2. Post-development retained habitat type, size, characteristics and calculated biodiversity value

Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Habitat Units
Modified Grassland (reinstated 1m strip road verge side and 3m strip common side)	0.2488	Low	Poor	0.50
Individual urban trees (2no. small trees, T1 and T2)	0.0081	Medium	Moderate	0.07
Total				0.56



3.3.2 Created 'Area' Habitats

Table 3. Post-development Created habitat type, size, characteristics and calculated biodiversity value

Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Habitat Units
Other neutral grassland (3m middle strip)	0.1613	Medium	Poor	0.58
Mixed scrub	0.0270	Medium	Poor	0.10
Individual urban trees (6no. small trees)	0.0244	Medium	Moderate	0.07
Total				1.21

3.3.3 Total 'Area' Habitats

Table 4. Total post-development habitat calculated biodiversity value

Retained 'Area' Habitat Units	Created 'Area' Habitat Units	Enhanced 'Area' Habitats Units	Total 'Area' Habitat Units
0.56	1.21	0	1.78



4 Outcome

4.1 Total Baseline Biodiversity Value

The baseline biodiversity unit value for the site has been measured at:

- 0.94 for 'area' habitats

No linear hedgerow habitats, watercourse habitats or irreplaceable habitats were present onsite.

4.2 Total Post Development Biodiversity Value

The indicative post development biodiversity unit value for the site has been measured at:

- 1.78 for 'area' habitats (+89.22%)

4.3 Biodiversity Net Gain

The following biodiversity units are required to be present post-development in order to achieve 10% net gain:

- 1.03 for 'area' habitats (achieved)

Based on the current post-development proposals, there is a total of 1.78 area habitat units possible to achieve on-site which results in a net gain of +89.22% on site. **Therefore the 10% net gain target has been achieved for area habitats. The Trading Rules have also been satisfied onsite.**

4.3.1 On-site Habitat Target Conditions

The post development calculations for the habitats in the 'biodiversity area' have been based on target conditions deemed appropriate for achieving post-development on this site. Requirements for those habitats where conditions above 'poor' are deemed achievable are outlined below.

4.3.1.1 Neutral Grassland

Moderate condition has been targeted for the central 3m wide wildflower strip, and the following criteria are required when implementing the landscape plan.

- A good example of its habitat type, with >8 species per m², an abundant grassland species not sown for intensive agricultural production and <30% cover of ryegrasses and white clover
- Cover of bracken is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) is less than 5%
- Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas such as rabbit warrens

4.3.1.2 Trees

To achieve moderate condition for individual urban tree planting, the following must be met:

- Native species (such as beech, hornbeam or oak which are client's preference)
- More than 20% of the tree canopy area has vegetation beneath
- Protection from adverse impacts from human activities; planting trees of small to medium size with compact canopy form would reduce the need for excessive pruning in the future

Appendix A: Baseline Habitat Map



Figure 1. Baseline habitat map.

Appendix B: Post Development Habitat Map



Figure 2. Post development habitat map.

Appendix C: Photographs



Photograph 1. Modified Grassland verge onsite



Photograph 2. Modified Grassland verge onsite



Photograph 3. T1



Photograph 4. T2

