

2 Summary of Results and Monitoring Framework

2.1 Summary of Results

- 2.1.1 The 11 Sites mostly consisted of amenity areas close to residential housing that are frequently used for play, recreation and as green space for local residents. The exception to this is: Site 11 - Hales Green Common which is a historic common used for the grazing of cattle but which also supports walking routes for recreation. In addition, Site 5 – Carr Lane/Shotesham Road, Poringland, whilst having a play area and walking routes was mostly comprised of an attenuation basin associated with nearby commercial premises.
- 2.1.2 Across all Sites, the most common habitats recorded were modified grassland, often mown short to facilitate recreational uses, as well as individual trees, hedgerows and scrub.
- 2.1.3 Six sites contained Priority Habitats of ecological importance including:
- Native hedgerows and species-rich native hedgerows: Knyvett Green, Ashwellthorpe (Site 1); Whispering Oaks, Wymondham (Site 2); Carr Lane/Shotesham Road, Poringland (Site 5); Malsters Drive, Hingham (Site 7); Gunton Road, Loddon (Site 8); and Hales Green Common, Hales (Site 11).
- 2.1.4 High ecological value grassland habitats were also recorded at Sites 5 and 11.
- 2.1.5 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.
- 2.1.6 The effect of the proposed enhancement 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.
- 2.1.7 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.
- 2.1.8 Figures 2 and 3 below provide 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.

- 2.1.9 Figures 2 and 3 below show that a minimum uplift of 10% in Habitat Units is possible for seven of the 11 Sites with two further sites (Scholars Walk, Diss (Site 3) and Ullswater Drive, Hethersett (Site 10)) close to achieving a 10% uplift in BNG.
- 2.1.10 The lowest BNG uplift for Habitat Units will be at Knyvett Green, Ashwellthorpe (Site 1) and Five Acres, Stoke Holy Cross (Site 9) with uplifts of 5.28% and 6.82% respectively. The reason for this result at Knyvett Green is that space is limited for grassland enhancement (i.e. leaving long or establishing wildflower meadows) whilst retaining the Site's existing recreational value and usage by residents. At Knyvett Green, the uplift in Hedgerow Units will exceed ten percent, achieving an 80.75% uplift due to hedgerow enhancement.
- 2.1.11 At Five Acres, Stoke Holy Cross (Site 9), the reason for the lower BNG uplift is because of the limited biodiversity enhancement options available at the Site given its small size. Long grass areas will be established however there is limited scope for additional tree, scrub or woodland planting given the size and usage of the Site.
- 2.1.12 Whilst the BNG uplift for Habitat Units at both Sites 1 and 9 is smaller, species-specific enhancements will also be delivered at each Site including bird and bat boxes and log piles which will further enhance the Sites for nesting birds, roosting bats and small mammals, invertebrates and fungi respectively.

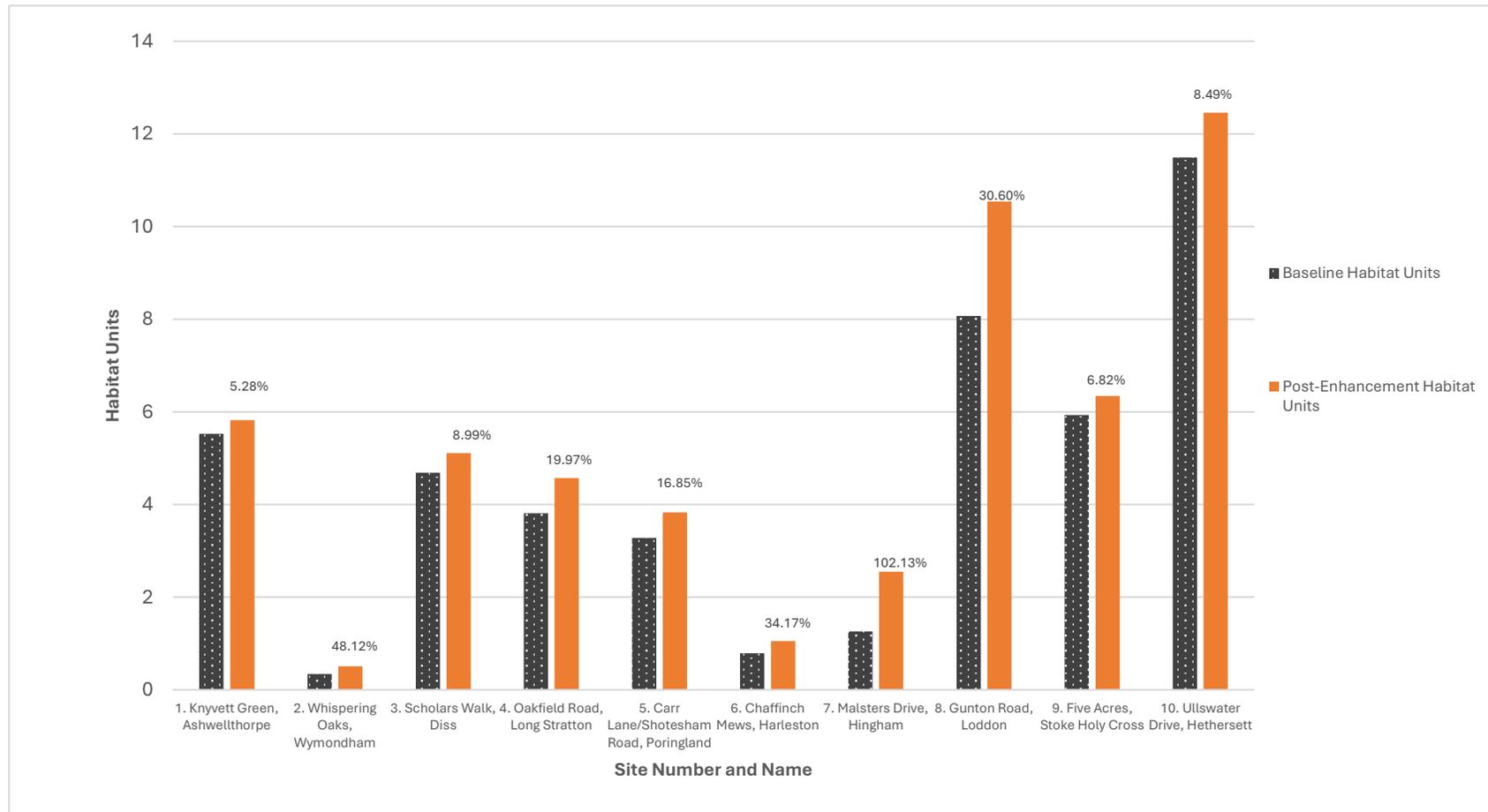


Figure 2 above shows the existing value of the habitats on Sites 1-10 (excluding Hedgerow Units) in black with white dots. The post-enhancement value of the habitats on Site is shown in orange. The data label above the post-enhancement value shows the percentage BNG uplift in Habitat Units for each Site. 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.

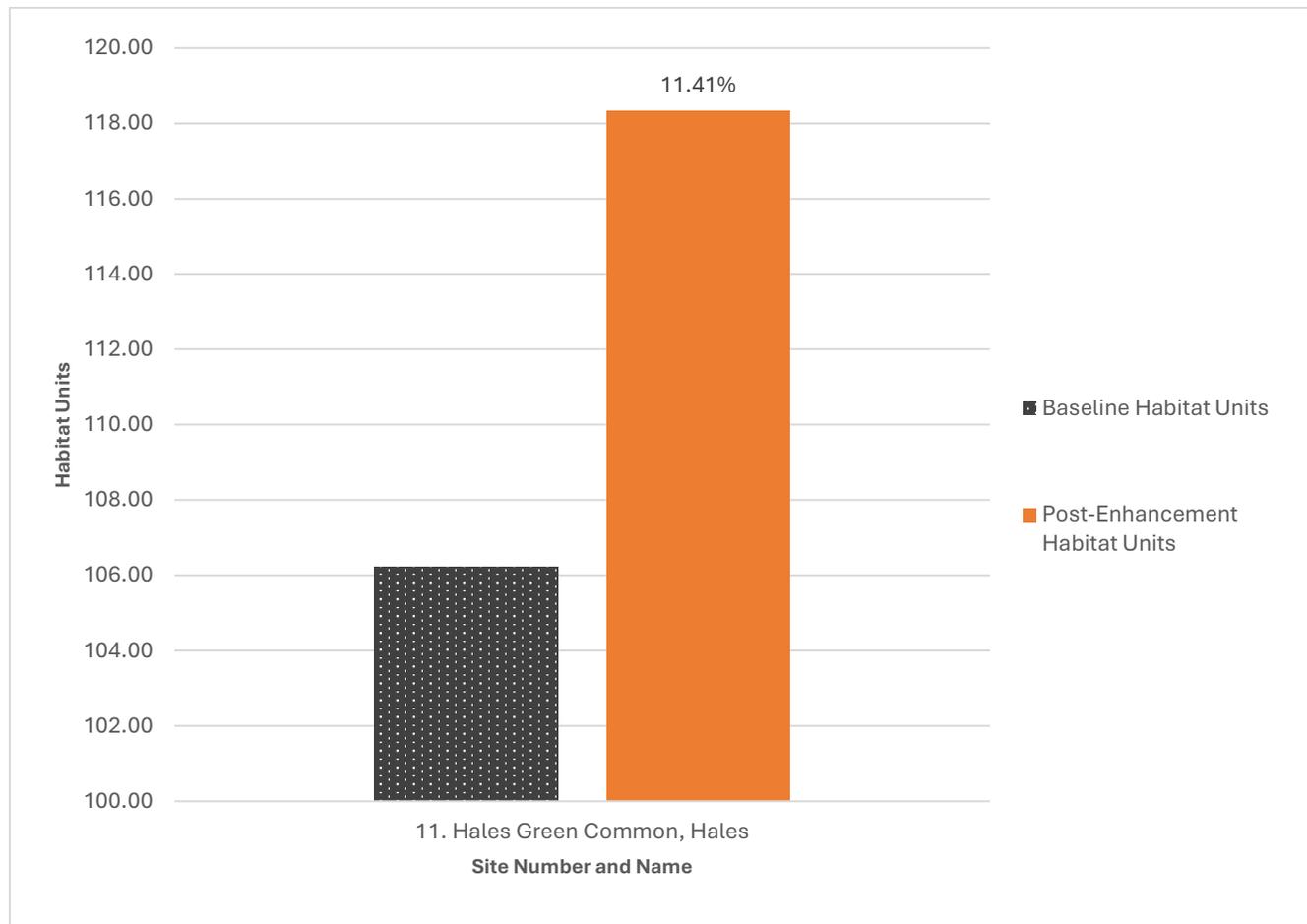


Figure 3 above shows the existing value of the habitats on Site 11 (excluding Hedgerow Units) in black with white dots. The post-enhancement value of the habitats on Site is shown in the orange. The data label above the post-enhancement value shows the percentage BNG uplift in Habitat Units.

2.2 Monitoring Framework

2.2.1 Annual reporting of the Council's progress towards implementing the biodiversity enhancements within this report is recommended as well as five yearly monitoring.

Annual Reporting

2.2.2 For each Site, an 'Annual Monitoring Checklist' has been provided within this report. These checklists have also been amalgamated into a single excel spreadsheet (provided separately) 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 can 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 11 Sites should be undertaken by a qualified ecologist. 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.