

Biodiversity Statement & Metric Assessment

Stoneyfield Park, Rochdale

A Report to: Labosport

Report number: RT-MME-181393-05

Date: December 2024

Project Information & Site Context	
Site Name & Location	Stoneyfield Park, Osborne Street, Rochdale
Site Area (ha)	0.1 ha
Grid Reference	SD 89536 12226
Topography	Flat topography.
Project Background	In November 2024, Labosport commissioned Middlemarch to undertake a Biodiversity Metric Assessment associated with a proposed development at site Stoneyfield Park, Osborne Street, Rochdale. The assessment is informed by ecological and arboricultural works carried out at the site in November 2024 by Middlemarch. These are: ● Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (RT-MME-181393-04) ● Preliminary Arboricultural Appraisal (RT-MME-181393-01)
Summary of Proposals	The proposed development will comprise the re-development of amenity grassland and hardstanding multiuse sports pitches to a new playzone with associated lighting. This assessment is based on the documentation provided by the client and detailed below: ● LSUK.24-0572-01D_PROPOSED LAYOUT_V2.pdf ● LSUK.24-0572-01P_STONEYFIELD LOCATION PLAN.pdf ● LSUK.24-0572-02D_STONEYFIELD BNG PLAN.pdf

Methods		
Biodiversity Metric	The biodiversity calculations used within this assessment were undertaken by Amy Carter MSc (Ecological Project Officer) using 'The Statutory Biodiversity Metric' ¹ and associated User Guide ² .	
Data Sources	The baseline habitat data and condition assessment for the site is detailed in Appendix 2. A Phase 1 Habitat Plan showing the extent and location of each habitat recorded on site pre-development is included in Appendix 1 (C181393-04-01). A post-development habitat map is included in Appendix 1 (C181393-04-02).	
Habitat Attributes	<i>Distinctiveness</i>	An automated score based on the type of habitat present and its value to wildlife. Highly diverse habitats such as those listed as Habitats of Principal Importance under the NERC Act (2006) or Annex 1 habitats in the Habitats Directive (1992) score highly in this category, whilst highly modified and low diversity habitats such as arable crops will have low distinctiveness scores.
	<i>Condition</i>	A score based on the quality of the habitat parcel against published condition criteria (See Appendix 2).
	<i>Strategic Significance</i>	A score based on information set out in local plans or policies. In this instance, a strategic location was defined using policies and objectives in areas covered by the Rochdale Council Core Strategy ³ in the absence of the Lancashire Local Nature Recovery Strategy which is due to be released in spring of 2025.
Constraints & Assumptions	The assumptions regarding target habitat types, or condition, in this report are founded on professional opinion with reference to the likely achievable habitat outcomes at the site, based on the proposed planting plans and presumed management resources. All target habitats presume the implementation of a long-term Management Plan to achieve these ends and a recommendation to this effect is given. Where the baseline value for any area, linear or watercourse features is zero (i.e. no such feature exists at the site), and where new creation of these features is proposed, the percentage uplift cannot be mathematically calculated, and the metric outputs 'N/A' in the headline results tab. However, it is accepted that any new creation where there was previously no area, linear or watercourse habitat, constitutes meeting the statutory biodiversity requirement.	

¹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2024) Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

² Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2024) Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

³ Rochdale Council Core Strategy <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/local-planning-policy/core-strategy-local-plan>

Headline Results				
On-Site Baseline	On-Site Baseline	Habitat units	0.1	
		Hedgerow units	0.00	
		Watercourse Units	0.00	
	On-Site Post Intervention	Habitat units	0.11	
		Hedgerow units	0.00	
		Watercourse Units	0.00	
	On-Site Net Unit Change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.01	11.98%
		Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
		Watercourse Units	0.00	0.00%
Off-Site Baseline	Off-Site Baseline	Habitat units	0.00	
		Hedgerow units	0.00	
		Watercourse Units	0.00	
	Off-Site Post Intervention	Habitat units	0.00	
		Hedgerow units	0.00	
		Watercourse Units	0.00	
	Off-Site Net Unit Change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%
		Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
		Watercourse Units	0.00	0.00%
Combined Net Unit Change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Habitat units	0.01	
		Hedgerow units	0.00	
		Watercourse Units	0.00	
Spatial Risk Multiplier (SRM) Deductions		Habitat units	0.00	
		Hedgerow units	0.00	
		Watercourse Units	0.00	

Final Results

Total Net Unit Change <i>(including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</i>	Habitat units	0.01
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse Units	0.00
Total Net % Change <i>(including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)</i>	Habitat units	11.98%
	Hedgerow units	0.00%
	Watercourse Units	0.00%
Trading Rules Satisfied*		No

***you must state if irreplaceable habitats are on-site at baseline:**

No irreplaceable habitats were identified on-site at baseline

Unit Type	Target**	Baseline Unit	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	0.10	0.11	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse Units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

**From January 2024, the UK Mandatory minimum is a 10% net gain in biodiversity for all development. Rochdale Borough Council have set the minimum biodiversity net gain at 10%.

Discussion

The calculations used within the metric to quantify biodiversity units differ between habitat, hedgerow and watercourse features, consequently, the values generated are not comparable, and a net gain in one feature cannot compensate for a net loss within another feature.

The increase in biodiversity will be achieved by creating an area of more species rich grassland in good condition to the south west of the new sports pitch. This will have at least 6 to 8 species per m² and be managed to maintain species diversity and a varied sward structure, with at least 20% of the grass being above 7 cm in height and 20% below 7 cm in height.

How is the target net gain percentage being delivered?	Habitat units	Only on-site.
	Hedgerow units	N/A
	Watercourse Units	N/A
How many Biodiversity Units are needed off-site to meet the required net gain percentage?	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse Units	0.00

Recommendations

The recommendations below are based on Middlemarch's current understanding of the project. If works are changed in any way these recommendations will need to be amended if appropriate.

R1	After planning permission has been approved a Biodiversity Gain Plan needs to be produced and submitted to the Local Planning Authority to provide evidence for all BNG decisions and show how BNG will be achieved.
R2	A 30-year Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) should be produced to set out the detailed habitat creation and enhancement specifications and long-term management prescriptions, that will be required to ensure the scheme will achieve its conservation objectives over the lifespan of the project. The HMMP should also be inclusive of a long-term monitoring strategy to measure progress against conservation objectives and inform an adaptive approach to long-term management.

Quality Assurance

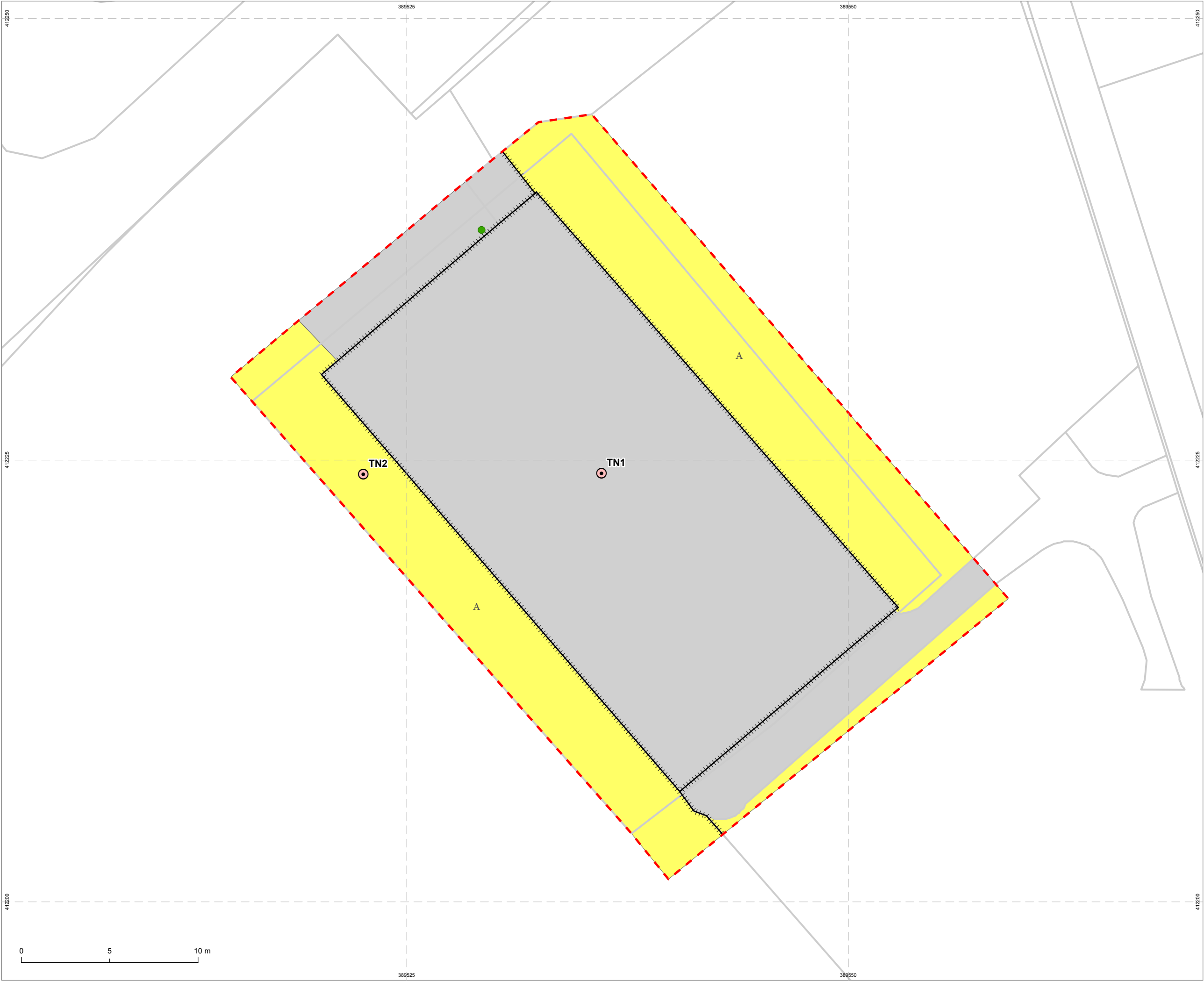
Date	Version	Author	Checked & Approved By
18/12/2024	Draft	Amy Carter MSc (Ecological Project Officer)	Ellie Rickman MCIEEM (Principle Ecological Consultant)

Appendix 1

Drawings

Drawing C181393-04 – Phase 1 Habitat Survey

Drawing C181393-05 - Drawing Adaptation of Landscape Strategy Proposal for Purposes of the BMA



C181393-02-01

Legend

Site boundary

Scattered broad-leaved tree

Fence

Amenity grassland

Hardstanding

Target note - habitat parcel

Project

Stoneyfield Park, Rochdale

Drawing

Phase 1 Habitat Map

Client

Labosports

Drawing Number

C181393-02-01

Revision

00

Scale @ A3

1:200

Date

December 2024

Approved By

AC

Drawn By

JR

MIDDLEMARCH

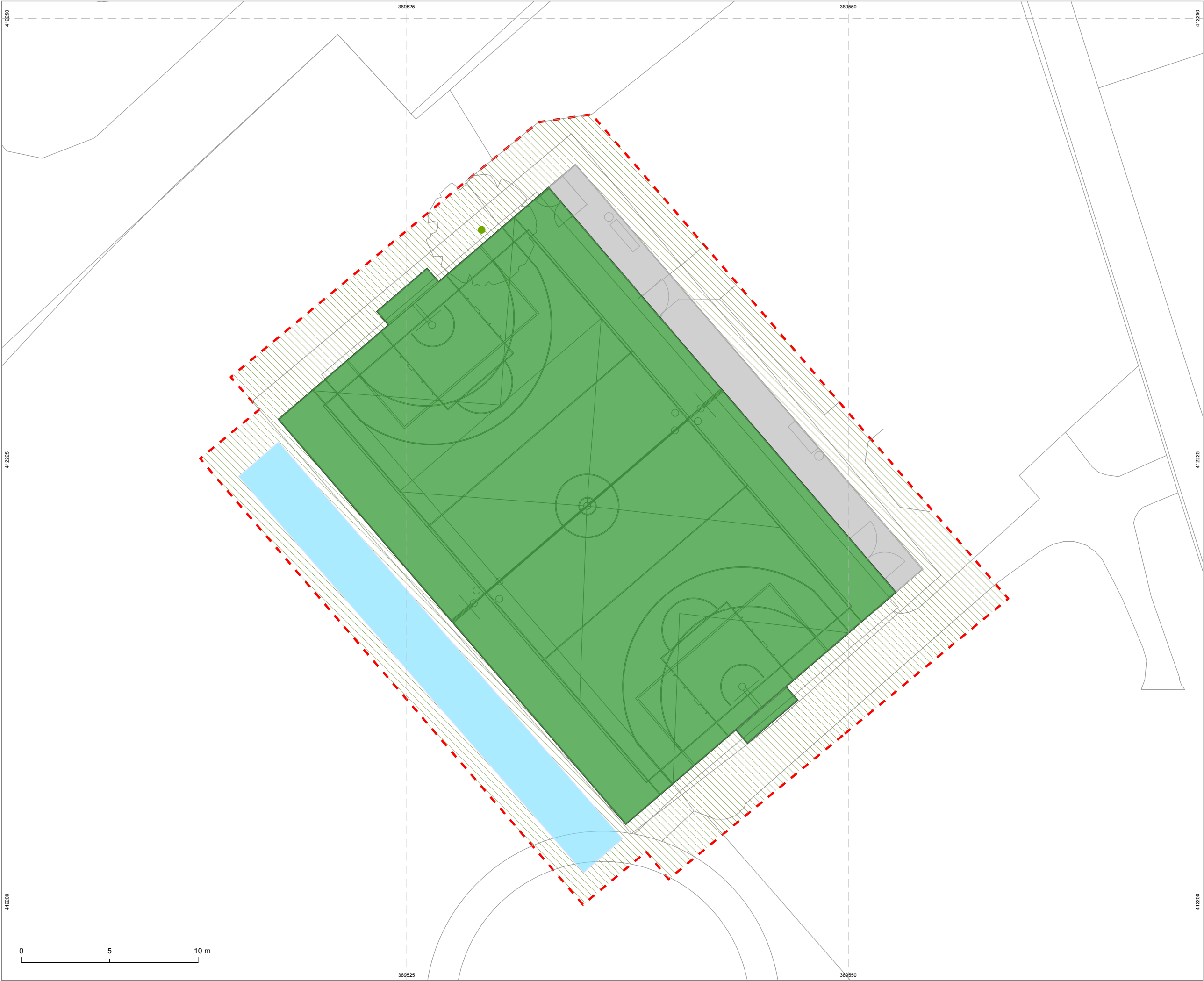
Triumph House, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry CV5 9AZ
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C181393-02-02

- Legend**
- Site boundary
 - Retained tree
 - Retained habitat
 - Hardstanding and buildings
 - Proposed sports pitch
 - Proposed wildflower planting enhancement

Project

Stoneyfield Park, Rochdale

Drawing

Biodiversity Metric Assessment

Client

Labosports

Drawing Number

C181393-02-02

Revision

00

Scale @ A3

1:200

Date

December 2024

Approved By

AC

Drawn By

JR

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Appendix 3

Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation

PDF output of the Statutory Metric is attached below with the Excel Spreadsheet included separately as a read-only document.

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric

Start page

Project details			
Planning authority:	Rochdale Borough Council		
Project name:	Stoneyfield Park, Rochdale		
Applicant:	Labosport		
Application type:	Planning Permission		
Planning application reference:			
Completed by:	Amy Carter (Ecological Project Officer, Middlemarch)		
Date of metric completion:	20 December 2024		
Reviewer:	Ellie Rickman MCIEEM (Principal Ecological Consultant, Middlemarch)		
Calculation iteration:			
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	No ✓		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	0.10	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

Cell style conventions	
⚠	Attention required
▲	Input error/rules and principles not met
	Use of this cell is not appropriate
	Enter data
	Automatic lookup
	Result

On-site baseline map

Insert

On-site post intervention map

Insert

On-site baseline map reference number

On-site post-intervention map reference number

Off-site baseline map

Insert

Off-site post intervention map

Insert

Off-site baseline map reference number

Off-site post-intervention reference number

Main menu

Results

View all

Reset view

Key

Area habitats

Hedgerows and lines of trees

Watercourses

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric

Main menu

Start page

Technical data

Results

Tree helper						
Tree size	Number of trees and area (ha) for each condition state					
	Poor	Area	Moderate	Area	Good	Area
Small		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000
Medium		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000
Large		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000
Very large		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000
Total	0	0.0000	0	0.0000	0	0.0000

Start here

1

2

3

4

On-site baseline

A-1 On-site Area Habitat Baseline

B-1 On-site Hedge Baseline

C-1 On-site Watercourse Baseline

On-site post development

A-2 On-site Area Habitat Creation

A-3 On-site Area Habitat Enhancement

B-2 On-site Hedge Creation

B-3 On-site Hedge Enhancement

C-2 On-site Watercourse Creation

C-3 On-site Watercourse Enhancement

Off-site baseline

D-1 Off-site Area Habitat Baseline

E-1 Off-site Hedge Baseline

F-1 Off-site Watercourse Baseline

Off-site post development

D-2 Off-site Area Habitat Creation

D-3 Off-site Area Habitat Enhancement

E-2 Off-site Hedge Creation

E-3 Off-site Hedge Enhancement

F-2 Off-site Watercourse Creation

F-3 Off-site Watercourse Enhancement

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Results

Return to start
page

Headline results

Detailed results

Habitat trading
summaries

Off-site
summary

Irreplaceable
habitats summary

Unit shortfall
summary

Stoneyfield Park, Rochdale
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ▲

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	0.10	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.11	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.01	11.98%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.01	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	

FINAL RESULTS			
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.01	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	11.98%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓		

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Habitat units	10.00%	0.10	0.11	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Honeyfield Park, Rochdale

[Return to results](#)

Summary Figures

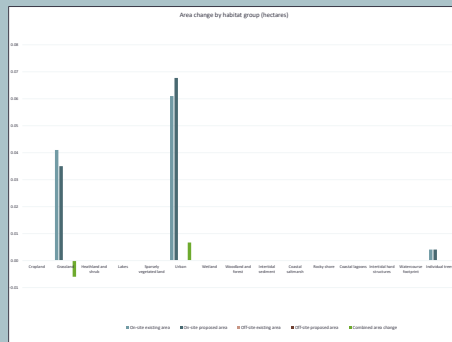
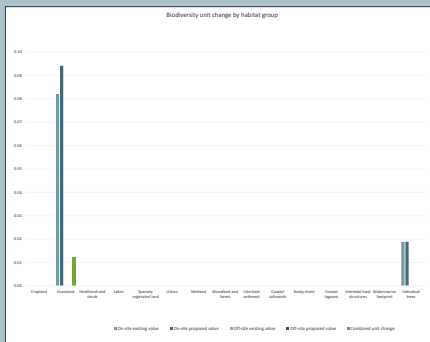
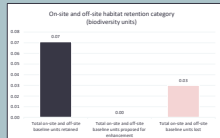
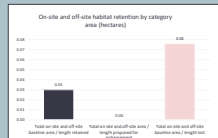
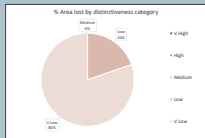
Net project biodiversity units (including all on-site & off-site habitat restoration / creation)	Habitat units	0.01
	Hedgecroft units	0.00
	Waterscapes units	0.00
Total project biodiversity % change (including all on-site & off-site habitat creation + retained habitats)	Habitat units	11.00%
	Hedgecroft units	0.00%
	Waterscapes units	0.00%

[illegible]

Area habitats

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

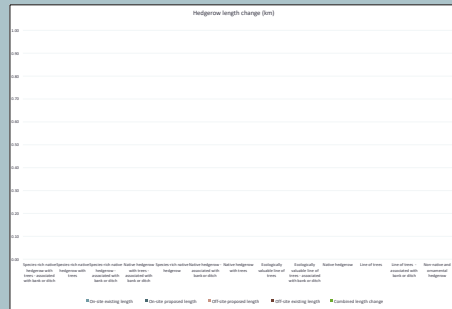
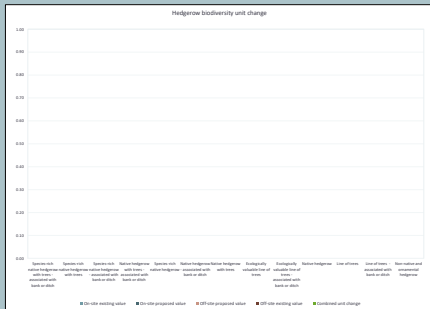
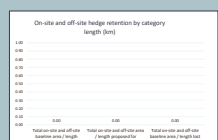
Category	Area lost (centares)	Area lost (%)
V High	0	
High	0	
Medium	0	
Low	0.016	20
V Low	0.061	80



Hedgerows and lines of trees

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Combined length lost from baseline(s) by distinctiveness band		
Category	Length lost (ms)	Length lost (%)
V High	0	
High	0	
Medium	0	
Low	0	
V Low	0	

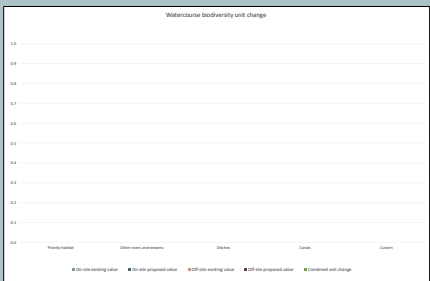
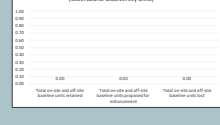
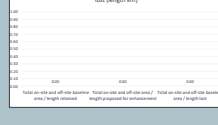


Watercourses

On-site change by watercourse type						
Watercourse type	Baseline		Post-development on site		On-site Change	
	On-site existing length	On-site existing value	On-site proposed length	On-site proposed value	On-site length change	On-site value change
Primary channel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Open drains and ditches	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drainage	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Canals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Waterscape type	Off-site change by waterscape type		Post development off-site		Off-site Change	
	Off-site existing length	Off-site existing value	Off-site proposed length	Off-site proposed value	Off-site length change	Off-site unit change
Priority habitat	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cons. Areas and channels	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Barriers	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Canals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Combined length lost from baseline(s) by distinctiveness band		
Category	Length lost (km)	Length lost (%)
Very High	0	
High	0	
Medium	0	
Low	0	



Project Name: Stonyfield Park, Rochdale

Map Reference:

A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline

Condense / Show Columns

Condense / Show Rows

Main Menu

Area habitat summary	
Total Net Unit Change	0.01
Total Net % Change	11.86%
Trading Rules Satisfied	Yes ✓

Ref	Existing area habitats				Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline
	Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Irreplaceable habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier		
1	Urban	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	No	0.061	V Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Compensation Not Required	0.00
2	Grassland	Modified grassland	No	0.041	Low	2	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required 2	0.08
3	Individual trees	Urban tree	No	0.0041	Medium	4	Poor	1	Formally identified in local strategy	High strategic significance	1.15	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (1)	0.02
4													
5													
6													
7													
				Total habitat area	0.11								
				Site Area (Excluding area of individual trees, green walls, intertidal hard structures)	0.10								

						Baseline compensation agreed for losses of VHDH or irreplaceable habitat	Comments		
Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area habitat lost	Units lost		User comments	Planning authority comments	Habitat reference number
		0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00		Hardstanding tarmac MUCA sports pitch enclosed by a fence and surrounded by a childrens playpark (amenity grassland, hardstanding paths and play areas).		TN1
0.026		0.05	0.00	0.02	0.03		Areas of amenity grassland to the west and east, extending to the wider park area beyond the red line boundary. The amenity grassland was heavily managed to approximately 2-5cm in height, and comprised of annual meadow grass, Perennial rye grass, ribwort plantain and daisy and dandelion in the absence of the LNR for greater manchester/lancashire, relevant policies from rochdale core strategy relating to trees and hedgerows have been used to identify strategic significance.		TN2
0.0041		0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00		A Small singular cherry tree growing against the northern boundary line/line of the existing hardstanding MUCA pitch. In the absence of the LNR for greater manchester/lancashire, relevant policies from rochdale core strategy relating to trees and hedgerows have been used to identify strategic significance.		T1
0.03	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.08	0.03				

Total area lost (excluding area of individual trees, green walls and intertidal hard structures)	0.08
--	------

MP to hectares conversion tool:	Select a unit	Hectares	MP

Project Name: Stoneyfield Park, Rochdale Map Reference:

A-2 On-Site Habitat Creation

Condense / Show Columns

Condense / Show Rows

Main Menu

Area habitat summary

Total Net Unit Change

0.01

Total Net % Change

11.88%

Trading Dates Satisfied

Yes ✓

Area Check

Area Acceptable ✓

Post intervention habitats

Ref	Broad Habitat	Proposed habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Temporal multiplier						Difficulty multipliers				Habitat units delivered	Comments			
				Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier	Standard time to target condition (years)	Habitat created in advance (years)	Delay in starting habitat creation (years)	Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Final time to target condition (years)	Final time to target multiplier	Standard difficulty of creation	Applied difficulty multiplier	Final difficulty of creation	Difficulty multiplier applied		User comments	Planning authority comments	Habitat reference number	
1	Urban	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.0617	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	1.000	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.00	Proposed new artificial sports pitch with fencing and lighting			
2	Grassland	Modified grassland	0.009	Low	2	Good	3	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	7	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	7	0.779	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.04	Proposed diverse wildflower planting on existing amenity grassland away from football			
3	Urban	Developed land, sealed surface	0.006	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	0	0	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	1.000	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	0.00	Hardstanding area to the north east of new pitch			
4																									
5																									
6																									
Total habitat area			0.08																					Total Units	0.04
Site Area (Excluding area of individual trees, green walls, intertidal hard structures)			0.08																						
M² to hectares conversion tool:			Select a unit	Hectares	M²																				