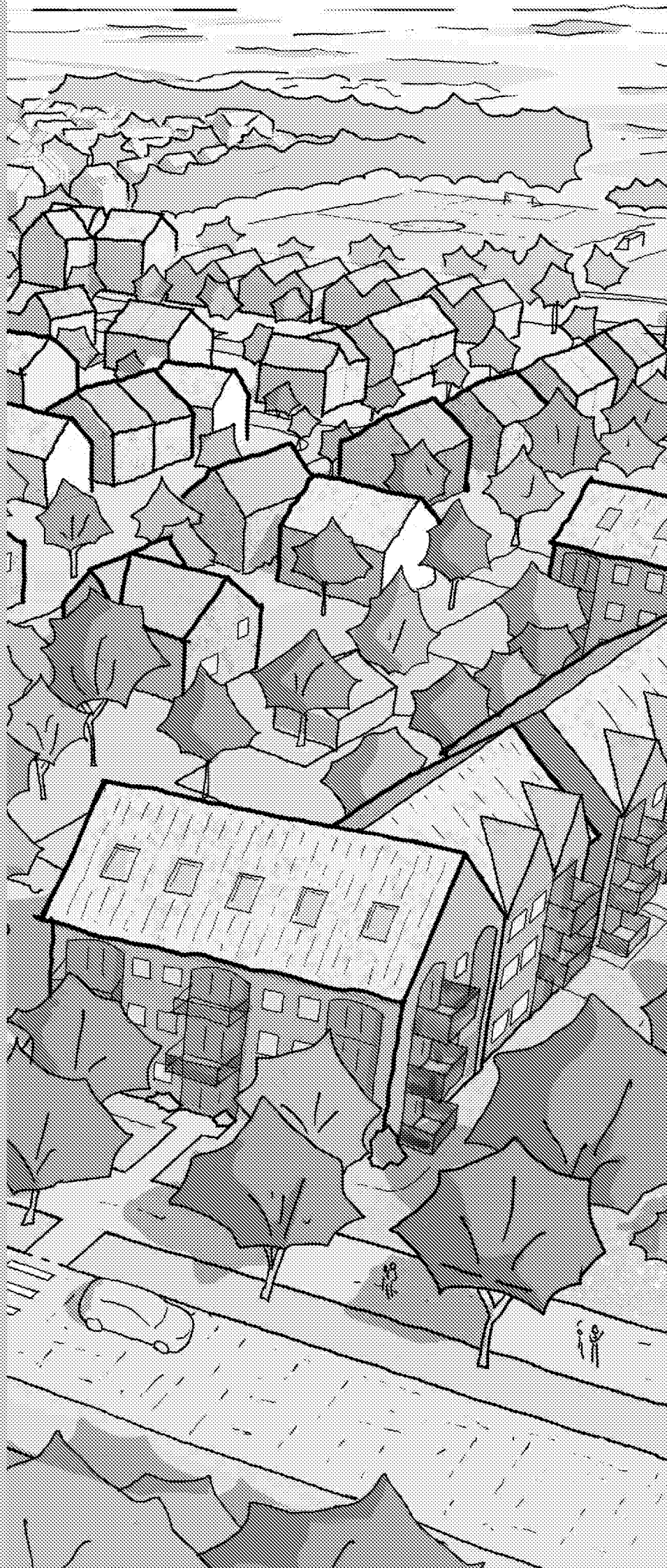
The Landings, Ford Airfield

Phase RM1 (North)

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
RM1_11.A
August 2024



Vistry Group

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URBAN EDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

Harvey Wingfield
23 Heddon Street
London
W1B 4BQ

28 August 2024
Our ref: UE0571
Your ref:

Dear Harvey,

RE: Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the above.

I can confirm that Urban Edge Environmental Consulting undertook a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment for the Proposed Development at Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex, in April 2023.

The assessment was based on the 2023 Defra Biodiversity Metric 4.0 and a survey of the site carried out on 13 April 2023 by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist.

Please note that the (current) Statutory Biodiversity Metric contains amendments to the criteria used for condition assessment when compared to the Metric 4.0.

Also note that the walkover survey was restricted to Public Rights of Way, which ran through and alongside the Application Site. The majority of the Application Site could be viewed sufficiently to identify the habitat type present and prepare each condition assessment sheet on a precautionary basis. However, areas of Other woodland; broadleaved in particular could not be fully surveyed. As such we recommended that, prior to submitting a planning application, a comprehensive walkover of the Application Site should be undertaken at an appropriate time of year to ground truth conditions and provide an accurate update to the assessment.

Finally please note that, despite predicting net gains of +19.23% for area habitats and +28.29% for hedgerows, the assessment also concluded that the proposals would not satisfy trading rules associated with Medium Distinctiveness habitats (Heathland and shrub – Bramble scrub).

Notwithstanding the above limitations, I have reviewed the currently proposed development layout and landscaping details listed below, and compared them to the details on which we based our 2023 assessment (also listed below). In my opinion there is a high degree of similarity between the two sets of proposals and, if the assessment were to be re-run against the current proposals, it is likely that a similar quantum of net gain would be achieved.

Proposals used for 2023 BNG assessment	**Current proposals reviewed for this letter**
Illustrative Masterplan (no date, author or drawing number given)	Masterplan Base (04/2023, Terrence O'Rourke, 180641-TOR-A0)
Proofing Layout (02/2023, Terrence O'Rourke, 708801-TOR-XX-ZZ-DR-A-sk1001)	Composite Landscape Masterplan RM1, RM4 and RM Infrastructure (08/2024, Terrence O'Rourke, 180641-TOR-RMIN-XX-DR-L-P-013)

I trust the above meets your requirements but please feel free to contact me if you'd like to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Nicholas Pincombe MSc CEnv MIEMA MCIEEM
Managing Director

[redacted]

NATURAL PROGRESSION

URBAN EDGE
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTING

Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

April 2023

URBAN EDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

NATURAL PROGRESSION

Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Client:	Countryside Partnerships Southern	
Report No.:	UE0571_FordAirfield_BNG_0_230427	
Author: Tim Lees BA (Hons) MSc MCIEEM	**Proofed:** Nick Pincombe MSc CEnv MIEMA MCIEEM	**Approved:** Nick Pincombe MSc CEnv MIEMA MCIEEM
Revision No.:	**Status/Comment:**	**Date:**
0	First issue to client	27 April 2023

Urban Edge Environmental Consulting Ltd is a Registered Practice of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. The information, advice and opinions provided in this report are true and were prepared and provided in accordance with CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

CIEEM REGISTERED

Contents

List of Figures

0 Executive Summary

0.1.1 Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development which leaves the natural environment in a better state than beforehand. Defra has published a metric by which the biodiversity losses and gains associated with a particular development can be calculated. Urban Edge Environmental Consulting was commissioned by Countryside Partnerships Southern ('the Applicant') to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment using the Defra Metric 4.0 for the site of a proposed residential development at Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex.

0.1.2 The 2021 National Planning Policy Framework advocates that planning policies and decisions should take opportunities to achieve net environmental and biodiversity gains, such as developments that would enable habitat creation. It also advocates that, when making planning decisions, local planning authorities should encourage biodiversity enhancements, especially where this can secure measurable gains for biodiversity. In 2018 the Government published its '25 Year Environment Plan' which set out an ambition to embed mandatory biodiversity net gain into all development projects. The Environment Act 2021 will mandate a minimum of 10% BNG for all development following a two-year transition period. Adopted Policy ENV DM5 Development and biodiversity of the Arun Local Plan 2011-2031 states that: *"Development schemes shall, in the first instance, seek to achieve a net gain in biodiversity and protect existing habitats on site."*.

0.1.3 The Biodiversity Net Gain assessment has been carried out using the 2023 Defra Biodiversity Metric 4.0 which uses habitats as a proxy for wider biodiversity. Pre-intervention Biodiversity Units (BU) calculations were informed by a walkover site visit on 13 April 2023 to establish the habitat parcels present within the development site, their size and condition. Post-intervention BU were calculated based upon the Proofing Layout and liaison with the client team.

0.1.4 There is a calculated **net gain of +33.28 BU for area habitats, equivalent to +19.23%**, associated with the current development proposals.

0.1.5 There is a calculated **net gain of +6.32 BU for linear habitats, equivalent to +28.29%**, associated with the current development proposals.

0.1.6 The proposed development will not satisfy trading rules associated with Medium Distinctiveness habitats (Heathland and shrub – Bramble scrub).

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

1.1.1 Urban Edge Environmental Consulting (UEEC) was commissioned by Countryside Properties Southern ('the Applicant') to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for the site of a proposed residential development at Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex (Grid Reference: SU 99139 03077).

1.1.2 The Application Site lies to the west of the village of Ford in the Arun District of West Sussex, as shown at Figure 1.1. It comprises c.81.11ha of a disused airfield, which includes large areas of agricultural land. The arable fields are divided by a series of hard surfaced runways, areas of grassland and woodland, and boundary hedgerows and tree lines.

1.2 Proposed Construction Activities

1.2.1 Planning consent is being sought for the erection of up to 1,500no. residential dwellings, together with parking, access, drainage, landscaping and associated facilities. A Proofing Layout for the proposed development is shown at Figure 1.2.

1.3 Biodiversity Net Gain and the Defra Metric

1.3.1 Biodiversity is the variety of life on earth; it includes all living things and the places in which they live. It is essential to sustain our society, well-being and economy. Biodiversity in the UK and internationally is declining as it comes under increasing pressure from development and land management practices. Enhancing biodiversity is integral to sustainable development, and BNG is an approach to development which leaves the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand.

1.3.2 In 2023 Defra published the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 ('the Metric') (Natural England, 2023a). The metric provides a means of evaluating biodiversity losses and gains through development in a robust and consistent manner. The metric enforces the mitigation hierarchy whereby impacts to biodiversity should first be avoided, then minimised and mitigated, before being compensated where losses cannot be avoided. The Metric calculates the biodiversity value of a site before and after development to establish the change in biodiversity attributable to a particular development project.

Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex

Application site boundary

Figure 1.1: Site location plan

0 500 1,000 Metres

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Scale (at A4): 1:20,000 Created by: MT

Date: Apr 2023 Reviewed by: NP

Drawing number:

UE0571ECO-FordAirfield_SiteLocation_230425

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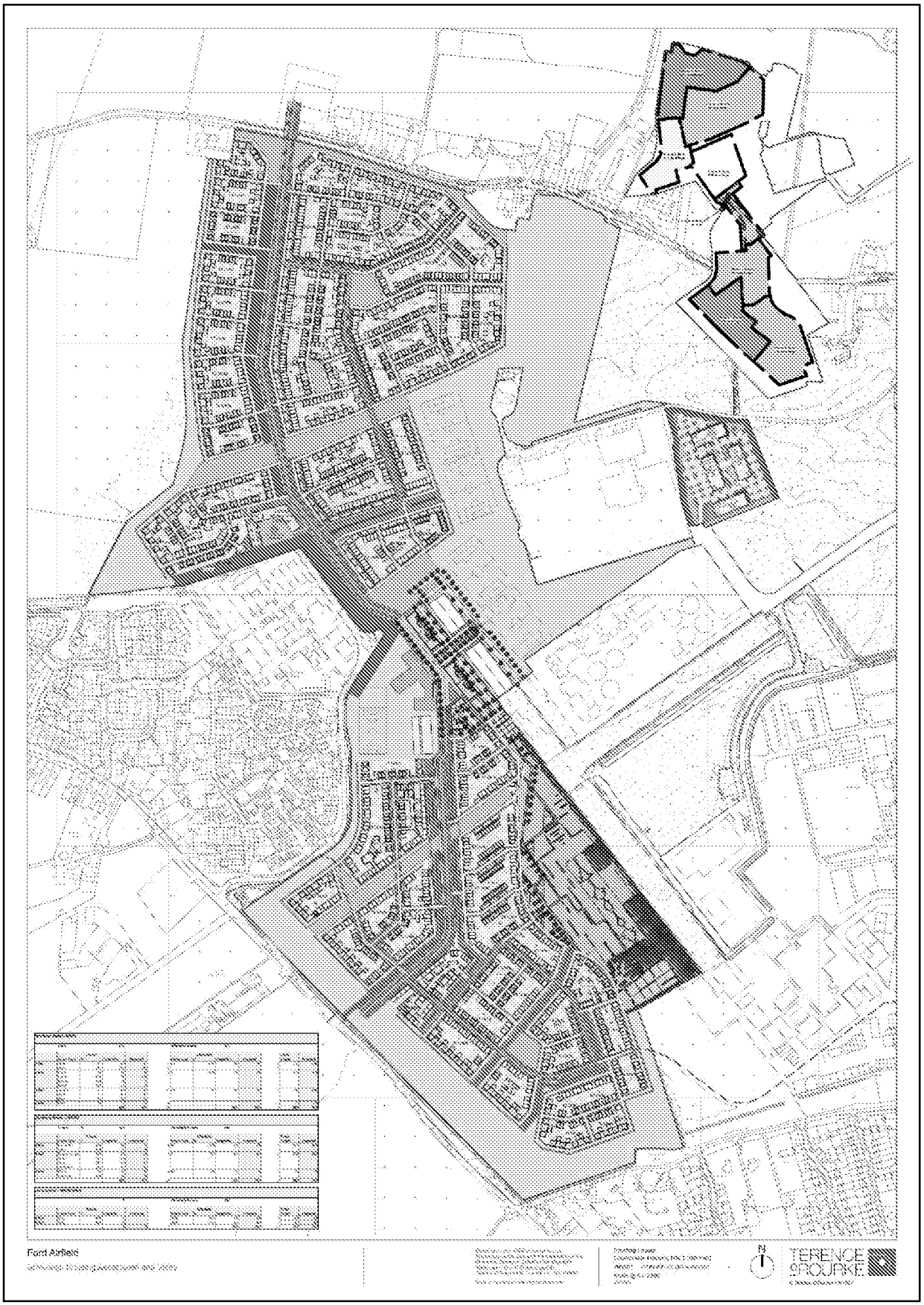

Figure 1.2: Proofing Layout

2 Policy Background

2.1 National Planning Policy

2.1.1 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; MHCLG, 2021) advocates biodiversity and environmental gains[1] in the following paragraphs:

- Paragraph 120: *"Planning policies and decisions should a) encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land…and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains - such as developments that would enable new habitat creation..."*
- Paragraph 174: *"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures."*
- Paragraph 175: *"Plans should…plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries"*
- Paragraph 179: *"To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should b)…pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity."*
- Paragraph 180: "*When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles d)…opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity.*"

2.1.2 The Government's '25 Year Environment Plan' (HMG, 2018) set out a policy ambition to consult on mandatory BNG for development and to embed environmental net gain principle into the planning system. A Defra consultation on mandatory BNG, advocating a minimum of 10% BNG for all development, took place in December 2018[2] with the responses published in July 2019[3]. The Environment Act 2021 will mandate a minimum of 10% BNG for all development following a two-year transition period.

2.2 Local Planning Policy

2.2.1 Adopted Policy ENV DM5 Development and biodiversity of the *Arun Local Plan 2011-2031* (Arun District Council, 2018) states that:

[1] Environmental gains extend beyond biodiversity gains to also include social, economic, amenity and natural capital gains.

[2] Defra (2018): *Net Gain – Consultation proposals*. Available online: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/net-gain/.

[3] Defra (2019): *Net Gain – Summary of responses and government response*. Available online: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/819823/net-gain-consult-sum-resp.pdf.

"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.

…".

3 Methodology

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 The BNG assessment has been carried out using the 2023 Defra Biodiversity Metric 4.0 and accompanying User Guide (Natural England, 2023b). The Metric uses habitats as a proxy for wider biodiversity with different habitat types scored according to their relative biodiversity value. This value is then adjusted depending on the condition and location of the habitat, to calculate 'Biodiversity Units' (BU) for the specific development site. Pre-intervention BU are subtracted from the post-intervention BU to determine the change in biodiversity value attributable to the development.

3.1.2 There are four key steps to using the Metric which are illustrated in Figure 3.1 and described further in the following sections.

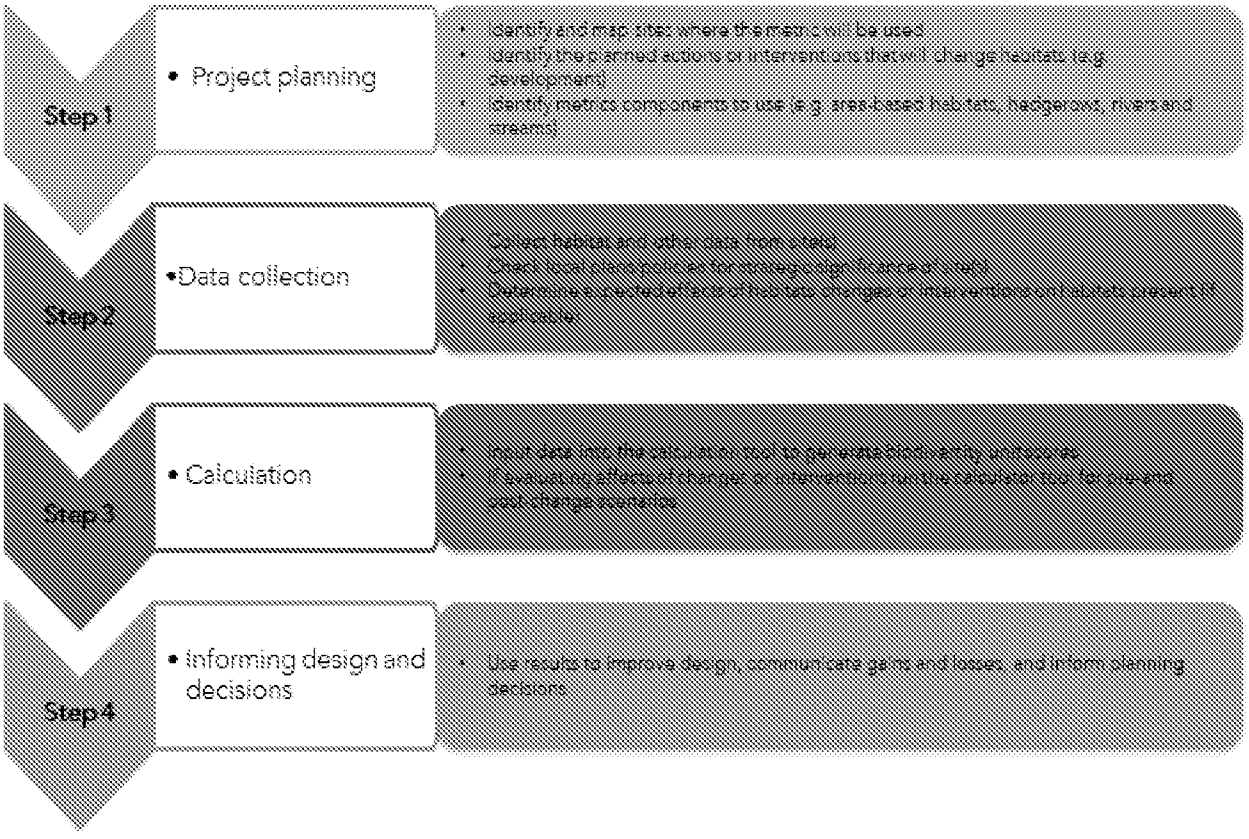

Figure 3.1: Key Steps to Apply the Defra Metric

3.2 Project Planning (Step 1)

3.2.1 The development site for which the BNG assessment has been undertaken includes the red line boundary shown on Figure 1.1. The Proofing Layout for the development is shown at Figure 1.2

and includes the proposed interventions for the site as described in Section 1. The existing habitats within the development site include both area and linear habitats, and therefore both components of the Metric have been applied, as discussed further in section 3.4.

3.3 Data Collection (Step 2)

Pre-development habitats

3.3.1 UEEC deployed an experienced ecologist on 13 April 2023 to identify the habitats according to the UK Habitat Classification System[4]. The site was divided into land parcels, based on the different habitats present. For each habitat, lists of plant species (where applicable) were also recorded, as well as an indication of their relative frequency and abundance (using the DAFOR[5] scale). The surveys established the extent and classification of habitats on site, in addition to collecting data relevant to each Condition Assessment Sheet from within The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Technical Annex 1 (Natural England, 2022b).

3.3.2 Annotated field maps were then digitised in ArcGIS 10.7 to produce the UKHab Pre-development plan shown at Appendix I. Each habitat polygon was clipped to the red line planning application boundary, and its area / length then calculated in GIS and exported to MS Excel for use in BNG baseline calculations. The size of each habitat parcel was recorded in hectares (ha) or kilometres (km). Each habitat parcel was assigned a condition score of Low, Medium or High, informed by the site survey and Condition Assessment Sheets.

Post-development habitats

3.3.3 The expected effects of habitat changes and interventions on existing habitats were established based upon the Proofing Layout, together with conversations with the client. The Proofing Layout was imported into ArcGIS, and each proposed habitat area/length was calculated and exported to MS Excel for use in BNG post-development calculations. Each habitat parcel/length was assigned a target condition score of Low, Medium or High, informed by conversations with the client and Condition Assessment Sheets.

3.4 Calculation (Step 3)

Calculation Tool

3.4.1 The Metric is accompanied by a calculation tool which uses a number of input fields in order to calculate pre- and post-intervention biodiversity units, including:

- **Habitat types:** As described in the UK Habitat Classification System.
- **Area of habitats and length of linear habitats:** In hectares and kilometres.
- **Habitat condition:** Parcels of habitat will be in different ecological conditions. In addition, interventions to improve habitats will not always involve taking a habitat in poor condition

[4] UK Habitat Classification: https://ukhab.org/ (Accessed 25/04/2023).

[5] D – Dominant; A – Abundant; F – Frequent; O – Occasional; R – Rare.

and improving it to good condition. The metric therefore takes account of variants in habitat condition.

- **Strategic significance:** The idea of strategic significance works at a landscape scale. It gives additional unit value to habitats that are located in preferred locations for biodiversity and other environmental objectives as set out in published local plans.

3.4.2 Habitat type, area / length and condition were established via the site survey and condition assessment described in section 3.3.

3.4.3 The Calculation Tool also includes a number of pre-assigned fields which are automatically populated based on habitat type inputs:

- **Habitat distinctiveness**: Based on an assessment of the distinguishing features of a habitat or linear feature, including the consideration of species richness, rarity (at local, regional, national and international scales), and the degree to which a habitat supports species rarely found in other habitats.
- **Risk multipliers (Post-intervention only)**: Three different risks are recognised in the Metric: difficulty of habitat creation and restoration; temporal risk i.e. the time it takes for a newly created habitat to reach target condition; and off-site risk which accounts for decreasing ecosystem services provided to the local community with compensation provided further from the development site.

Calculation of Biodiversity Units

3.4.4 Using the factors described above, equivalent BU were calculated for the development site pre- and post-intervention. No offsite habitat creation or enhancement is currently proposed.

3.4.5 The following formula was used to calculate the change in BU as a consequence of the proposed development:

POST-INTERVENTION BIODIVERSITY UNITS – PRE-INTERVENTION BIODIVERSITY UNITS = CHANGE IN BIODIVERSITY UNITS

3.4.6 Where the resulting score is negative there is a net loss in biodiversity. If the score is zero, there is no net loss in biodiversity. Where the resulting score is positive, there is a net gain in biodiversity.

3.5 Informing Design and Decisions (Step 4)

3.5.1 In this case the scheme layout had already been fixed prior to undertaking the BNG assessment, albeit with only indicative landscaping. The BNG calculations provide an overview of net gains or losses resulting from the scheme.

3.6 Assumptions and Limitations

3.6.1 The walkover survey was restricted to Public Rights of Way, which ran through and alongside the Application Site. The majority of the Application Site could be viewed sufficiently to identify the habitat type present and prepare each condition assessment sheet on a precautionary basis. However, areas of Other woodland; broadleaved in particular could not be fully surveyed. As such, prior to submitting the planning application, a comprehensive walkover of the Application Site should be undertaken at an appropriate time of year to ground truth conditions and provide an accurate update to this assessment.

3.6.2 The Proofing Layout only shows the habitats on site following the proposed development. The net gain assessment has been calculated based upon assumptions regarding the condition of each habitat created to give an indication of the likely biodiversity gain / loss post-development. Finalised management proposals to achieve the proposed condition of habitats, will need to be prepared prior to development of the site.

3.6.3 See Appendix XI for general Legal and Technical Limitations which apply to this document.

4 Results

4.1.1 The pre-development habitats were digitised in accordance with UKHab for use in the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric 4.0, as shown in Appendix I. Appendix II shows the post-development habitats using UKHab classifications, based on the Proofing Layout. The data used to inform the condition assessments for the habitats pre- and post-development are provided in Appendix III to Appendix X, together with calculations extracted from the Biodiversity Metric 4.0.

4.1.2 The extract overleaf from the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 - Calculation Tool illustrates the headline results for the proposed development. This shows that with the implementation of the Proofing Layout and achievement of the condition of the proposed habitats (Appendices VII & IX), the development proposals will achieve:

- A **net gain of +33.28 BU for area habitats, equivalent to +19.23%**; and
- A **net gain of +6.32 BU for linear habitats, equivalent to +28.29%**.

4.1.3 The proposed development will not satisfy trading rules associated with Medium Distinctiveness habitats (Heathland and shrub – Bramble scrub).

On-site baseline	*Habitat units*	173.06
	Hedgerow units	22.34
	Watercourse units	0.00
On-site post-intervention (including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	206.34
	Hedgerow units	28.66
	Watercourse units	0.00
On-site net change (units & percentage)	*Habitat units*	33.28
	Hedgerow units	6.32
	Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site baseline	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site post-intervention (including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Combined net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	33.28
	Hedgerow units	6.32
	Watercourse units	0.00
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	33.28
	Hedgerow units	6.32
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	19.23%
	Hedgerow units	28.29%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲	

References and Bibliography

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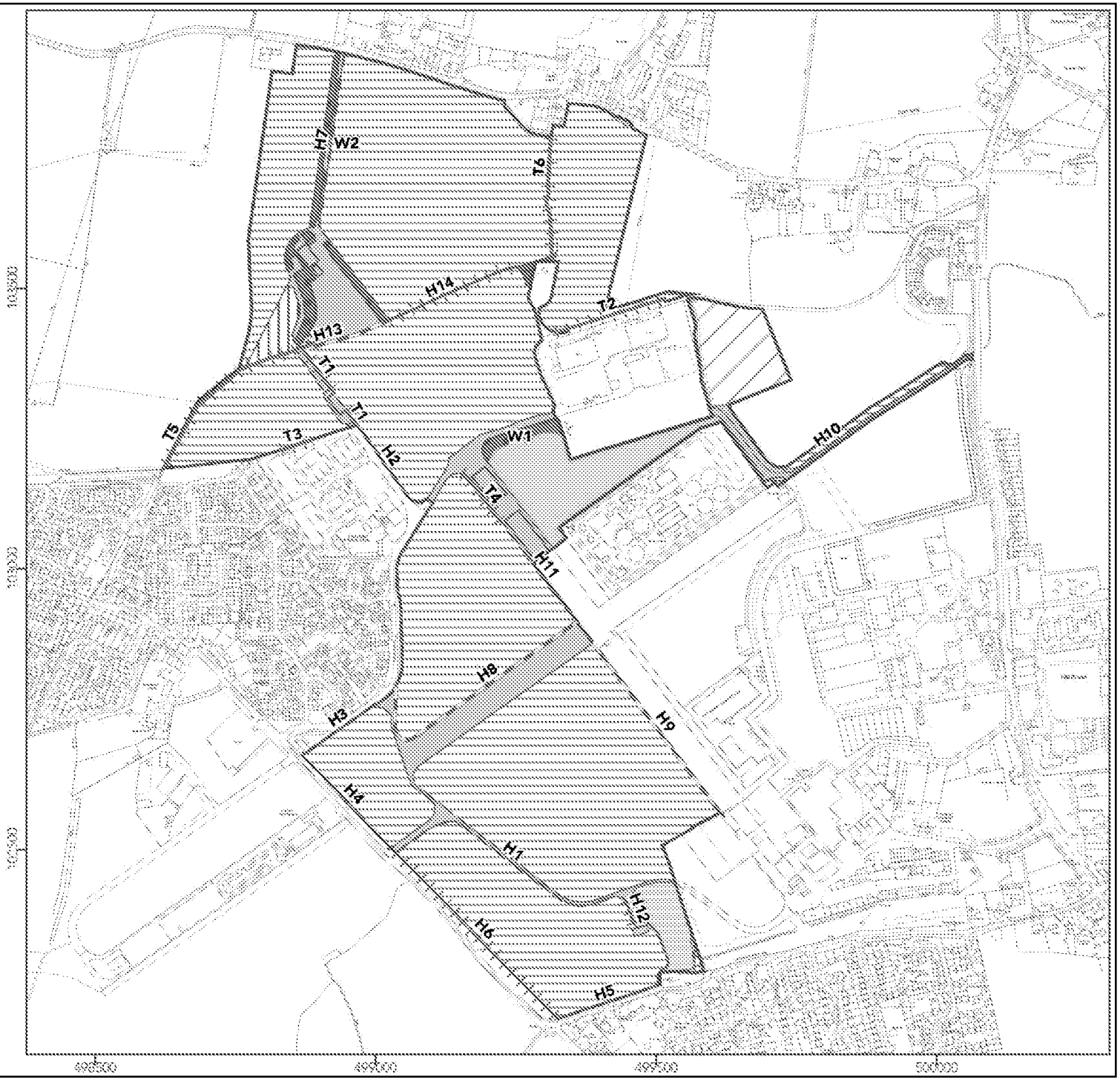
Appendix I: UKHab Pre-development Plan

Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex

- Application site boundary
- Cereal crops
- Other neutral grassland
- Modified grassland
- Bramble scrub
- Pond (Non-Priority Habitat)
- Developed land, sealed surface
- Vacant/derelict land
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Other woodland; broadleaved
- Tall forbs
- Area excluded from calculation
- Native Hedgerow
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- Native Hedgerow with trees
- Line of Trees



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Date: Apr 2023 Reviewed by: NF

Drawing number:

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Appendix II: UKHab Post-development Plan

Ford Airfield, Ford, West Sussex

- Application site boundary
- Cereal crops
- Other neutral grassland 1
- Other neutal grassland 2
- Modified grassland
- Bramble scrub
- Pond (Non-Priority Habitat)
- Developed land, sealed surface
- Sustainable urban drainage feature
- Vegetated garden
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Other woodland; broadleaved
- Area excluded from calculation
- Native Hedgerow
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- Native Hedgerow with trees
- Line of Trees

0 250 500

Metres

N

Scale (at A4): 1:10,000 **Created by:** MT

Date: Apr 2023 **Reviewed by:** NP

Drawing number:

UE0571ECO-FordAirfield_PostDev_230425

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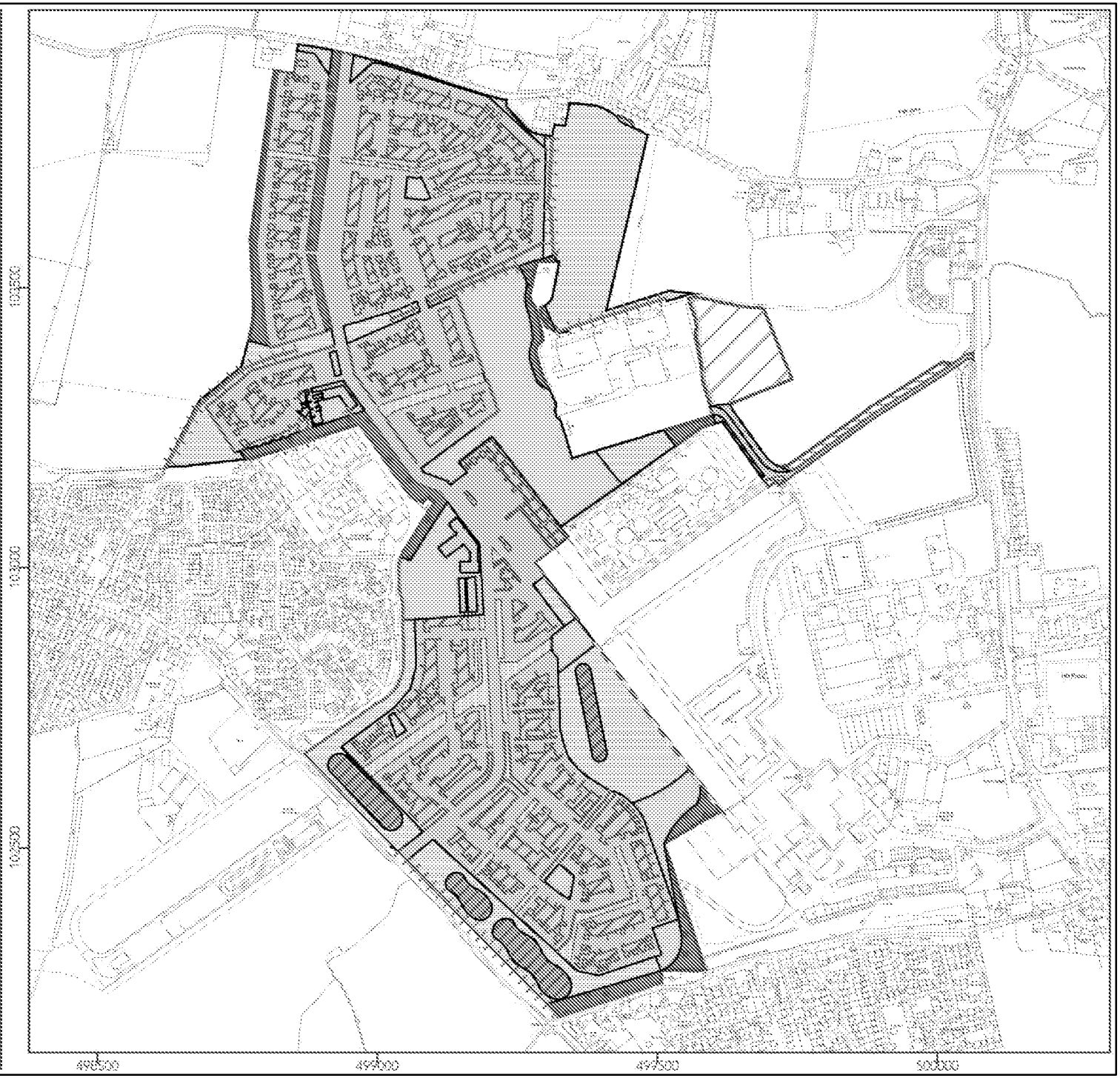

Appendix III: Pre-development Habitat Condition Sheets (Area baseline)

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)		
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)		
Grassland - Modified grassland		
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.** 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 m2 (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.	N
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
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. 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.	Y
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Y
F	Cover of bracken Pteridium aquilinum is less than 20%.	Y
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Y
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)	N
	Number of criteria passed	5
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/y
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)	✓

Notes

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock Rumex obtusifolius, common nettle Urtica dioica, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high & very high distinctiveness)		
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)		
Grassland - Other neutral grassland (Poor condition)		
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Y
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 insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[1].	Y
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	N
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition[2] 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[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types		

F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Y
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N
Number of criteria passed		4

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)	
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	

Notes

Footnote 1 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.

Footnote 2 – Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

UKHab Habitat Type(s)

Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator
A	**Age distribution of trees**	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	W1 – 2 W2 – 2
B	**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[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	W1 – 3 W2 – 3

C	**Invasive plant species**	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] >10% cover.	W1 – 3 W2 – 3
D	**Number of native tree species**	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	W1 – 3 W2 – 3
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species**	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	W1 – 3 W2 – 3
F	**Open space within woodland**	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space6. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	W1 – 3 W2 – 3
G	**Woodland regeneration**	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	W1 – 2 W2 – 3
H	**Tree health**	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	W1 – 3 W2 – 3
I	**Vegetation and ground flora**	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	W1 – 1 W2 – 1
J	**Woodland vertical structure**	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	W1 – 1 W2 – 1
K	**Veteran trees**	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	W1 – 1 W2 – 1
L	**Amount of deadwood**	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have	W1 – 1 W2 – 3

		deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	
M	**Woodland disturbance**	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	W1 – 1 W2 – 3
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)	W1 – 27 W2 – 33

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	W2
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	W1
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)	

Notes

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment methodology: EWBG (No date). Assessing your Woodland's Condition [online]. Available from:
Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)
When applying this condition sheet, good practice would be to use the methodology associated with the EWBG toolkit.

Footnote 1 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch Betula sp., cherry Prunus sp. or Sorbus sp.: 0 - 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or Sorbus species; 0 - 20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years =Intermediate; >60 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. Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly.

Check for the presence of all plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), particularly the following invasive non-native species: American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*; Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*; Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*; cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*; shallon Gaultheria shallon; snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*; variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*; rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*; and tree-of-heaven *Alianthus altissima*.

Footnote 4 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 4 and Table 2 for more information. The number of different native tree or shrub species including young trees and shrubs. A list of commonly found

native tree and shrub species is provided in Table 2. Not all species listed are native to all parts of the UK. Note a list of commonly found non-native tree species are also included and should be recorded if present.

Footnote 5 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 5 and for more information. The abundance of native tree species in upper (>5 m) and understorey (up to 5 m) layers including young trees and shrubs.

Footnote 6 – 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 (for example, glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not possible or desirable (for example, tarmac, buildings, rivers). Area is at least 10 m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees.

Footnote 7 – Given the increased ratio of edge habitat to woodland where the woodland is <10ha.

Footnote 8 – 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, but the regeneration indicator gathers additional information by considering regeneration potential - if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration processes are happening.

Footnote 9 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 9 for more information and Table 3 for a list of diseases and pests and their risk level.

Footnote 10 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 10 directing to NVC key for more information. The 'UKHab to NVC translation table' in the UK Habitat Classification resources may also be useful to assess this.

Footnote 11 – This criterion looks 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. There might be no storeys where the woodland has been felled. See EWBG INDICATOR 11 for more information.

Footnote 12 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 12 for more information. See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)
and:
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches on the forest floor and stumps (<1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and also deadwood on standing live trees. Diameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter of 20 cm.

Footnote 14 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery, animal poaching or litter.

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type
Habitat Type
Urban – Vacant or derelict land

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
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
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
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].	Y
	Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)	Y
	Number of criteria passed	1

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/y
• 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)	✓

Notes

Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 2 – Sources of information about detrimental non-native species can be found on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS) website:

Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)

and Natural England Access to Evidence page should also be checked for up-to-date information:

Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 (naturalengland.org.uk)

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

UrbHab Habitat Type(s)

Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator
A	**Age distribution of trees**	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	3
B	**Wild, domestic and feral**	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present	3

	herbivore damage		in 40% or less of whole woodland[2].	in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	
C	**Invasive plant species**	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] >10% cover.	3
D	**Number of native tree species**	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	3
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species**	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	3
F	**Open space within woodland**	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space6. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	3
G	**Woodland regeneration**	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	3
H	**Tree health**	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	3
I	**Vegetation and ground flora**	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	1
J	**Woodland vertical structure**	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	2
K	**Veteran trees**	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	1

L	**Amount of deadwood**	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	1
M	**Woodland disturbance**	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	1
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)	30

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	✓
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)	

Notes

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment methodology: EWBG (No date). Assessing your Woodland's Condition [online]. Available from:
Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)
When applying this condition sheet, good practice would be to use the methodology associated with the EWBG toolkit.

Footnote 1 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch Betula sp., cherry Prunus sp. or Sorbus sp.: 0 - 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or Sorbus species; 0 - 20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years =Intermediate; >60 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. Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly.

Check for the presence of all plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), particularly the following invasive non-native species: American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*; Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*; Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*; cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*; shallon Gaultheria shallon; snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*; variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*; rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*; and tree-of-heaven *Alianthus altissima*.

Footnote 4 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 4 and Table 2 for more information. The number of different native tree or shrub species including young trees and shrubs. A list of commonly found native tree and shrub species is provided in Table 2. Not all species listed are native to all parts of the UK. Note a list of commonly found non-native tree species are also included and should be recorded if present.

Footnote 5 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 5 and for more information. The abundance of native tree species in upper (>5 m) and understorey (up to 5 m) layers including young trees and shrubs.

Footnote 6 – 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 (for example, glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not possible or desirable (for example, tarmac, buildings, rivers). Area is at least 10 m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees.

Footnote 7 – Given the increased ratio of edge habitat to woodland where the woodland is <10ha.

Footnote 8 – 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, but the regeneration indicator gathers additional information by considering regeneration potential - if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration processes are happening.

Footnote 9 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 9 for more information and Table 3 for a list of diseases and pests and their risk level.

Footnote 10 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 10 directing to NVC key for more information. The 'UKHab to NVC translation table' in the UK Habitat Classification resources may also be useful to assess this.

Footnote 11 – This criterion looks 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. There might be no storeys where the woodland has been felled. See EWBG INDICATOR 11 for more information.

Footnote 12 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 12 for more information. See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)
and:
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches on the forest floor and stumps (<1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and also deadwood on standing live trees. Diameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter of 20 cm.

Footnote 14 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery, animal poaching or litter.

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type		
UrbHab Habitat Type		
Lakes – Ponds (non-priority habitat)		
Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Yes or No)
CORE CRITERIA - applicable to all ponds (woodland[1] and non-woodland):		
A	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.	N
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	N
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed *Lemna* spp. or filamentous algae.	N
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	N
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams[2], pumps or pipework.	Y
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species[3].	Y
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Y
ADDITIONAL CRITERIA - only applicable to non-woodland ponds:		
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed)[4] cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	N
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	N
	Number of criteria passed	3
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓/✗
ADDITIONAL CRITERIA - only applicable to non-woodland ponds:		
Passes 7 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	✓

Notes

Footnote 1 – A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.

Footnote 2 – This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver *Castor fiber*.

Footnote 3 – Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021) Classification of aquatic alien species according to their level of impact [online]. Available from:
UKTAG classification of alien species working paper v8.pdf (wfduk.org)

- Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern *Azolla filiculoides*, Australian swamp stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*, parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* and Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* (on the bank).
- Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, zebra mussels *Dreissena polymorpha*, killer shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*, demon shrimp *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes*, carp *Cyprinus carpio*.

Footnote 4 – If the pond is seasonal (as in, it dries out in most summers) then emergent species alone are likely to be found.

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type		
Habitat Type		
Sparsely vegetated land – Tall forbs		
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
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
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
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].	Y
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)		Y
Number of criteria passed		1
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓
• 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)	✓
Notes		
Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). **Footnote 2** – Sources of information about detrimental non-native species can be found on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS) website: Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org) and Natural England Access to Evidence page should also be checked for up-to-date information: Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 (naturalengland.org.uk)		

Appendix IV: A-1 Site Habitat Baseline

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	Existing area habitats			Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline
Ref	Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic Significance multiplier		Total habitat units
1	Cropland	Cereal crops	70.17	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	140.34
2	Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	6.87	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Compensation Not Required	0.00
3	Grassland	Modified grassland	3.59	Low	2	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	7.18
4	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	1.02	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	8.16
5	Woodland and forest	Other woodland; broadleaved	0.97	Medium	4	Good	3	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	11.64
6	Urban	Vacant or derelict land	0.65	Low	2	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	1.30
7	Woodland and forest	Other woodland; broadleaved	0.31	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	2.48
8	Heathland and shrub	Bramble scrub	0.15	Medium	4	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	0.60
9	Woodland and forest	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.1	High	6	Moderate	2	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same habitat required =	1.20
10	Lakes	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	0.03	Medium	4	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	0.12
11	Sparsely vegetated land	Tall forbs	0.02	Low	2	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	0.04
		Total habitat area	83.88									173.06

	Retention category biodiversity value					
Ref	Area retained	Area enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Area habitat lost	Units lost
1	0.45	0.00	0.90	0.00	69.72	139.44
2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.87	0.00
3	2.15	0.00	4.30	0.00	1.44	2.88
4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.02	8.16
5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.97	11.64
6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	1.30
7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	2.48
8	0.04	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.11	0.44
9	0.1	0.00	1.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	0.03	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04
	2.77	**0.00**	**6.68**	**0.00**	**81.11**	**166.38**

Appendix V: Pre-development Habitat Condition Sheets (Linear baseline)

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types					
Habitat Type					
Native hedgerow					
Condition Assessment Criteria					
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook[1] and Favourable Conservation Status document[2]. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.					
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)		**Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Description**	Criterion passed (yes or No)	
				Yes	No
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
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).	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H10, H11	
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 *Prunus spinosa* suckers) are only included in	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H10, H11	

			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).		
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).	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H10, H11	
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).	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H10, H11	
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 hedge (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.	H5	H1, H2, H3, H4, H7, H10, H11

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 *Urtica* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.		H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H10, H11
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].	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H10, H11	
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 (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H7, H10, H11	
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1.	Age class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient[8]), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N/A	
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	N/A	

		from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.		

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
	Score achieved:	H5 – Good / H1, H2, H3, H4, H7, H10, H11 - Moderate

Notes

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. [online] Available on: layout (hedgelink.org.uk)

Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows. [online] Available on: Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk)

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain. Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on: The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7) | JNCC Resource Hub

Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). Definitions: wild, native or alien? [online] Available on: Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (bsbi.org)

Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora. [online] Available on: Acknowledgements | Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk)

Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on: Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)

Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)
and
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types

Habitat Type

Native hedgerow with trees

Condition Assessment Criteria

A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook[1] and Favourable Conservation Status document[2]. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.

Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)		**Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Description**	Criterion passed (yes or No)	
				Yes	No
Core groups – applicable to all hedgerow types					
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).	H6, H12, H14	
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 *Prunus spinosa* 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).	H6, H12, H14	

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).	H6, H12, H14	
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).	H6, H12	H14
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 hedge (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.	H6	H12, H14
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 *Urtica* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	H6	H12, H14

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].	H6, H12, H14	
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 (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	H6, H12, H14	
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1.	Age class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient[8]), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.		H6, H12, H14
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). 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.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	H6, H12, H14	
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.					

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
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 5 failures in total; **AND** Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition)."	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; **OR** Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition)."	1
	Score achieved:	H6 – Good / H12, H14 – Moderate

Notes

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. [online] Available on: layout (hedgelink.org.uk)

Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows. [online] Available on: Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk)

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain. Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on: The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7) | JNCC Resource Hub

Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). Definitions: wild, native or alien? [online] Available on: Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (bsbi.org)

Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora. [online] Available on: Acknowledgements | Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk)

Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on: Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)

Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)
and
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type			
UKHab Habitat Type(s)			
Line of trees			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)	
		Yes	No
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	T3, T4, T6	T1, T2, T5
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.	T2, T3, T4, T5, T6	T1

C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.		T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6
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 advice2.		T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6
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.	T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6	
	Number of criteria passed	T1 –1 T2, T5 – 2 T3, T4, T6 – 3	

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/y
Passes 5 of 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria	Moderate (2)	T3, T4, T6
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)	T1, T2, T5

Notes

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK*. 2nd ed [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).

Footnote 2 – Where ancient and veteran trees are present, see gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:

Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and:

Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Appendix VI: B-1 Site Hedge Baseline

	Existing hedgerow habitats			Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline
Ref	Hedge number	Hedgerow type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic position multiplier		Total hedgerow units
1	H1, H2, H3, H4, H7, H10, H11	Native hedgerow	2.5	Low	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness band or better	10.00	H1, H2, H3, H4, H7, H10, H11	Native hedgerow	2.5	Low
2	H8, H9, H13	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	1.02	V.Low	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness band or better	1.02	H8, H9, H13	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	1.02	V.Low
3	T1, T2, T5	Line of trees	0.63	Low	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness band or better	1.26	T1, T2, T5	Line of trees	0.63	Low
4	T3, T4, T6	Line of trees	0.42	Low	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness band or better	1.68	T3, T4, T6	Line of trees	0.42	Low
5	H6	Native hedgerow with trees	0.41	Medium	Good	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness band or better	4.92	H6	Native hedgerow with trees	0.41	Medium
6	H12, H14	Native hedgerow with trees	0.29	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness band or better	2.32	H12, H14	Native hedgerow with trees	0.29	Medium
7	H5	Native hedgerow	0.19	Low	Good	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same distinctiveness band or better	1.14	H5	Native hedgerow	0.19	Low
			5.46									**22.34**

	Retention category biodiversity value					
Ref	Length retained	Length enhanced	Baseline units retained	Baseline units enhanced	Length lost	Units lost
1	1.4	0.00	5.60	0.00	1.10	4.40
2	0.38	0.00	0.38	0.00	0.64	0.64
3	0.57	0.00	1.14	0.00	0.06	0.12
4	0.27	0.00	1.08	0.00	0.15	0.60
5	0.41	0.00	4.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	0.23	0.00	1.84	0.00	0.06	0.48
7	0.19	0.00	1.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
	3.45	**0.00**	**16.10**	**0.00**	**2.01**	**6.24**

Appendix VII: Post-development Habitat Condition Sheets (Area creation)

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high & very high distinctiveness)		
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)		
Grassland - Other neutral grassland 1		
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Y
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 insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[1].	Y
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Y
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition[2] 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[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types		
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Y
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		Y
Number of criteria passed		6

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)	✓
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	

Notes

Footnote 1 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.

Footnote 2 – Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)

Grassland - Modified grassland

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.** 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 m2 (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.	N
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
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. 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.	Y
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Y
F	Cover of bracken Pteridium aquilinum is less than 20%.	Y
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Y
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)	N
	Number of criteria passed	5

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓/✗
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)	✓

Notes

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock Rumex obtusifolius, common nettle Urtica dioica, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

UKHab Habitat Type(s)

Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator
A	**Age distribution of trees**	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	2
B	**Wild, domestic and feral**	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present	3

	herbivore damage		in 40% or less of whole woodland[2].	in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	
C	**Invasive plant species**	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] >10% cover.	3
D	**Number of native tree species**	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	3
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species**	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	3
F	**Open space within woodland**	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space6. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	3
G	**Woodland regeneration**	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	3
H	**Tree health**	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	3
I	**Vegetation and ground flora**	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	1
J	**Woodland vertical structure**	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	1
K	**Veteran trees**	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	1

L	**Amount of deadwood**	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	1
M	**Woodland disturbance**	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	3
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)	30

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	✓
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)	

Notes

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment methodology: EWBG (No date). Assessing your Woodland's Condition [online]. Available from: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)

When applying this condition sheet, good practice would be to use the methodology associated with the EWBG toolkit.

Footnote 1 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch Betula sp., cherry Prunus sp. or Sorbus sp.: 0 - 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or Sorbus species; 0 - 20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years =Intermediate; >60 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. Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly.

Check for the presence of all plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), particularly the following invasive non-native species: American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*; Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*; Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*; cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*; shallon Gaultheria shallon; snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*; variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*; rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*; and tree-of-heaven *Alianthus altissima*.

Footnote 4 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 4 and Table 2 for more information. The number of different native tree or shrub species including young trees and shrubs. A list of commonly found native tree and shrub species is provided in Table 2. Not all species listed are native to all parts of the UK. Note a list of commonly found non-native tree species are also included and should be recorded if present.

Footnote 5 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 5 and for more information. The abundance of native tree species in upper (>5 m) and understorey (up to 5 m) layers including young trees and shrubs.

Footnote 6 – 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 (for example, glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not possible or desirable (for example, tarmac, buildings, rivers). Area is at least 10 m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees.

Footnote 7 – Given the increased ratio of edge habitat to woodland where the woodland is <10ha.

Footnote 8 – 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, but the regeneration indicator gathers additional information by considering regeneration potential - if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration processes are happening.

Footnote 9 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 9 for more information and Table 3 for a list of diseases and pests and their risk level.

Footnote 10 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 10 directing to NVC key for more information. The 'UKHab to NVC translation table' in the UK Habitat Classification resources may also be useful to assess this.

Footnote 11 – This criterion looks 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. There might be no storeys where the woodland has been felled. See EWBG INDICATOR 11 for more information.

Footnote 12 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 12 for more information. See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)
and:
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches on the forest floor and stumps (<1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and also deadwood on standing live trees. Diameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter of 20 cm.

Footnote 14 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery, animal poaching or litter.

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high & very high distinctiveness)		
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)		
Grassland - Other neutral grassland 2		
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	N
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 insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[1].	Y
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Y
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition[2] 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[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types		
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Y
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N
Number of criteria passed		5

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)	
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	✓
Notes		

Footnote 1 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.

Footnote 2 – Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type		
Habitat Type		
Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)		
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
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
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
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].	Y
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for **Bioswale and SuDS** habitat types only:		
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife4.	Y
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.	Y
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)		Y
Number of criteria passed		3
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved √/✓
Results for **Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale or SuDS** (requiring assessment of 5 criteria - core criteria plus additional criteria specified for habitat type):		
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group D or Group E)	Good (3)	

• Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR • Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)	✓
• Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.	Poor (1)	

Notes

Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 2 – Sources of information about detrimental non-native species can be found on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS) website:

Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)

and Natural England Access to Evidence page should also be checked for up-to-date information:

Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 (naturalengland.org.uk)

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Appendix VIII: A-2 Site Habitat Creation

Post development/ post intervention habitats																		
			Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Temporal multiplier				Difficulty multipliers				
Broad Habitat	Proposed habitat	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic position multiplier	Standard time to target condition/ years	Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Final time to target condition/ years	Final time to target multiplier	Standard difficulty of creation	Applied difficulty multiplier	Final difficulty of creation	Difficulty multiplier applied	Habitat units delivered
Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	35.82	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	1.000	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Medium	0.67	0.00
Grassland	Other neutral grassland 2	14.61	Medium	4	Good	3	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	10	Standard time to target condition applied	10	0.700	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	122.77
Urban	Vegetated garden	12.78	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	1	Standard time to target condition applied	1	0.965	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	24.67
Grassland	Modified grassland	8.63	Low	2	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	1	Standard time to target condition applied	1	0.965	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	16.66
Woodland and forest	Other woodland; broadleaved	4.21	Medium	4	Moderate	2	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	15	Standard time to target condition applied	15	0.586	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	19.74
Grassland	Other neutral grassland 1	2.77	Medium	4	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	2	Standard time to target condition applied	2	0.931	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	10.32
Urban	Sustainable drainage system	2.29	Low	2	Moderate	2	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	3	Standard time to target condition applied	3	0.899	Medium	Standard difficulty applied	Medium	0.67	5.52
Urban	Developed land; sealed surface	35.82	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	0	Standard time to target condition applied	0	1.000	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Medium	0.67	0.00
	Total habitat area	81.11															Total Units	199.66

Appendix IX: Post-development Habitat Condition Sheets (Linear creation)

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types				
Habitat Type				
Species-rich native hedgerow				
Condition Assessment Criteria				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook[1] and Favourable Conservation Status document[2]. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.				
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)		**Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Description**	Criterion passed (yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
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).	Y
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 *Prunus spinosa* suckers) are only included in	N

			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).	
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).	Y
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).	Y
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 hedge (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.	N

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 *Urtica* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y
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
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 (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	Y
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only				
E1.	class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient[8]), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N/A
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	N/A

		from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.		

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
	Score achieved:	Good

Notes

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. [online] Available on: layout (hedgelink.org.uk)

Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows. [online] Available on: Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk)

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain. Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on: The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7) | JNCC Resource Hub

Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). Definitions: wild, native or alien? [online] Available on: Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (bsbi.org)

Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora. [online] Available on: Acknowledgements | Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk)

Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on: Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)

Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)

and

Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Appendix X: B-2 Site Hedge Creation

Proposed habitats			Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Temporal multiplier				Difficulty risk multipliers				Hedge units delivered
New hedge number	Habitat type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic position multiplier	Standard time to target condition (years)	Standard or adjusted time to target condition	Final time to target condition (years)	Final time to target multiplier	Standard difficulty of creation	Applied difficulty multiplier	Final difficulty of creation	Difficulty multiplier applied	
-	Native hedgerow	3.21	Low	2	Good	3	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	12	Standard time to target condition applied	12	0.652	Low	Standard difficulty applied	Low	1	**12.56**

Appendix XI: Legal and Technical Limitations

- This report has been prepared by Urban Edge Environmental Consulting Ltd (UEEC Ltd) with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the contract made with the Client to undertake this work, and taking into account the information made available by the Client. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the professional advice included in this report or any other services provided by us.
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- The advice provided in this report does not constitute legal advice. As such, the services of lawyers may also be considered to be warranted.
- Unless otherwise stated in this report, the assessments made assume that the sites and facilities that have been considered in this report will continue to be used for their current planned purpose without significant change.
- All work carried out in preparing this report has utilised and is based upon UEEC Ltd's current professional knowledge and understanding of current relevant UK standards and codes, technology and legislation. Changes in this legislation and guidance may occur at any time in the future and may cause any conclusions to become inappropriate or incorrect. UEEC Ltd does not accept responsibility for advising the Client or other interested parties of the facts or implications of any such changes;
- Where this report presents or relies upon the findings of ecological field surveys (including habitat, botanical or protected/notable species surveys), its conclusions should not be relied upon for longer than a maximum period of two years from the date of the original field surveys. Ecological change (e.g. colonisation of a site by a protected species) can occur rapidly and this limitation is not intended to imply that a likely absence of, for instance, a protected species will persist for any period of time;
- This report has been prepared using factual information contained in maps and documents prepared by others. No responsibility can be accepted by UEEC Ltd for the accuracy of such information;
- Every effort has been made to accurately represent the location of mapped features, however, the precise locations of features should not be relied upon;
- Populations of animals and plants are often transient in nature and a single survey visit can only provide a general indication of species present on site. Time of year when the survey was carried out, weather conditions and other variables will influence the results of an ecological survey (e.g. it is possible that some flowering plant species which flower at other times of the year were not observed). Every effort has been made to accurately note indicators of presence of protected, rare and notable species within and adjacent to the site but the possibility nonetheless exists for other species to be present which were not recorded or otherwise indicated by the survey;
- Any works undertaken as a consequence of the recommendations provided within this report should be subjected to the necessary health & safety checks and full risk assessments.

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