

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Wilmington, Angmering

October 2021

This briefing note has been prepared by CSA Environmental on behalf of Mr & Mrs Parsons in relation to Wilmington, Angmering. It provides a summary of results from a biodiversity net gain assessment of the proposed scheme, which will comprise seven new residential dwellings with associated access, parking, a pumping station, gardens, and public greenspace.

Introduction

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF3) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019) sets out requirements for the delivery of biodiversity net gain, and this is supported within Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) (updated July 2019). The Natural Environment PPG addresses principles across a broad spectrum of topics targeting biodiversity conservation, from individual site and species protection through to the supporting of ecosystem services, and the use of local ecological networks to support the national Nature Recovery Network. In particular the PPG promotes the delivery of measurable Biodiversity Net Gain through the creation and enhancement of habitats alongside development.

The Government has confirmed its intention to mandate Biodiversity Net Gain at a minimum of 10%. It is envisaged that this will be enacted into UK law through adoption of the Environment Bill. Whilst the Bill is still to receive Royal Assent, and once this has been achieved a two-year implementation period is expected, many Local Planning Authorities have started to include biodiversity net gain requirements into Local Plan policy.

Policy ENV DM5: Development and Biodiversity from the Arun District Adopted Local Plan 2011-2031 (2018) makes reference to biodiversity and the protection and enhancement of priority habitats and species:

"Development schemes shall, in the first instance, seek to achieve a net gain in biodiversity and protect existing habitats on site. They shall also however incorporate elements of biodiversity including green walls, roofs, bat and bird boxes as well as landscape features minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats (whether designated or not). Development schemes shall also be appropriately designed to facilitate the emergence of new habitats through the creation of links between habitat areas and open spaces. Together, these provide a network of green spaces which serve to reconnect isolated sites and facilitate species movement."

This BNG Assessment aims to:

- Provide baseline data to classify the type, distinctiveness, condition, connectivity and strategic significance of habitats present prior to and post-development.
- Ensure that baseline habitat conditions are classified in a robust and consistent manner, and that classification is based on the best data available data at the time of assessment.
- Clearly identify data collection methods and any limitations.
- Calculate baseline pre- and post-development habitat units and hedgerows units for the Site based on current development proposals.
- Propose a Biodiversity Net Gain design with the aim of maximising biodiversity net gain through habitat creation, enhancement and succession.
- Aim to achieve BNG on-Site wherever possible; with off-site measures being considered as an alternative option if required.

Methods

Calculation of Biodiversity Units

Calculation of biodiversity net gain units has been undertaken using the Defra Metric 3.0 2021 version, and follows guidance set out within the Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development (Baker *et al*, 2019).

Pre-development baseline and proposed habitat areas were measured as distinct habitat parcels. Habitat parcels were measured using habitat mapping and aerial imagery overlain in QGIS using the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 QGIS template (Beta Version, July 2021).

The pre-development habitat areas baseline was calculated using measurements taken from the results of the extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey and Habitat Condition Assessment undertaken in June 2021, topographical survey and aerial photography to obtain the area and condition of each habitat for the pre-development scenario.

Post-development habitats were calculated by measuring the Illustrative Site Plan (ECE Architecture, May 2021), allowing areas of retained, created and enhanced habitat to be identified.

The Defra Metric 3.0 calculator was used to calculate Biodiversity units for the baseline and post-development, and generate values for biodiversity unit change and percentage net gain (or loss).

Habitat condition for both retained and created habitats was assigned taking a precautionary approach and with consideration of biotic and operational phase conditions (i.e. those which may limit the extent to which 'good' condition is likely to be reached).

A full copy of the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 calculator should be read in conjunction with this report and is available upon request.

Strategic Significance

This criteria within the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 was assessed by determining if habitat areas within the Site occur within any strategic locations for biodiversity, form part of a designated site for nature conservation or are identified within local plans such as Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and Ecological Networks, using data freely available through MAGIC.

Trading Summary

'Trading Up' is a concept which requires 'conserving through offset components of biodiversity that are of a higher conservation priority (for example because they are more irreplaceable and vulnerable) than those affected by the development project for which the offset is envisaged' (BBOP, 2018). For example, should non-irreplaceable habitats be lost / impacted as a result of proposed development, offsets should be achieved through the creation / enhancement of habitat of the same or higher distinctiveness, where environmental conditions are appropriate and where it generates the greatest benefits for biodiversity. Trading has been considered during the design stage.

Assumptions & Limitations

It should be noted that the accuracy of habitat area measurement is limited by the form of baseline data collection and resolution of development proposal plans.

The assessment assumes that habitats created or enhanced as part of the Proposed Development will be subject to ongoing appropriate management to ensure that they reach the allocated target condition within the required timeframe; the prescriptions to achieve this will need to be provided at the detailed design stage.

Existing scattered trees and proposed new tree planting has been assessed as "other broadleaved woodland" of 'poor' condition. This is because it was not considered to fit within the "urban trees" category, but instead constitutes small parcels of woodland of the same age range with no understorey or ground flora.

Results

Baseline Habitats

Habitats recorded during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey and habitat condition assessment fall under the following categories used in the Defra Metric 3.0 calculator:

- Grassland – Modified grassland
- Grassland – Other neutral grassland
- Lakes – Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)
- Urban – Developed land; sealed surface
- Urban – Introduced shrub
- Woodland and forest – Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Post-Development

Proposed habitats fall under the following categories used in the Defra Metric 3.0 calculator:

- Grassland – Modified grassland (*garden*)
- Grassland – Other neutral grassland (*paddock*)
- Lakes – Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)
- Heathland and shrub – Mixed scrub
- Urban – Developed land; sealed surface
- Urban – Introduced shrub
- Woodland and forest – Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Woodland and forest – Other woodland; broadleaved

Condition Assessment

Following the Defra Metric 3.0 guidance within the Technical Supplement, the appropriate condition sheet was selected for each of the habitats on-site to assess their habitat condition.

The full condition assessments can be found in Appendix C, but are summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Condition Assessment Results Summary

Habitat Type	Condition	
	Pre-development	Post-development
Modified grassland	Poor	Poor
Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Good
Ponds (Non-Priority Habitat)	Poor	-
Mixed scrub	-	Moderate
Developed land; sealed surface	N/A	N/A
Introduced shrub	Poor	Poor
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Good	Good
Other woodland; broadleaved	Poor	Moderate

Biodiversity Unit Calculations

Pre-Development

The habitats present on-site pre-development are valued at a total of **12.53** biodiversity units.

Post-Development

The habitats present on-site post-development are valued at a total of **11.79** biodiversity units which would result in a **net loss of 0.73 biodiversity units or 5.85%**.

It has been assumed that the retained 'Other Neutral Grassland' and 'Other Broadleaved Woodland' would be enhanced through favourable management, including cessation of mowing to allow a long, tussocky sward to develop, and seeding with native woodland ground flora and meadow species.

Trading Summary

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland is a habitat of "high" distinctiveness, so any loss of units from this habitat type must be replaced like-for-like. The current scheme will result in a small **net loss of units from this habitat type of 0.02 units**.

For the three habitat types which are of "medium" distinctiveness (Other Neutral Grassland, Other Broadleaved Woodland and Non-Priority Ponds), any loss of units must be replaced by units from the same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat. The current scheme will result in a **net loss of 1.94 units from medium distinctiveness habitats**.

Discussion

In line with the Mitigation Hierarchy (BS 42020:2013), ecological impacts should first be avoided / minimised, and where this cannot be achieved they should be mitigated. Where mitigation is not possible, then compensation for impacts which cannot be avoided can be considered. Impacts of the proposed development could be minimised by the retention of more existing habitat, resulting in a reduction of developable area.

It should be noted that as a condition of biodiversity net gain, the management of all enhanced / created habitats must be secured for 30 years, to ensure proposals are achieved.

Biodiversity Net Gain design will also need to take account of any confirmed protected / notable species constraints, to ensure that the mitigation hierarchy is implemented. Habitat retained or enhanced on-site, or created through off-site enhancement to meet Net Gain requirements, could also be designed to meet the requirements of protected / notable species present.

To achieve 10% net gain, an **additional 1.99 biodiversity units** would need to be delivered. This could be achieved through on- or off-site provision, or a combination of the two.

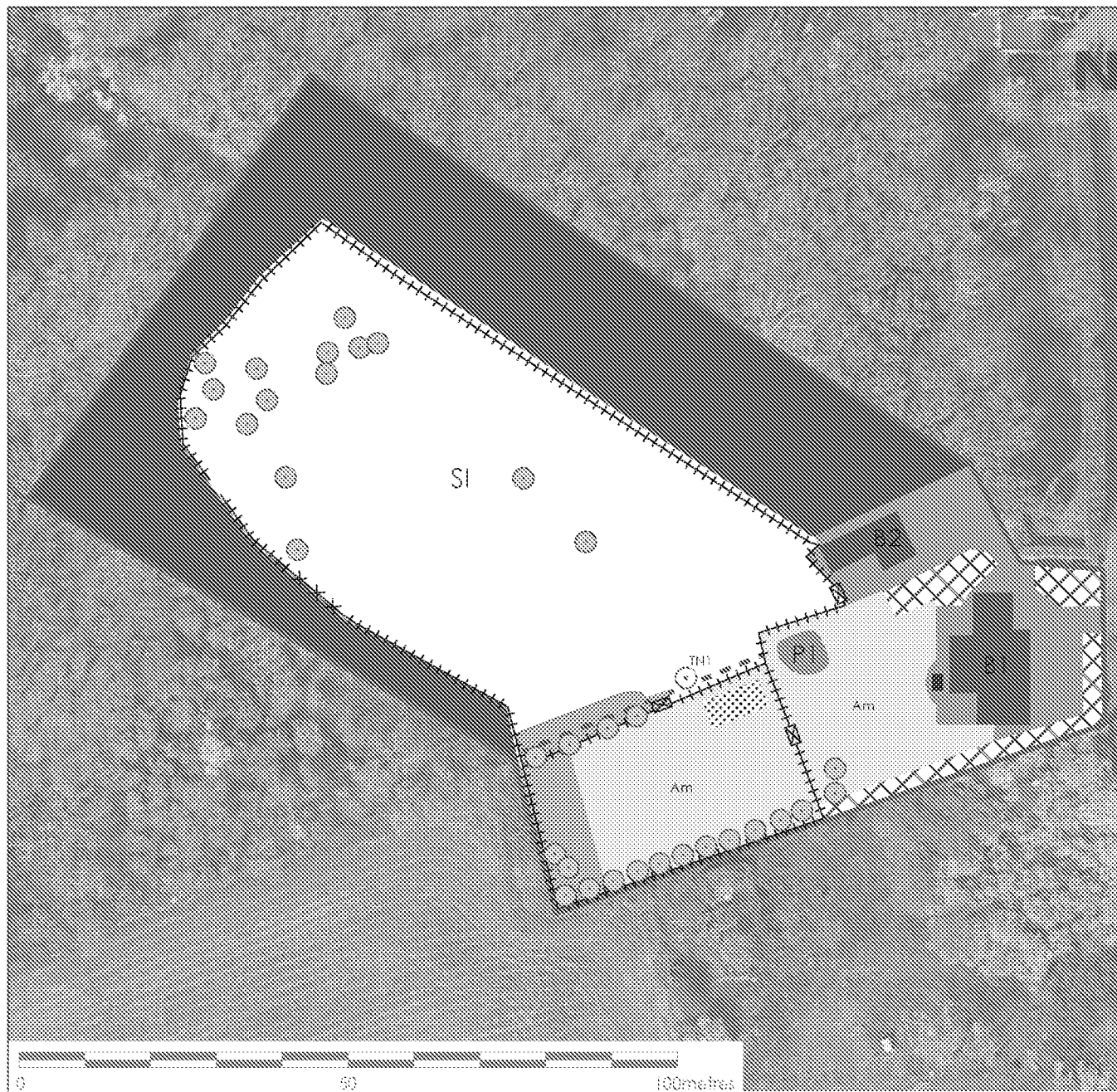
It is considered that some of these units could be achieved through on-site habitat provision. The current scheme includes for provision of a pumping station, taking a precautionary approach and assuming the largest possible size which may be required. It may become apparent in the detailed design stage that this is no longer required, or can be reduced in size, following consultation with the LPA. This would result in no loss of Lowland Mixed Broadleaved Woodland, which would increase the value of habitats post-development, and balance the trading summary.

Further credits may be achievable through inclusion of ecological enhancements within the developable area, such as ponds within the gardens of new dwellings, and green roofs on proposed garages.

Additional ecological enhancements have been recommended within the Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Strategy (CSA/5557/03), including bat, bird and dormouse boxes to increase sheltering opportunities.

Appendix A

Habitats Plan (CSA/5557/100)



Site boundary



Amenity grassland



Poor semi-improved grassland



Semi-improved grassland



Ornamental planting



Hardstanding



Building



Bare ground



Pond



Water feature



Broadleaved woodland



Dry ditch



Indicative location of mixed scattered trees



Fence



Broken fence



Gate



Target note:
TN1- large hollow tree stump

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Project: Wilmington, Angmering

Drawing Title: Habitats Plan

Client: Wilmington Homes

Drawing Ref:
CSA/5557/100

Scale:
Refer to scale

Date:
Oct 2021

Rev:
A

Drawn:
LG/JR

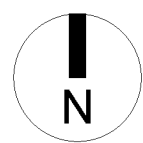
Checked:
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Appendix B

Illustrative Site Plan (MPCWWM 001D)

CDM 2015 Health & Safety Information

This information relates only to 'Significant Hazards' identified on this drawing and is to be read in conjunction with the Designer's Risk Assessment Register.



Accommodation Schedule

Existing Dwelling	Wilmington	4-Bedroom House	
Plot 1	New-Build	3-Bedroom House	c. 1400sqft
Plot 2	New-Build	4-Bedroom House	c. 1800sqft
Plot 3	New-Build	3-Bedroom House	c. 1100sqft
Plot 4	New-Build	3-Bedroom House	c. 1100sqft
Plot 5	New-Build	4-Bedroom House	c. 1500sqft
Plot 6	New-Build	2-Bedroom Bungalow	c. 1050sqft
Plot 7	New-Build	2-Bedroom Bungalow	c. 1050sqft

Total; 7 New Dwellings

Car Parking: 2 spaces per 2-Bedroom Dwelling
3 spaces per 3 / 4-Bedroom Dwelling [incl. garages]
4 visitor spaces

D	13.09.21	Colour Updated	JT	AK
C	09.09.21	Boundary Amendment	JT	AK
B	08.08.21	Plan types amended for submission	JT	AK
A	08.08.21	Update types amended	JT	AK

Rev	Date	Revision Details	Dr	Ch
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Client's Name

TBA

Job Title

Land at Wilmington,
Arundel Road, Angmering

Drawing Title

Illustrative Site Plan

Scale

1:250 @ A1 / 1:500 @ A3

metres 5 10 15 20 25

Drawn	Checked	Date
AK	AK	20.05.21

Job No	Drawing No	Rev
MP/CW/WM	001	D

Status

APPROVAL

Appendix C

Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Table C1. Habitat Condition Sheet: Grassland – Low Distinctiveness

Condition Assessment Criteria	
1	There must be 6-8 species per m2. Note - if a grassland has 9 or more species per m2 it should be classified as a moderate distinctiveness grassland habitat type. NB - this criterion is non-negotiable for achieving good condition.
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.
3	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.
4	Physical damage evident in less than 5% of total grassland area, such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.
5	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.
6	Cover of bracken less than 20%.
7	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981) and undesirable species ¹ make up less than 5% of ground cover.
Condition Assessment Result	
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including non-negotiable criterion 7	Good (3)
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria; OR Passes 6 of 7 criteria excluding non-negotiable criterion 7	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 - Species considered undesirable for this habitat type include: Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> , cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .	

Table C2. Habitat Condition Sheet: Grassland – Medium, High & Very High Distinctiveness

Condition Assessment Criteria	
1	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type (see UKHab definition). Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward.
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.
3	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.
4	Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.
5	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of undesirable species ¹ 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.
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 5 of 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 - Species considered undesirable for this habitat type include: Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> , cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .	

Table C3. Habitat Condition Sheet: Ponds

Condition Assessment Criteria	
CORE CRITERIA - applicable to all ponds (woodland ¹ and non-woodland):	
1	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.
2	There is semi-natural habitat (i.e. moderate distinctiveness or above) for at least 10 m from the pond edge.
3	Less than 10% of the pond is covered with duckweed or filamentous algae.
4	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, either via streams, ditches or artificial pipework.
5	Pond water levels should be able to fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious dams, pumps or pipework.
6	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species ² .
7	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.
ADDITIONAL CRITERIA - only applicable to non-woodland ponds:	
8	In non-woodland ponds, plants, be they emergent, submerged or floating (excluding duckweeds) ³ , should cover at least 50% of the pond area that is less than 3 m deep.
9	The surface of non-woodland ponds is no more than 50% shaded by woody bankside species.
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
If 8 criteria assessed (woodland ponds):	
Passes 7 of 7 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 5 or 6 of 7 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 of 7 criteria	Poor (1)
If 10 criteria assessed (non-woodland ponds):	
Passes 9 of 9 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 6, 7 or 8 of 9	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 of 9 criteria	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.	
Footnote 2 - Any species included on the Water Framework Directive UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent.	
- Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern <i>Azolla</i> spp., Australian swamp stonecrop <i>Crassula helmsii</i>, parrot's feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>, floating pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> and Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>, giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> (on the bank). - Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>, zebra mussels <i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>, killer shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i>, demon shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus haemobaphes</i>, carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>.	
Footnote 3 - If the pond is seasonal (i.e. dries out in most summers) then emergent species alone are likely to be found.	

Table C4. Habitat Condition Sheet: Scrub

Condition Assessment Criteria	
1	Habitat is representative of UKHab description (where in its natural range). There are at least three woody species, with no one species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except common juniper, sea buckthorn or box, which can be up to 100% cover).
2	There is a good age range – all of the following are present: seedlings, young shrubs and mature shrubs.
3	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981) and undesirable species ¹ make up less than 5% of ground cover.
4	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and/or herbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat(s).
5	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
Passes 5 of 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 - Species considered undesirable for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> , snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp., buddleia <i>Buddleja</i> spp., cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp., Spanish bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> (or hybrids).	

Table C5. Habitat Condition Sheet: Woodland

Condition Assessment Criteria				
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
1	Age distribution of trees ¹	Three age classes present	Two age classes present	One age class present
2	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ²	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland
3	Invasive plant species ³	No invasive species present in woodland	Rhododendron or laurel not present, other invasive species < 10% cover	Rhododendron or laurel present, or other invasive species > 10% cover
4	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel	None to two native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel
5	Cover of native tree and shrub species	> 80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native	50-80% of canopy trees and 50-80% of understory shrubs are native	< 50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native
6	Open space within woodland ⁴	10 – 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space, unless woodland is <10ha in which case lower threshold of 10% does not apply	21- 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space	More than 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space
7	Woodland regeneration ⁵	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4-7cm dbh, saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth	One or two classes only present in woodland	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland
8	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low risk pest or disease present	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high risk pest or disease present
9	Vegetation and ground flora	Ancient woodland flora indicators present	Recognisable NVC plant community present	No recognisable NVC community
10	Woodland vertical structure ⁶	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland	Two storeys across all survey plots	One or less storey across all survey plots
11	Veteran trees ⁷	Two or more veteran trees per hectare	One veteran tree per hectare	No veteran trees present in woodland
12	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have standing deadwood, large dead branches/ stems and stumps	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have standing deadwood, large dead branches/ stems and stumps	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have standing deadwood, large dead branches/ stems and stumps
13	Woodland disturbance ⁸	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and/or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and/or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground

Total score (out of a possible 39)	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch, cherry or Sorbus: 0 – 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). A recognisable age class should be a consistent recognisable layer across the woodland or stand being assessed. Presence of a few saplings would not indicate that the woodland has an 'age class' of young trees. Footnote 2 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 2 for more information. Browsing pressure is considered to be significant where >20% of vegetation visible within each survey plot shows damage from any type of browsing pressure listed. Footnote 3 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 3 for more information. Check for presence of the following invasive non-native species: American skunk cabbage <i>Lysichiton americanus</i>; Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>; Japanese knotweed <i>Fallopia japonica</i>; Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>; Shallow <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>; Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>; Variegated yellow archangel <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentatum</i>; and Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>. Footnote 4 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 6 for more information. Open space within woodland in this context is temporary open space in which trees can be expected to regenerate (e.g. glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not possible or desirable (e.g. tarmac, buildings, rivers). Area is at least 10m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees. Footnote 5 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 8 for more information. This indicator measures regeneration potential of the woodland by considering three classes: seedlings; saplings; and young trees of 4-7 cm DBH. All three classes would fall in the 'young' category of the 'age distribution of trees' indicator, the regeneration indicator is gathers additional information by considering regeneration potential i.e. if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration processes are happening. Footnote 6 - This indicator is looking at structural diversity and is useful to understand in conjunction with the age of trees in a woodland. Vertical structure is defined as the number of canopy storeys present. Possible storey values are: 1) Upper; 2) Complex: recorded when the stand is composed of multiple tree heights that cannot easily be stratified into broad height bands (such as upper, middle or lower); 3) Middle; 4) Lower; and 5) Shrub layer. Footnote 7 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 12 for more information. All ancient trees are veteran trees, but not all veteran trees are ancient. A veteran tree may not be very old, but it has decay features, such as branch death and hollowing. These features contribute to its biodiversity, cultural and heritage value. Veteran trees can be classified if they have four out of the five following features: 1. Rot sites associated with wounds which are decaying >400 cm²; 2. Holes and water pockets in the trunk and mature crown >5 cm diameter; 3. Dead branches or stems >15 cm diameter; 4. Any hollowing in the trunk or major limbs; 5. Fruit bodies of fungi known to cause wood decay. Footnote 8 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery or animal poaching; litter.	