

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

St Aidens Church, Adswood Road, Huyton, Liverpool, Merseyside, L36 7XR

Client:

Tracey Wood

Assessment Date:

24th January 2026

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The proposal is described as:
The renovation of the former church and the creation of a new car park with associated landscaping.

BNG assessment methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **BNG Methodology and Legislation – 2025**.

The results and recommendations contained within this report are valid for 18 months. An updated site visit and BNG assessment may be required if the report is to be used any longer than 18 months after completion.

Version Control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	David Hill-Chambers MSc BSc (Hons) - Graduate Ecologist	01/12/2025
Review	0.2	Abby Pidgen BSc (Hons) MSc, Senior Ecologist	04/12/2025
Final	1.0	David Hill-Chambers MSc BSc (Hons) - Graduate Ecologist	05/12/2025
Updated	2.0	David Hill-Chambers MSc BSc (Hons) - Graduate Ecologist	24/01/2026
Updated	3.0	David Hill-Chambers MSc BSc (Hons) - Graduate Ecologist	04/02/2026
Updated	4.0	David Hill-Chambers MSc BSc (Hons) - Graduate Ecologist	10/02/2026

Limitations and Copyright

Legal

Arbtech Consulting Limited has prepared this report for the sole use of the above-named client or their agents in accordance with our General Terms and Conditions, under which our services are performed. It is expressly stated that no other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or any other services provided by us. This report may not be relied upon by any other party without the prior and express written agreement of Arbtech Consulting Limited. The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are based upon information provided by third parties. Information obtained from third parties has not been independently verified by Arbtech Consulting Limited.

Arbtech cannot be held responsible for any project management failures, delays or unforeseen costs arising from failure to read and ensure understanding of the content with in, nor is Arbtech responsible for any adverse outcomes arising from failure to account for ecological advice given at any stage throughout the project collaboration.

© This report is the copyright of Arbtech Consulting Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited.

Site Location and Context

A baseline habitat map is provided in **Appendix 1**, a post development habitat map in **Appendix 2**, a proposed development plan in **Appendix 3**, Proposed enhancements in **Appendix 4**, headline BNG results in **Appendix 5**, and condition assessments in **Appendix 6**.

The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SJ 44622 91521 and has an area of approximately 0.67ha. The site comprises the former St Aidens Church with surrounding habitats including grasslands, bramble scrub and woodland with scattered trees. The site is situated within an urban context, ~10.5km east of Liverpool City Centre. As a result, the site is surrounded by both residential and commercial buildings along Adswood road, with areas of vegetated garden and grassland within King George V Playing Fields ~30m northeast of the site and comprises areas of woodland and grassland. Similar habitats continue into the wider landscape. Such features likely enhance the area for a variety of species, including bats, amphibians and reptiles.

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

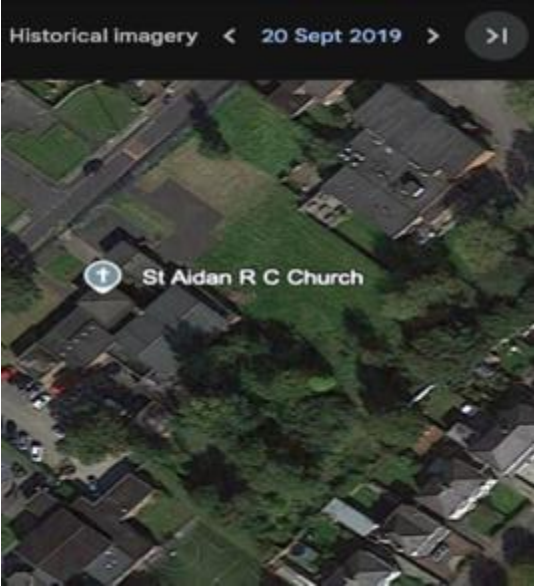
- Statutory Baseline BNG Metric – St Aidens Church, Adswood Road, Huyton, Liverpool, Merseyside, L36 7XR – V2 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment (PEA/PRA) - St Aidens Church, Adswood Road, Huyton, Liverpool, Merseyside, L36 7XR – V1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)
- Tree Survey Report - St Aidens Church, Adswood Road, Huyton, Liverpool, Merseyside, L36 7XR – V1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)

Executive Summary

The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment has been undertaken to inform a planning application for the renovation of the former St Aidens Church and the creation of a new car park with associated landscaping at Adswood Road, Huyton. The baseline assessment identifies an on-site area-based biodiversity value of 1.66 units, derived primarily from areas of other neutral grassland, scattered trees and small areas of bramble scrub, all assessed as having low strategic significance in accordance with the published Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy. No linear habitats were recorded at baseline. No irreplaceable habitats are present on site, and no habitat degradation has occurred since 30 January 2020.

Post-development, the proposed scheme is predicted to deliver an on-site area-based biodiversity value of 1.87 units, representing a net gain of **+13.13%**, with all BNG trading rules satisfied. This uplift is achieved through the enhancement of retained other neutral grassland to good condition (including delivery of wildflower meadow objectives), the creation of new native tree planting aligned with LNRS measures, and the creation of a short length of native hedgerow. As such, the proposals are compliant with the statutory requirement to deliver a minimum +10% biodiversity net gain. To secure delivery, a Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be required, setting out implementation, management and monitoring prescriptions for a minimum period of 30 years.

Introduction

BNG Informative		
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations	20 th November 2025
	The baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from the site as observed during the PEA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025). As evident in the screenshots of satellite imagery obtained from Google Earth dated 20th September 2019 (next satellite image dated 8th April 2020) and 6th March 2025 (most recent satellite image), the site does not appear to have undergone any degradation. The habitats on site, and therefore biodiversity value of the site, is not considered to have undergone degradation since 30th January 2020.	
	Historical Imagery < 20 Sept 2019 > >  Historical Imagery < 6 Mar 2025 > > 	
Irreplaceable Habitat Statement	No irreplaceable habitats as listed under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations (2024) are currently present nor were present before 30 th January 2020.	

Metric Version & Publication Date	Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool first published 29 th November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 3 rd July 2025.
BNG Target Uplift	+10%
National Character Area (NCA)	58 - Merseyside Conurbation
Strategic Significance	Liverpool City Region – Local Nature Recovery Strategy: https://api.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/LCPCA-Local-Nature-Recovery-Strategy-2025.pdf?utm_source The strategic significance of habitats within the baseline assessment has been determined in accordance with the BNG user guide (Updated, July 2025) and the published Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). According to the LNRS interactive map, the application site falls within primary measure 18a with secondary measure 17d as detailed below: 18a - Installation of biodiversity enhancements in new developments: Delivered by: Installation of bat and nest boxes for swifts, martins and swallows into new buildings, creation of ‘hedgehog highways’ through gardens and parks, dark corridors for bats using sensitive lighting methods, bug hotels, use of green and brown roofs and walls. Wildlife-friendly planting of trees, shrubs and herbaceous material. 17d - Creation of wildlife-rich spaces in towns, cities and villages: Native wildflower meadows, making space for water, orchards and mini woodlands in community spaces and gardens, allotment creation and installation of wildlife boxes. In line with the BNG Metric User Guide, as the LNRS has been published for the site, all baseline strategic significance values for habitat parcels on site (within the identified area of potential measure) are set to ‘Low’ (BNG User Guide p27, 2025). Any potential

	increase in strategic significance would only apply to post-development habitat creation or enhancement (where possible) if it were proposed in a mapped location and aligned with an LNRS potential measure. At the baseline stage, the published guidance is clear that all existing habitats are to be scored as Low strategic significance, regardless of ecological value or local conservation interest. When the BNG post-development assessment is undertaken, the following should be considered in regard to post-development strategic significance of habitats according to Table 7 of the BNG Metric User Guide (p. 27), as summarised below: • High strategic significance: Applied only if the parcel is mapped in the Local Habitat Map for a potential LNRS measure and the proposed intervention is consistent with that mapped measure. • Medium strategic significance: Cannot be applied where an LNRS is published. • Low strategic significance: Applied when the above conditions are not met. This includes cases where the intervention occurs in a mapped area but does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
Limitations	
No specific limitations were identified during the assessment.	

Baseline

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
u1b Developed land, sealed surface	0.07324ha	Impermeable hardstanding such as parking areas and paths, providing no vegetation and minimal ecological function.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
u1b5 Building	0.09308ha	Built structures including the former church, comprising brickwork, render and mixed roof types, offering very limited habitat opportunities.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
g3c Other neutral grassland	0.15264ha	Species-rich neutral grassland supporting a varied sward structure and a diverse mix of grasses and forbs. This habitat provides foraging, cover and invertebrate resources, enhancing ecological value within the site. Its structural heterogeneity supports ground-nesting birds and small fauna and represents a moderately valuable semi-natural habitat.	Moderate Condition Passes 5 of 6 criteria, but fails essential criterion F. Assessed using the 'grassland med, high, very high distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
h3d Bramble scrub	0.003ha	A small patch of bramble scrub is present within the site boundary. This section forms part of a larger area of bramble scrub within the wider area of site ownership.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
32 Scattered trees	Medium 0.0163ha	Two individual trees are present on site within the site boundary. T1 is a Norway Maple (large), T2 is a Silver Birch (Medium).	Moderate Condition Assessment using the 'individual tree' habitat type condition assessment sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
	Large 0.0366ha			

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

	Habitat	Area (ha/km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Enhanced	g3c Other neutral grassland	0.11301ha	Areas of retained other neutral grassland will be managed and enhanced from moderate to good condition with a high species diversity. These areas will be managed purely for biodiversity purposes and protected from adverse anthropogenic pressures.	Target Good Condition	High Strategic Significance Achieves secondary measure 17d through the creation of native wildflower meadows.
Retained (B-1)	u1b Developed land, sealed surface	0.07324ha	The majority of the areas of hardstanding will be retained post development.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	u1b5 Building	0.09308ha	Building to be retained in full post development.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	32 Scattered trees	Large 0.0366ha	T2 will be felled to facilitate the development with T1 retained post development.	Retains respective Moderate Condition	Low Strategic Significance

	h3d Bramble scrub	0.003ha	The development plans do not indicate any changes to the areas of bramble scrub within the development boundary.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Created (B-2)	u1 32 Urban scattered trees	0.0448ha	11 native trees are to be planted within the areas of other neutral grassland, these trees will be spaced out to ensure they can reach ~75% of the mature canopy cover, whilst also ensuring that the other neutral grassland is not heavily shaded.	Moderate Target Condition	High Strategic Significance Achieves primary measure 18a through the planting of wildlife friendly trees.
	u1b Developed land, sealed surface	0.03963ha	New areas of developed land, sealed surface will be created, primarily through the creation of a new car park.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	g4 Modified grassland	0.004ha	New small areas of modified grassland will be created as part of the proposed development.	Poor Target Condition	Low Strategic Significance
	h2a Native hedgerow	0.007km	A hedgerow (anticipated to be planted with native species) will be planted along an existing area of other neutral grassland.	Moderate Target Condition	Low Strategic Significance

Change of Biodiversity Value

		Biodiversity Units	
		Area-Based	Linear-Based
On-Site	Baseline	1.66 units comprising: • 1.22 units of other neutral grassland • 0.01 units of bramble scrub • 0.42 units of scattered trees • 0.00 units of developed land and buildings	No linear-based habitats recorded within the baseline
	Post-Development	1.87 units comprising: • 0.29 units of scattered trees (retained) • 0.01 units of bramble scrub (retained) • 0.16 units of scattered trees (created) • 0.01 units of modified grassland (created) • 1.40 units of other neutral grassland (enhanced)	• 0.02 units of native hedgerow (created)
Overall Net Change		+13.13% with trading rules satisfied	N/A

Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

BNG Informative	
Results and Next Steps	The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+13.13%) and non-applicable net gain in linear-based habitat units. As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units. All trading conditions have been satisfied. A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) 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: Headline BNG Results

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	0.22
	Hedgerow units	0.02
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	13.13%
	Hedgerow units	N/A
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Area habitat units	10.00%	1.66	1.82	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse units	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 ✓

Appendix 5: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Other Neutral Grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate or good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y	Species composition closely resembles definition of g3c 'other neutral grassland'.
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 insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Varied sward height is varied.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ¹ .	Y	Cover of bare ground does not exceed 5%.
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Y	None present.
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition ² and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	Physical damage did not exceed 5% of total area. No invasives identified.
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	Less than 10 vascular plant species per m ² .
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N	
Number of criteria passed		5	
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Non-acid grassland Types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.		Good (3)	
Passes 3 – 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.		Poor (1)	

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		T1	T2
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	X	✓
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	✓	✓
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	✓	X
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	✓	✓
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	X	✓
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	✓	✓
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score		
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	Poor (1)		