



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN STATEMENT

**Land Near Nyton Stables, Nyton Road,
Aldingbourne**

On behalf of: Mr A. Baker

Client:	Mr A Baker			
Project:	Land Near Nyton Stables, Nyton Road, Aldingbourne			
Reference:	LLD3087-ECO-REP-004-00-BNG			
Revision:	Date:	Author	Proof	Approved
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Validity:

This report is valid for 18 months from the date of the final survey visit. If works have not commenced by this date, an updated site visit should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist to assess any changes in the habitats present on site, to inform whether surveys should be updated.



LIZARD

Landscape Design and Ecology

The Old Bank, 34 South Street, Tarring, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7JH

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L I Z A R D

Landscape Design and Ecology

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to provide a Biodiversity Net Gain Statement for the Land Near Nyton Stables, Nyton Road, Aldingbourne. This report has been written with due regard to best practice guidance for ecological report writing (CIEEM, 2017) and the Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development (CIEEM, 2019) and the Biodiversity Net Gain User Guide (DEFRA, 2023).

1.2 The development does not appear to qualify under any exemption and will therefore be subject to the standard Biodiversity Gain condition.

Site Overview

1.3 The site measures c. 1.38 hectares (ha) and is located in Aldingbourne, West Sussex. To the northern boundary is the B2233, Nyton Road, the western boundary is bordered by fields and the southern and eastern boundaries are bordered by a settled traveller site. The main body of the site consisted of modified grassland. The boundary vegetation consisted of ruderal vegetation and scrub along most of the boundaries. The northern boundary and northern half of the western boundary consisted of ruderal vegetation on banded hardcore piles.

Surrounding Landscape

1.4 The surrounding landscape consists primarily of rural villages. The city of Chichester is located c. 3.1 miles (m) to the west. The A27 runs on a west east axis, c. 390 meters to the north of the site.

Development Proposals

1.5 It is understood that the proposals include the construction of 4no. mobile home plots with associated areas of parking, storage and space for touring caravans. To the north and west of the site, an ecological enhancement area has been proposed.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Assigning Strategic Significance

- 2.1.1 Due to the lack of Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) within Sussex, strategic significance has been assessed as per table 8 of the User Guide (DEFRA, 2023). This included assessing whether the site was located within a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), as well as examining the local plan for any specific targets regarding creation or retention of certain habitat types.
- 2.1.2 Where sites were found to be located within any designated area, such as an AONB, policy statement and management plans for the relevant area were examined. High strategic significance was then assigned to any habitat identified as a priority within these documents.
- 2.1.3 For any sites not located within a designated area, habitats were generally assigned low strategic significance, unless they were considered to provide important ecological linkages in which case they were assigned medium strategic significance.

2.2 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

- 2.2.1 A baseline habitat assessment in accordance with the UK Habitats Classification Manual (UKHabs Ltd., 2023) was undertaken on the 12th of April 2024 by Hayley Swann ACIEEM. No habitat degradation had taken place prior to the survey and the baseline data is considered to be an accurate reflection of the ecological value of the site. Full details of the habitats present are contained within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (LLD3087-ECO-REP-001) and summarised herein.
- 2.2.2 All area based and linear habitats were mapped on site with the aid of aerial imagery and topographical survey where available. The condition of habitats was assessed in accordance with *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology* (DEFRA, 2023).

- 2.2.3 The habitats, their condition and strategic importance were input into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (DEFRA, 2023). The area of habitats which would be retained or enhanced based upon the current proposals was also added to the calculator. This allowed the existing baseline value and loss of biodiversity units to be established.
- 2.2.4 The proposed habitats areas and linear habitat lengths was calculated, and target condition determined based upon the existing and proposed management regimes of the site, in consideration with what could realistically be expected to be achieved. Once input into The Biodiversity Metric Calculation, the overall change in value of the site could then be determined.

2.3 Survey Constraints / Considerations

- 2.3.1 Areas and linear lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10m² and measurements input to the metric using three decimal places. Due to the output of the Metric being displayed to two decimal places, slight imprecision in output may occur.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Strategic Significance and Irreplaceable Habitat

- 3.1.1 The site is not within any ecological designation, such as a *Biodiversity Opportunity Area* or *Nature Improvement Area* and no habitats on site are directly referenced in any local plan or other such document. Habitats on site have therefore been classified as being of low strategic significance.
- 3.1.2 There is no irreplaceable habitat within or immediately adjacent to the site.

3.2 Baseline Habitat Value

Habitat Degradation

- 3.2.1 No site clearance or habitat degradation was evident, and the baseline information gathered is considered to be a true presentation of the on-site habitats at the time of the survey.

On-Site Habitats

- 3.2.2 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment concluded that the existing baseline biodiversity value of the site was **3.48** Habitat Units, consisting of:
- 1.216ha of modified grassland in poor condition providing 2.43 habitat units.
 - 0.131ha of ruderal / ephemeral in poor condition providing 0.26 habitat units.
 - 0.003ha of developed land, sealed surface providing 0.0 habitat units (condition assessment N/A).
 - 0.006ha of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface providing 0.0 habitat units (condition assessment N/A).
 - 0.025ha of bramble scrub providing 0.10 habitat units (condition assessment N/A).
 - 0.086ha of rural trees in moderate condition providing 0.69 habitat units.

3.2.3 Some of the existing habitat on site is to be retained in its current condition, meaning the retention of **1.55** habitat units comprised of:

- 0.252ha of modified grassland
- 0.13ha of ruderal / ephemeral
- 0.025ha of bramble scrub
- 0.086ha of rural trees

3.2.4 A full condition assessment for each existing habitat type is detailed in Appendix A.

3.3 Baseline Hedgerow Value

On-Site Hedgerows

3.3.1 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment concluded that the existing baseline biodiversity value of the site was **1.80** Hedgerow Units, consisting of:

- 0.072km of line of trees in moderate condition providing 0.29 hedgerow units.
- 0.378ha of native hedgerow in moderate condition providing 1.51 habitat units.

3.3.2 Most of the existing hedgerow on site is to be retained in its current condition, meaning the retention of 1.78 habitat units comprised of:

- 0.072km of line of trees
- 0.372km of native hedgerow

3.2.3 A full condition assessment for each existing hedgerow type is detailed in Appendix A.

3.4 Baseline Watercourse Value

3.4.1 No watercourses are present on site.

3.5 Proposed Habitat Creation

- 3.5.1 Proposals are to result in the creation of new habitat on site including:
- 0.031ha of developed land, sealed surface which includes the mobile homes.
 - 0.062ha of mixed scrub proposed along the western boundary within the ecological enhancement area.
 - 0.187ha of vegetated garden proposed within the gardens of the plots.
 - 0.445ha of other neutral grassland proposed within the north and west of the site within the ecological enhancement area.
 - 0.245ha comprised of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface which includes the proposed parking and access.
- 3.5.2 Condition assessment of all proposed habitats other than the mixed scrub and other neutral grassland is not applicable and a standard score has been assigned to these habitats. The proposed mixed scrub and other neutral grassland have been assigned a target condition of 'moderate' which is considered to be achievable within the context of the site.
- 3.5.3 A full target condition assessment for each proposed habitat creation type is detailed in Appendix B. Proposed habitats would deliver **3.76** habitat units.

3.6 Proposed Hedgerow Creation

- 3.6.1 Proposals are to result in the creation of new hedgerow on site including:
- 0.23km of native hedgerow which includes the proposed hedgerow separating the plots from the ecological enhancement area.
- 3.6.2 The proposed native hedgerow has been assigned a target condition of 'poor' which is considered to be achievable within the context of the site.
- 3.6.3 A full target condition assessment for each proposed hedgerow creation type is detailed in Appendix B. Proposed hedgerow would deliver **0.44** hedgerow units.

3.7 Proposed Watercourses

- 3.7.1 No new watercourses are proposed within the scheme.

3.8 Trading Summary

- 3.8.1 All trading rules have been satisfied.

3.9 Overall Results

- 3.9.1 Once all retention and habitat creation measures are taken into account, the scheme shall result in **5.31** habitat units, resulting in a net increase of **1.83** habitat units and a **52.41% Biodiversity Net Gain** in Habitat Units across the site with all trading rules satisfied. Additionally, the scheme shall result in **2.22** hedgerow units, resulting in a new increase of **0.42** hedgerow units and a **23.33% Biodiversity Net Gain** in Hedgerow Units across the site, with all trading rules satisfied.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Metric calculations have identified that the proposed scheme would result in over +10% Biodiversity Net Gain, complying with the current Local Planning policy, subsequent to the provision of legal agreement / conservation covenant, to ensure that the proposed habitats are delivered for at least 30 years.
- 4.2 To ensure the above habitats are managed into the future, a suitable management plan shall be produced. This shall include management prescriptions for new habitat areas including aspects such as mowing regimes, which shall ensure the target conditions are achieved.

MR A BAKER
LAND NEAR NYTON STABLES, NYTON ROAD, ALDINGBOURNE
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5.0 REFERENCES

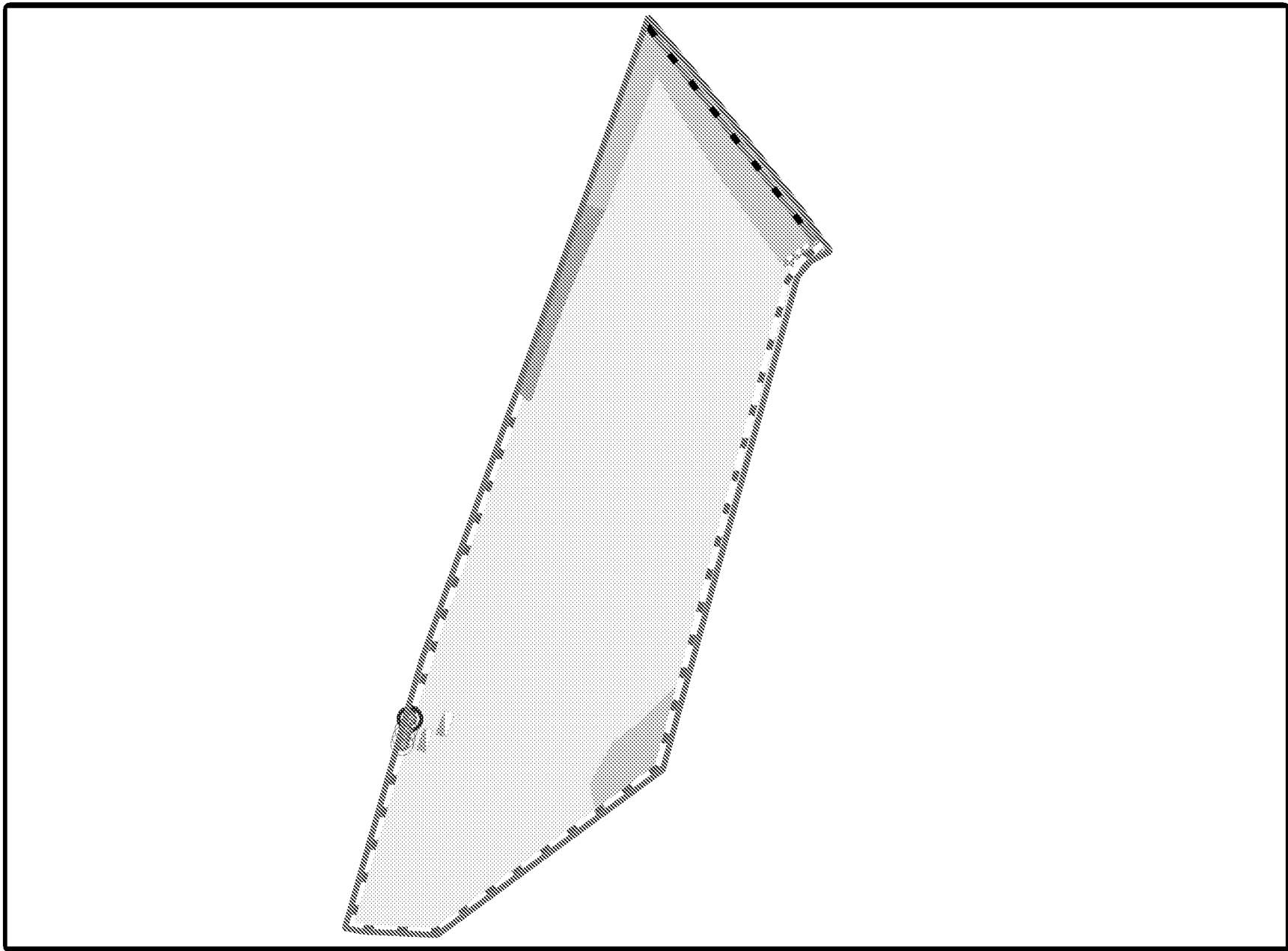
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CIEEM. (2019). Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development. Winchester

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2023). *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool.*

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2023). *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology.*

UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.1



- Legend
-  Red Line Boundary
 -  Existing Large Rural Tree
 -  Existing Medium Rural Tree
 -  Line of trees
 -  Native hedgerow
 -  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
 -  Bramble scrub
 -  Developed land; sealed surface
 -  Modified grassland
 -  Ruderal/Ephemeral

Client
Mr A Baker

Project Title & Location
Land Near Nyton Stables,
Nyton Road, Aldingbourne

Drawn by	Approved by	Rev	Date
HS	CF	00	24/04/24

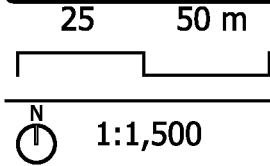
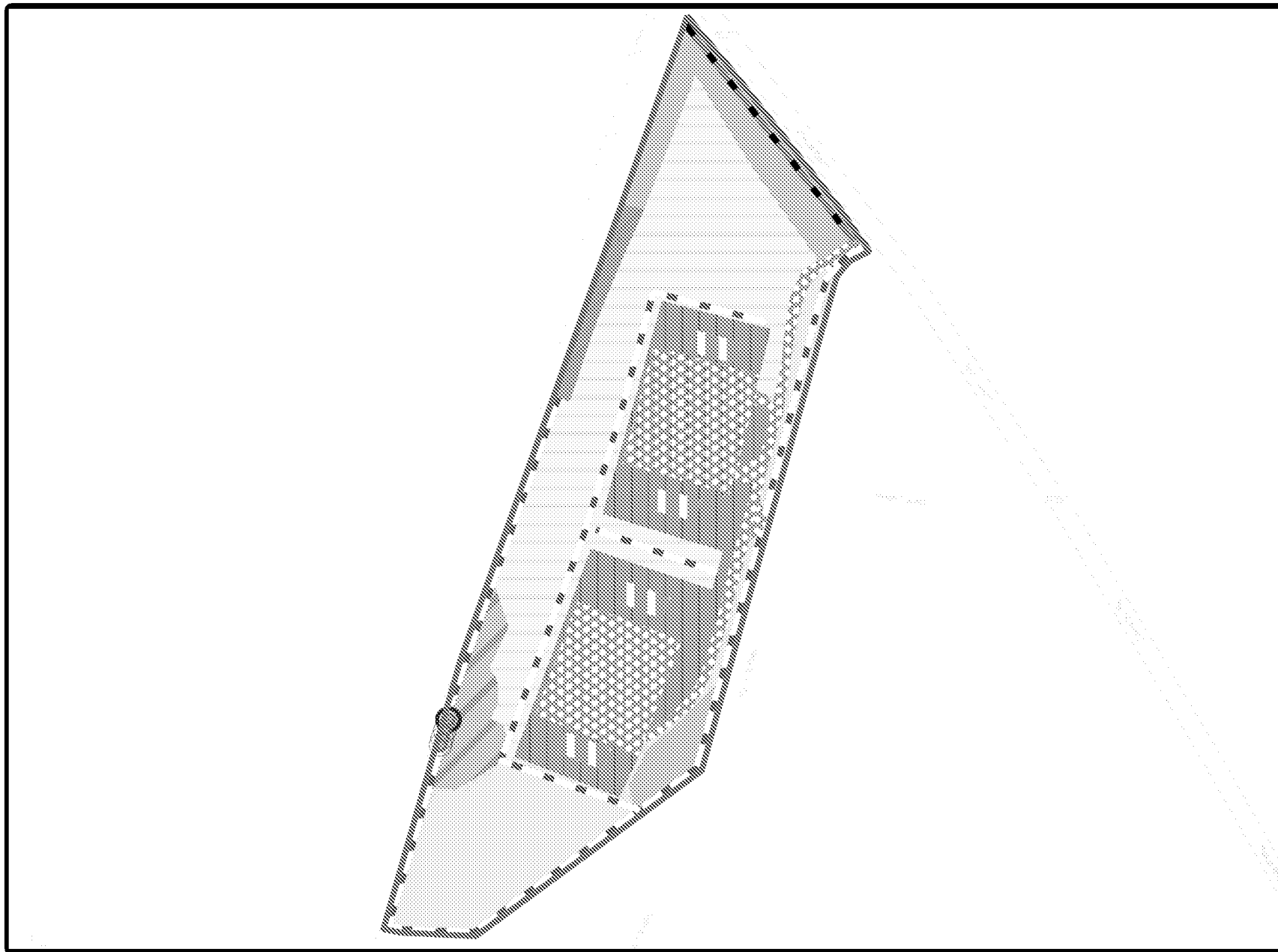


Figure No. 01 - Site Habitat Plan



Legend

-  Red Line Boundary
-  Existing Large Rural Tree
-  Existing Medium Rural Tree
-  Line of trees
-  Native hedgerow
-  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  Bramble scrub
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Mixed scrub
-  Modified grassland
-  Other neutral grassland
-  Ruderal/Ephemeral
-  Vegetated garden



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Land Near Nyton Stables,
Nyton Road, Aldingbourne

Drawn by	Approved by	Rev	Date
SH	COR	02	19/02/25

Figure No. 02 - Proposed Plan

25 50 m

N
1:1,500

Appendix A – Condition Assessment for Existing Habitats and Hedgerow

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LAND NEAR NYTON STABLES, NYTON ROAD, ALDINGBOURNE
LLD3087-ECO-REP-004-00

Modified Grassland in Poor Condition:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Y or N)	Notes (such as justification)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	N	c. 4 - 5 species per m2.
	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.		
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 vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	N	Sward height was similar in length at the time of the survey.
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	N	Some of the grassland was used for horse grazing.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	N	Bare ground exceeded 10% across the grassland at the time of the survey.
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	No bracken was present on site.
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Y	There were no invasive species noted within the grassland area.
Essential criterion achieved (Y or N)		N	
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result (Y or N criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved (Y/N)	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	X	

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Ruderal in Poor Condition:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types:			
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	N	Habitat dominated by nettle
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	N	as above
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Y	

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved (1/)
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):		
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Good (3)	
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)	
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.	Poor (1)	X

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Rural Trees in Moderate Condition:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition assessed (Y or N)	Notes (only on assessment)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 75% within the block are native species).	Y	Species include ash, hawthorn and blackthorn
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)	Y	Automatic pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	Trees are semi and early mature
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N	
E	Natural ecological riches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	Deadwood present
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is overhanging vegetation beneath.	Y	
Number of criteria passed		4	
Condition Assessment Score (0-6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved = 1/4	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	A	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Note that 'Fairly Good' and 'Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.			

Native Hedgerow in Moderate Condition:

Native Hedgerow in Moderate Condition				
Attribute and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria: the minimum requirements for 'feasible condition'	Criteria description	Minimum score	Maximum score
A1: Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth as measured from edge of sward to the top of the canopy, excluding any bare, bare or dead branches, any dead or broken stems.	1	1
A2: Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth as measured at the widest point of the canopy, including gaps and dead stems.	1	1
B1: Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy >0.5 m for >50% of length	This is the vertical 'gapiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and is the distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth.	1	1
B2: Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <15% of total length, and no single gap >1.5 m	This is the horizontal 'gapiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy, no matter how small.	1	1
C1: Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation to >50% of length. The distance from outer edge of hedgerow sward to ground is present on one side of the hedgerow at least 1	This is the level of disturbance (excluding visible disturbance) on the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 50% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be on one side of the hedgerow.	1	1
C2: Invasive and non-native vegetation	Plant species: Invasive or non-native cover of area <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	This measure assesses the level of invasive and non-native cover on the hedgerow. Invasive and non-native cover is defined as any plant species that is not native to the UK.	1	1
D1: Invasive and non-native vegetation	<50% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive and non-native species, including those listed in Schedule 5 of the 2002 Act and any other invasive species	This measure assesses the level of invasive and non-native cover on the hedgerow. Invasive and non-native cover is defined as any plant species that is not native to the UK.	1	1
D2: Human damage	<10% of the hedgerow is undisturbed ground is free of damage due to human activities	This measure assesses the level of human damage to the hedgerow. Human damage is defined as any damage to the hedgerow caused by human activities.	1	1
E1: Tree cover	There is more than one species (or more than one age class) of tree present (for example, young mature, mature and old) and there is an average of at least one mature specimen of either tree present per 20 m of hedgerow	This measure assesses the level of tree cover in the hedgerow. It is defined as any tree species that is not native to the UK.	1	1
E2: Tree cover	At least 50% of hedgerow is free of any disturbance (excluding visible disturbance) and there is no evidence of any disturbance (excluding visible disturbance) to the hedgerow	This measure assesses the level of tree cover in the hedgerow. It is defined as any tree species that is not native to the UK.	1	1

Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total AND No more than 2 failures in any functional group (for example, tree attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition)	2
Poor	Fail a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, tree attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Poor condition)	1
	Score achieved	1

Line of trees in Moderate Condition:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criteria passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Y	Oak, hawthorn and blackthorn.
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Y	Continuous tree line
C	One or more trees has veteran features and/or natural ecological riches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ²	N	Adjacent a road
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Y	
		Number of criteria passed: 3	
Condition Assessment Report (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Lines Assessed via	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	X	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

Appendix B – Target Condition Assessment for Proposed Habitats and Hedgerows

MR A BAKER
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Other Neutral Grassland = Moderate Condition

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Y or N)	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 relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the L30-late description). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y	Diverse wildflower mix shall be used.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 25% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 25% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N	Sward height similar in length.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	N	
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including hawthorn <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp.) is less than 5%.	Y	Grassland will be managed and monitored.
E	Contained cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ 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 ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	Grassland will be managed and monitored.
Condition Assessment Criteria for non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including those that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved for non-acid grassland types only		N	
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Results	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved out of	
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 8 criteria)			
Passes 6 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	A	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria. OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F	Poor (1)		

Mixed Scrub = Moderate Condition

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Y	All scrub is native, with at least 3no. woody species present.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	N	
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y	Managed and monitored to ensure this.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Y	Managed and monitored to ensure this.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N	
Number of criteria passed:			3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved out of 5	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	X	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

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Native Hedgerow = Poor Condition

Native Hedgerow					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Disturbance level (Y/N/NA)	With a score of 100% (Y/N/NA)
A1	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	N	New hedgerow
A2	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	N	< 1m
B1	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	N	This cannot be guaranteed.
B2	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps > 5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	N	This cannot be guaranteed.
C1	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length; - Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and - Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Y	
C2	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	N	This cannot be guaranteed.
D1	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Y	Managed and monitored to achieve this.
D2	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	N	This cannot be guaranteed.

Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		