

2 Summary of Results and Monitoring Framework

2.1 Summary of Results

2.1.1 The 10 Sites comprised a varied mix of habitats as well as differing recreational uses. Sites 1-7 were mainly comprised of parks and amenity land next to residential housing. Sites 8-10 were woodland sites. All Sites were open access to the public for walking and recreation.

2.1.2 Several sites contained Priority Habitats of ecological importance including:

- Native hedgerow and species-rich native hedgerows – Common Lane, Great Witchingham (Site 1), Swansgate Park, Old Catton (Site 3), Prior’s Drive, Old Catton (Site 4), Carrowbreck House (Site 5), Station Road, Attlebridge (Site 7);
- Lowland meadow – Carrowbreck House (Site 5); and
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland – Spring Plantation, Taverham (Site 9).

2.1.3 Biodiversity enhancement measures for each of the Sites considered the existing habitats present, the recreational usage of each Site and the constraints this may present to which habitat enhancements are likely to be achievable, and the priorities for habitat enhancement as provided in the LNRS for Norfolk. Where relevant, climate change adaptation and fire hazards were also considered, for example through the selection of diverse native and non-native tree planting recommendations as well as the diversification and thinning of woodland habitats respectively.

2.1.4 The effect of the proposed enhancements to habitats was quantified using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric which calculates the potential uplift in Habitat Units and Hedgerow Units from the proposed enhancement of existing habitats or proposed creation of new habitats on each Site.

2.1.5 Additional species-specific biodiversity enhancements were identified as feasible across many of the Sites including the installation of bird and bat boxes to create additional nesting and roosting opportunities for these species. Species-specific measures have not contributed to the BNG metric calculations.

2.1.6 Figure 2 below provides an overview of the existing baseline Habitat Units present at each Site and how the proposed habitat enhancement and creation measures within this report would uplift the BNG value of each Site.

2.1.7 Figure 2 shows that a minimum uplift of 10% in Habitat Units is possible for seven of the 10 Sites with an eighth Site (St Andrews Road, Lingwood (Site 2)) very close to achieving a 10% uplift in BNG. The proposed enhancements to Thorpe Marriott tree belt (Site 10) will not change the BNG value of the woodland due to the semi-mature age and nature of the woodland as a thin wooded belt around residential dwellings. It is not feasible to uplift the woodland’s condition from moderate to good within the Metric as certain habitat

condition criteria could not be met. Nevertheless, the proposed enhancements would benefit biodiversity at the Site as well as providing increased habitat for nesting birds and roosting bats.

Figure 2. Summary of BNG Uplift for Each Site

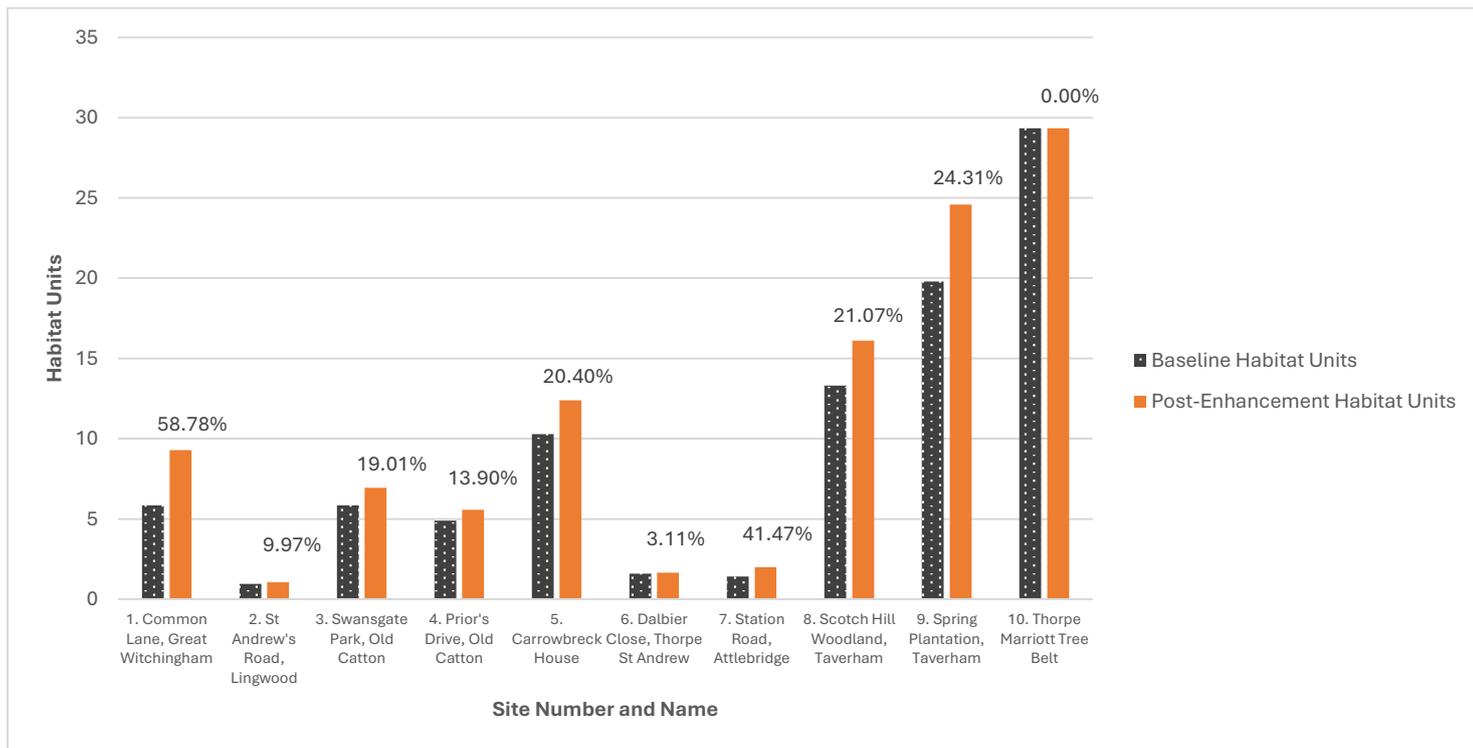


Figure 2 shows the existing value of the habitats on Site (excluding Hedgerow Units) in black with white dots. The post-enhancement value of the habitats on Site is shown in the orange. The data label above the post-enhancement value shows the percentage BNG uplift in Habitat Units for each Site. It should be noted that a higher number of Habitat Units on a Site not only reflects the biodiversity value of the habitats on the Site but also the size of the Site.

2.2 Monitoring Framework

2.2.1 Annual reporting of the Council’s progress towards implementing the biodiversity enhancements within this report will be required as well as five yearly monitoring.

Annual Reporting

2.2.2 For each Site, an ‘Annual Monitoring Checklist’ is provided within this report. These checklists have been amalgamated into a single excel spreadsheet which the Community Asset Managers can use as a single point of reference for completing their annual monitoring of the Sites.

2.2.3 Each checklist contains key habitat management actions that must be completed in accordance with each Site’s Five Year Biodiversity Enhancement Plan. Each year, the Community Asset Manager will check off the relevant item to ensure that all recommended habitat enhancements and creation actions have taken place.

- 2.2.4 This checklist covers years 1-4 and provides a summary of the Council's progress towards implementing the proposed biodiversity enhancement measures.

Five Yearly Monitoring

- 2.2.5 In year five, a full re-survey of each of the 10 Sites will be undertaken by a qualified ecologist with a minimum FISC Level 3 certificate in botanical identification proficiency. A UK Habitat survey and BNG habitat condition assessment will be undertaken between April-September in the main flowering season. This will provide an up to date baseline habitat value of the Site which can then be compared to the baseline habitat value of each Site and the final post-enhancement habitat value, as presented in Figure 2 of this report.
- 2.2.6 It is anticipated that in some instances, particularly the first five year monitoring period, the re-survey will not show an uplift in the BNG value of the Site. This is a result of some of the proposed management taking longer than five years to deliver a measurable change in the habitat. For example, areas of grassland which are advised to be left long and hay cut twice a year in order to reduce the proportion of coarse grasses and encourage a greater abundance and diversity of wildflowers may take 10-20 years before the average number of vascular plant species per square metre increases as required to achieve the desired post-enhancement habitat condition.