

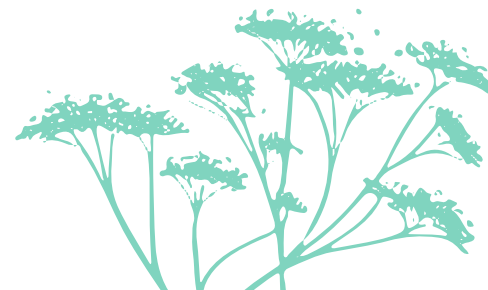


Biodiversity Net Gain case study
Clee Hill Rugby Club, Knowle, Ludlow

Introduction

The following case study is one in a series showcasing practical examples of how Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) has been successfully delivered in real-world planning applications.

This example illustrates the creative and effective integration of BNG principles, aligning with the objectives outlined in Chapter 3: Practical Implementation of BNG on Site from the Sport England Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance. By focusing on fringe spaces, sloped terrain, and non-recreational areas, this project demonstrates how thoughtful design can maximise ecological and community benefits.



Clee Hill Rugby Club, Knowle, Ludlow








Introduction

Clee Hill Rugby Club, located in Knowle, Ludlow, features two rugby pitches and a car park. Established 25 years ago, the club has grown significantly, with the addition of youth (minis) and women's teams. The facilities are currently inadequate to meet the needs of the expanding membership, which includes 200 children and a competitive women's team. To address these challenges, a new clubhouse is proposed to provide modern, accessible facilities, including updated changing rooms and improved spaces for both rugby and community events. The new clubhouse aims to create a family-friendly environment and offer a year-round facility for the wider community, supporting the club's vision of increasing local participation and engagement in rugby. The plans for the Club are illustrated on page 4.



BNG baseline

The baseline habitat survey for Clee Hill Rugby Club identified several key features on the site. The northern area of the site contains existing buildings, including the clubhouse and containers. The dominant habitat throughout the central and eastern areas of the site is hardstanding, specifically compacted hardcore, which is categorised as an artificial unsealed, unvegetated surface in the Government statutory biodiversity metric. The only vegetative habitat present on site is modified grassland, found across the site with two specific areas identified for enhancement. These areas, located at the western and southeastern extents of the site, are designated for biodiversity net gain (BNG) improvements. The biodiversity unit value was established to be 0.28 biodiversity units.

-  Red Line Boundary
-  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Modified grassland
-  Other neutral grassland

Baseline habitat plan



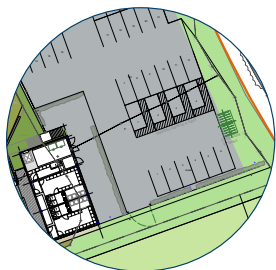
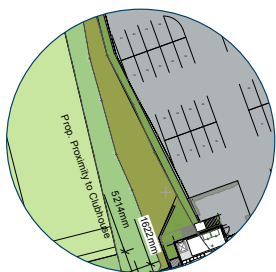
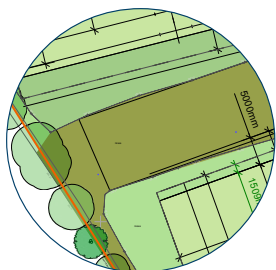
Proposed habitat plan



BNG Delivery Strategy

The proposals for biodiversity delivery at Clee Hill Rugby Club include:

- Wildflower Meadow: The plan is to create a wildflower meadow by reducing the vigour of existing grass, scarifying the area, and sowing a mix of wildflowers with a nurse crop (cornfield annuals) and yellow rattle to control grass growth. Ongoing management will help the meadow thrive and suppress undesirable species.



01 Utilisation of Fringe Spaces

The masterplan makes use of residual or under-used spaces that are unsuitable for sport. These areas are dedicated to habitat enhancement, including the creation of a wildflower meadow and native hedgerow planting.

02 Use of Sloped or Challenging Terrain

The sloped areas of the site are utilised for biodiversity net gain (BNG) delivery, contributing to the overall BNG value.

03 Use of Non-Recreational Site Areas

Non-recreational areas, including the car parking spaces, will be enhanced for biodiversity net gain (BNG) through the introduction of hedgerows and wildflower meadows.

- Native Hedgerows: Four new native hedgerows will be planted, using species such as beech, yew, and hawthorn. These hedgerows will be managed to establish and contribute to biodiversity, although they will initially be in poor condition.



User guide

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Acknowledgements

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Document accessibility

This document has been designed for comfortable reading at A4 and on a laptop screen but can also be printed at A3 for large print versions. The pdf is accessible and has been tested to work with text readers.

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