

HIND QUARTERS, LE9 9FF

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

May 2026



Report Control Sheet

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE & PURPOSE

- 1.1.1. Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. was commissioned by AFA Planning Consultants to prepare a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for the proposed works at Hind Quarters, Botchston, LE9 9FF (hereinafter referred to as the 'site' or 'application site'). This report and associated Biodiversity Metric Calculation has been produced to support a planning application for the proposed construction of a 26 residential dwellings, including associated parking and a garden area.
- 1.1.2. The conclusions and recommendations in this report are based on the site boundary and development proposals provided by the client at the time of writing. If the site boundary or proposals change at a later stage, this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether amendments or additional survey work are required. Ecological data is generally valid for 12–18 months (CIEEM, 2019); therefore, if the project timeline is delayed, the findings of this assessment should be reviewed accordingly.
- 1.1.3. The author of this report is Eleanor Clark BSc (Hons), MSc, Senior Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental Ltd. Eleanor is an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Eleanor has key experience conducting Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain assessments and producing accompanying reports across a range of projects.
- 1.1.4. This report has been written broadly following the Biodiversity Net Gain Report and Audit Templates (CIEEM, 2021).

1.2. LOCATION

- 1.2.1. Please refer to Figure 1.1 for the site location. The site is located on the western edge of Botchston, a hamlet in the Hinckley and Bosworth district of Leicestershire approximately 10.5 km west of Leicester.

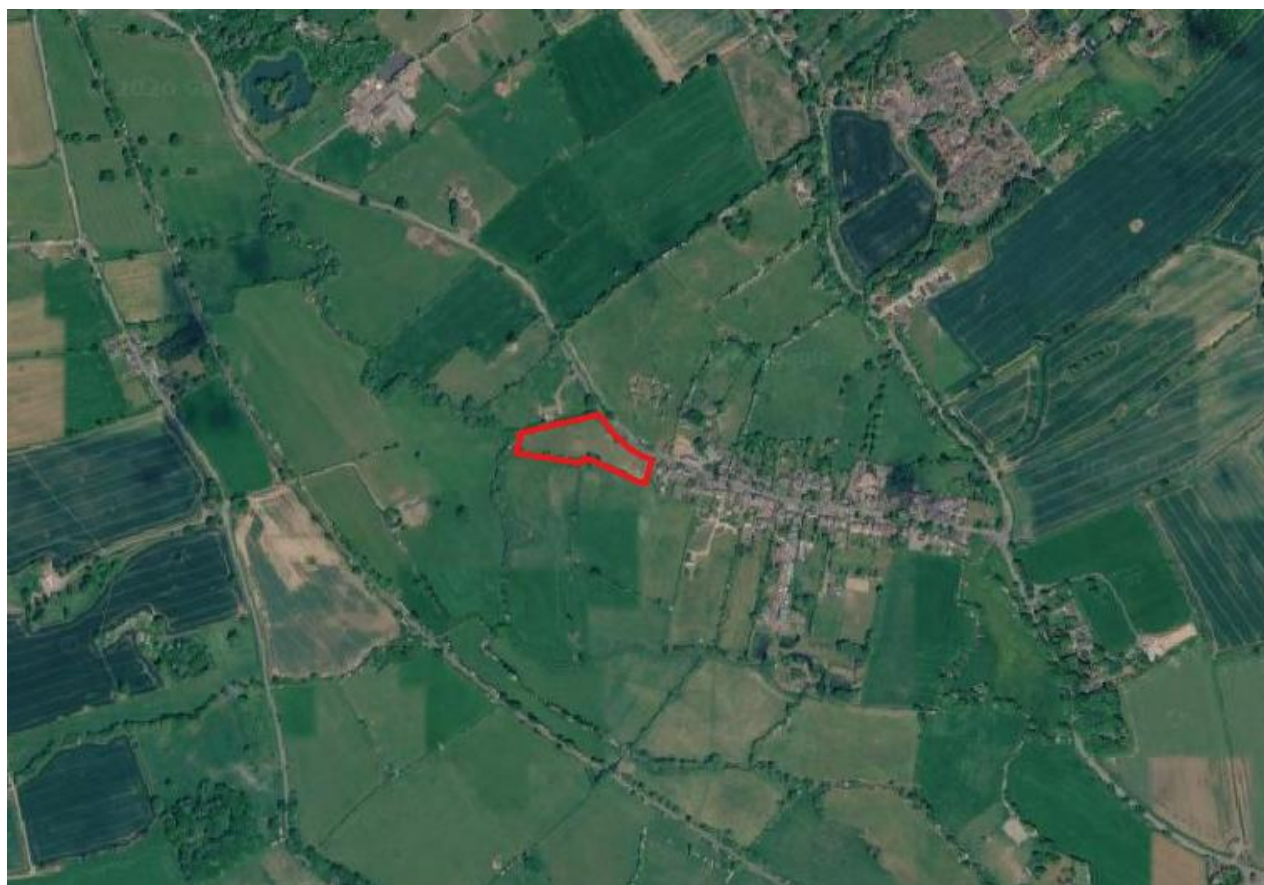


Figure 1.1. Site Location.

1.3. OBJECTIVES

- 1.3.1. The report has been produced to document the methods, results and conclusions of a BNG Assessment undertaken based on the proposed development at the site. The objectives of this report are to:
- Identify the baseline habitats present and provide a condition assessment;
 - Identify the post development habitats on site, assess the possible target condition and provide an indication of the likely importance of those habitats;
 - Calculate the overall change in biodiversity score from pre- post development
 - Provide design recommendations to maximise potential net gain achievable
 - Provide an indication of likely outcomes and indicative cost as required.

1.4. PLANNING CONTEXT

- 1.4.1 The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan commits to embedding the principle of environmental net gain into development practices. This commitment is reinforced through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2025), which outlines the requirement for biodiversity and environmental enhancement. In particular, Paragraphs 187(d), 192(b), and 193(d) of the NPPF refer to this policy obligation. Additional guidance is provided in the Natural Environment Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), which explains how these requirements should be implemented in practice.
- 1.4.2 Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England, subject to limited exemptions, must deliver a minimum 10% BNG. BNG is calculated using the Defra Biodiversity Metric, and the resulting habitat enhancements must be secured for a minimum period of 30 years. Key elements of the BNG requirement include:
- A minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain must be achieved, as calculated using the Biodiversity Metric and approved through a Biodiversity Gain Plan.
 - Habitats must be secured for at least 30 years through legally binding agreements such as planning obligations (i.e. Section 106 agreements) or conservation covenants.
 - BNG can be delivered on-site, off-site, or via the purchase of statutory biodiversity credits.
 - The mitigation hierarchy (avoidance, minimisation, mitigation, and compensation) continues to apply in managing biodiversity impacts.
 - Revisions to the Act do not alter existing legal protections for species or habitats under other environmental or wildlife legislation.

2 METHODS

2.1 EXISTING HABITAT - BASELINE

- 2.1.1. A UK Habitat survey of the site was undertaken on 30th April 2026 by Olivia Leversedge, Consultant Ecologist at Collington Winter Environmental who holds FISC Level 3 certification. The purpose of the survey was to identify and delineate all habitats present within the site. The assessment was conducted in accordance with UKHab v2 methodology, with minor deviations applied where professional judgement deemed this necessary to more accurately represent habitat conditions, or where standard guidance did not fully align with site characteristics. The resulting UK Habitat map is provided in Appendix I of this report.
- 2.1.2. During the site survey, habitats were assessed using appropriate and corresponding Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets to establish the baseline condition of the habitats present on site.

2.2 PLANNING LAYOUT - POST-DEVELOPMENT

- 2.2.1 The site boundary and proposed habitat creation measures have been informed by the Existing Proposed Block Plan (Drawing No. 202533.P.1011), produced by LAF Architects Ltd in December 2025.
- 2.2.2 Proposed habitat areas were calculated and mapped using QGIS software. A UK Habitat map of the proposed habitats has been produced and provided in Appendix II of this report.

2.3 THE STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC

- 2.3.1 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) calculation was carried out using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (DEFRA, 2024). The assessment was undertaken by Olivia Leversedge, who is recognised as a technically competent individual, meeting the criteria of a Suitably Qualified Person as defined in British Standard BS 8683:2020.
- 2.3.2 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric uses habitat features as a proxy measure for capturing the value and importance of nature. The metric takes into account the size, ecological condition, location and proximity to nearby 'connecting' features. The metric enables assessments to be made of the present and forecast future biodiversity value of a site.

2.4 HABITAT SCORING

- 2.4.1 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric supplies reference documents and user guides in which to accurately evaluate and assess the different habitats on site. The methodology for aspects of the baseline calculation is demonstrated in the following sections.
- 2.4.2 To assess habitat quality and calculate the associated biodiversity units, the Statutory Biodiversity Metric uses three scoring factors, as outlined below.

Condition

- 2.4.3 The condition of each distinct habitat has been assessed using the appropriate Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Sheets. These sheets outline specific positive indicators for each habitat type and define how many must be present to meet various condition thresholds. In some cases, condition is automatically assigned based on habitat type. In relation to habitats present on-site, non-native and ornamental hedgerows are automatically assigned a condition of 'poor' and are not subject to further assessment using the standard condition sheets.

Distinctiveness

- 2.4.4 The distinctiveness of each habitat (both area and linear) is automatically assigned by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric tool, based on national records of habitat occurrence and rarity.

Strategic Significance

- 2.4.5 Strategic significance is assessed at the landscape scale and confers additional biodiversity unit value to habitats located within areas identified as priorities for biodiversity conservation and broader environmental objectives. This assessment draws on a range of published local plans and strategies to define these

priorities, including Nature Recovery Areas, Local Biodiversity Action Plans, National Character Area objectives, and green infrastructure strategies.

- 2.4.6 These various priorities are consolidated within Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS), which provide a statutory framework for identifying and mapping areas of strategic environmental importance. LNRS play a critical role in coordinating and prioritising nature recovery efforts at both regional and local scales, thereby enabling more effective targeting of biodiversity net gain and habitat enhancement initiatives. By aligning with wider landscape-scale objectives, LNRS help ensure that development and land management contribute meaningfully to long-term ecological resilience.
- 2.4.7 Specifically, LNRS aim to identify and map areas where nature recovery efforts will be most effective in halting biodiversity loss, improving habitat quality, and supporting species recovery across regions such as Lancashire. The outputs of LNRS directly inform the assignment of strategic significance to habitats, thereby influencing planning decisions and biodiversity metric calculations by recognising the added ecological value of sites within these priority areas.
- 2.4.8 The site lies within the administrative boundaries of Leicestershire County Council. The designated authority responsible for developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for this region is Leicestershire County Council.
- 2.4.9 The LNRS for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland is not yet published
- 2.4.10 The LNRS for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland was published in August 2025. The available LNRS map does not identify any mapped habitat-creation or conservation measures at the location of the site. Therefore, all habitats within the site have been assigned “low strategic significance,” in accordance with the framework set out in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (July 2025).

Post Development Units

- 2.4.11 Additional factors are implemented when assessing post development habitats, as follows:

- Difficulty of Creation/Enhancement
- Temporal Risk “Time to target condition”
- Spatial Risk (when offsite mitigation is necessary)

2.5 LIMITATIONS OF ASSESSMENT

- 2.5.1 Habitat areas have been estimated using Geographic Information System mapping tools. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of spatial data, habitat area measurements may have inherent limitations and should therefore be considered as approximate values.

Table 2.1. Limitations Review.

Limitation	Analysis
Competence of surveyor	Condition assessments were undertaken in April 2026 by Olivia Leversedge, who has demonstrable experience in conducting habitat surveys and Statutory BNG condition assessments.
Competence of ecologist completing the metric	The biodiversity metric was completed by Eleanor Clark, who has five years' experience in undertaking BNG assessments and metric calculations. The work was overseen and verified by Katie Bird MEnvSci ACIEEM, Technical Director at Collington Winter Environmental.
Age of survey data	The condition assessment was undertaken in April 2026 and accurately reflects current baseline conditions. The age of the data is within best practice parameters and does not present a constraint.

Limitation	Analysis
Timing of survey	The survey was conducted in April, which falls within the optimal season for botanical survey and habitat classification. Where plant identification was uncertain due to early developmental stages, species were recorded to genus level or preceded by 'cf.' where features were insufficient for diagnostic identification but bore reasonable resemblance or habitat preferences to a particular species.

3 BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1. EXISTING HABITATS

3.1.1. The application site and survey area is approximately 1.25 ha. Please refer to Appendix I of this report for the UK Habitat map of the site, which illustrates the habitats identified during the survey and their boundaries.

3.1.2. Corresponding Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition sheets for the habitats has been completed and provided in Appendix III.

Modified grassland – g4 (HP1)

3.1.3. Moderately modified grassland under intensive horse grazing, with low sward height and significant areas of bare ground from poaching and machinery use.

3.1.4. Sward composition includes rye grass (*Lolium perenne*) and clover (*Trifolium repens*), with indicators of former semi-improved grassland such as common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), burnet (*Sanguisorba sp.*) and an unidentified sedge (*Carex sp.*).

3.1.5. A total of twelve quadrat samples were collected across the grassland to assess species richness and diversity. The average species richness recorded was 7.4 species per square metre. Detailed quadrat data are presented in Appendix IV.

Developed land; sealed surface – u1b

3.1.6. Areas of built development, including horse stables constructed from blockwork and timber, with metal/asbestos roofing, and other sealed surfaces.

Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface

3.1.7. An area of artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface located adjacent to the stables present on site.

Bare ground – u1f 510

3.1.8. Area of bare ground acting as an access track with scattered ruderal vegetation.

Native hedgerow with trees – associated with bank or ditch – h2a 11, 50

3.1.9. Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) hedgerow with localised field maple (*Acer campestre*), elm (*Ulmus sp.*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Other species include nettle (*Urtica dioica*), lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), wood avens (*Geum urbanum*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). A dry ditch was located at the base of the hedgerow with no evidence of water retention.

Native hedgerow with trees – h2a 11

3.1.10. Blackthorn hedgerow with localised hawthorn, bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), apple (*Malus domestica*), elder and field maple. Other species include nettle, red campion (*Silene dioica*), cleavers, ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*).

Native hedgerow – h2a

3.1.11. Blackthorn hedgerow with localised hawthorn and bramble. Other species include field maple, ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), ground ivy, ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), meadow buttercup, teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), germander speedwell (*Veronica chamaedrys*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), black knapweed, English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), white dead-nettle (*Lamium album*), cleavers, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), common bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and nettle.

3.2. A-1 ON-SITE HABITAT BASELINE

- 3.2.1. This section provides a summary of the 'A-1 On-Site Habitat Baseline' tab within the metric. It includes the habitats present within the site, their area, distinctiveness band, assessed condition, strategic significance, and calculated habitat unit value. A summary of on-site area habitats is presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1. On-Site Habitat Baseline.

Baseline Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic Significance	Habitat Unit Value
Modified grassland	1.1906	Low	Moderate	Low	4.76
Developed land; sealed surface	0.0136	V.Low	N/A - Other	Low	0.00
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.0154	V.Low	N/A - Other	Low	0.00
Developed land; sealed surface	0.0046	V.Low	N/A - Other	Low	0.00
Bare ground	0.0255	Low	Poor	Low	0.05
				Total Habitat Units	4.81

3.3. B-1 ON-SITE HEDGEROW BASELINE

- 3.3.1. This section provides a summary of the 'B-1 On-Site Hedgerow Baseline' tab within the metric. It includes the habitats present within the site, their length, distinctiveness band, assessed condition, strategic significance, and calculated hedgerow unit value. A summary of on-site area hedgerows is presented in Table 3.3.

Table 3.2. On-Site Hedgerow Baseline.

Baseline Hedgerow Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic Significance	Hedgerow Unit Value
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.232	High	Moderate	Low	2.78
Native hedgerow with trees	0.138	Medium	Moderate	Low	1.10
Native hedgerow	0.112	Low	Good	Low	0.67
				Total Habitat Units	4.56

3.4. RETAINED HABITATS AND HEDGEROWS

- 3.4.1. A small parcel of grassland located adjacent to the western boundary of the site, approximately 0.063ha in size, is to be retained. In addition, all hedgerows are to be retained on site.

3.5. LOST HABITATS

- 3.5.1. The majority site is scheduled for redevelopment, and therefore all other habitats currently present are expected to be lost as a result of the proposed works. This includes areas of modified grassland, developed land; sealed

surface, bare ground, artificial unvegetated unsealed surface.

3.6. BASELINE HABITAT AND HEDGEROW SUMMARY

- 3.6.1. A summary of the baseline habitat and hedgerow units from the Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool is provided in Table 3.3. The table identifies the total baseline units and indicates the number of units proposed to be retained and lost as a result of the proposal.

Table 3.3. Summary of On-Site Habitat and Hedgerow Retention and Loss.

Unit Type	Baseline Units	Retained	Lost	Enhanced
Habitat units	4.81	0	4.56	0.25
Hedgerow units	4.56	4.56	0	0

4 HABITAT CREATION AND ENHANCEMENT

4.1. A-2 ON-SITE HABITAT CREATION

4.1.1. This section provides a summary of the 'A-2 On-Site Habitat Creation' tab within the metric. It includes the habitats proposed for creation, their area, distinctiveness band, strategic significance, assessed target condition. A summary of proposed area habitat creation is presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 On-Site Habitat Creation.

Baseline Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Target Condition	Strategic Significance	Habitat Unit Value
Developed land; sealed surface	0.3595	V.Low	N/A - Other	Low	0.00
Developed land; sealed surface	0.1931	V.Low	N/A - Other	Low	0.00
Vegetated garden	0.6339	Low	Condition Assessment N/A	Low	1.22
Urban tree	0.0651	Medium	Moderate	Low	0.20
				Total Habitat Units	1.42

4.1.A-2 ON-SITE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

4.1.1. This section provides a summary of the 'A-3 On-Site Habitat Enhancement' tab within the metric. It includes the habitats proposed for enhancement, their area, distinctiveness band, strategic significance, assessed target condition. A summary of proposed area habitat creation is presented in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 On-Site Habitat Enhancement.

Baseline Habitat Type	Area (ha)	Baseline Distinctiveness	Baseline Condition	Target Habitat Type	Target Condition	Strategic Significance	Habitat Unit Value
Modified grassland	0.063	Low	Moderate	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Low	0.43
						Total Habitat Units	0.43

5 ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

- 5.1.1. The current baseline value of the application site is assessed as **4.81 habitat units and 4.56 hedgerow units**. To achieve the statutory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, the scheme must deliver a total of **5.29 habitat units and 5.02 hedgerow units**.
- 5.1.2. Based on the proposed habitat creation measures, the development results in a net loss of **-61.55% habitat units** (equivalent to **2.96 habitat units**). The scheme is therefore at a **unit deficit of 3.44 habitat units** which are required to meet the statutory 10%.
- 5.1.3. The development results in no net loss of hedgerow units, therefore the scheme is at a unit deficit of **0.46 hedgerow units** to achieve the statutory 10%. The scheme does not comply with the Biodiversity Metric trading rules, due to losses across both low distinctiveness habitats (modified grassland and bare ground).
- 5.1.4. Headline results from the Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool are summarised in Figure 5.1 below.

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	-2.96
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	-61.55%
	Hedgerow units	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Area habitat units	10.00%	4.81	5.29	3.44
Hedgerow units	10.00%	4.56	5.02	0.46
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Figure 5.1. Headline results extracted from the Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool.

- 5.1.5. According to the metric standards, low distinctiveness habitats must be offset with the same distinctiveness band (low) or better (medium, high, very high) to compensate for any losses.
- 5.1.6. In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (July 2025), post-development private gardens are considered areas with no public access, where biodiversity net gains cannot be legally secured. A private garden is defined as land within the curtilage of a privately owned or tenanted dwelling that is managed for domestic purposes. As the proposed development will result in the creation of private residential properties, majority of landscaped areas within the site will encompass private gardens. Habitat creation or enhancement within such areas cannot contribute to measurable biodiversity gains under the metric. Consequently, post-development habitats within the site can only be recorded as “urban – vegetated garden” or “urban – unvegetated garden,” which limits the potential for delivering measurable biodiversity uplift or habitat compensation on-site.
- 5.1.7. To improve biodiversity outcomes for the scheme, opportunities should be sought to incorporate additional on-site habitat creation with shared amenity space within the public realm. Embedding these considerations into the design process will help align the scheme with statutory BNG requirements and the mitigation hierarchy.
- 5.1.8. Should on-site enhancements be insufficient to meet the 10% BNG target, off-site compensation options can be explored as an alternative. This may include the purchase of biodiversity units from a third-party habitat bank provider, where the developer financially supports local biodiversity improvement schemes or conservation projects that deliver equivalent ecological benefits. Where neither on-site nor off-site solutions can address the deficit, the purchase of statutory biodiversity credits may be required as a last resort. This ensures the development can still deliver a net positive contribution to biodiversity in line with legislative requirements.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX I – UK HABITAT BASELINE MAP



Hind Quarters UKHab
Baseline Habitat Map
Date: 18/05/2026

Key:

 Red Line Boundary

HEDGEROWS

-  Native hedgerow
-  Native hedgerow with trees
-  Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch

HABITATS

-  Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  Developed land; sealed surface
-  Modified grassland
-  Bare ground

Scale: 1:1250

Drawn By: EC

Checked By: OL

Approved By: KB



Client: AFA Planning Consultants

Site: Hind Quarters, LE9 9FF

Project Number: 20-4193 | Rev: 1.0

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APPENDIX II – UK HABITAT CREATION MAP



Hind Quarters UKHab Post
Development Habitat Map
Date: 18/05/2026

Key:

 Red Line Boundary

HEDGEROWS

 Native hedgerow

 Native hedgerow with
trees

 Native hedgerow with
trees - associated with
bank or ditch

HABITATS

Habitats Proposed EDIT ME

 Developed land; sealed
surface

 Other neutral grassland

 Vegetated garden

Scale: 1:1250

Drawn By: EC

Checked By: OL

Approved By: KB



Client: AFA Planning Consultants

Site: Hind Quarters, LE9 9FF

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Collington Winter Environmental 2026

APPENDIX III – BASELINE CONDITION ASSESSMENT SHEETS

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)													
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type													
Grassland - Modified grassland													
Habitat Description													
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site - Hind Quarters, LE9 9FF	Survey date and Surveyor name		30th April 2025 - Olivia Leversedge									
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		HP1											
		Grid reference											
Condition Assessment Criteria		SK 47842 05062											
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)	
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	Yes										(31459742 - HP1) Check against quadrat data	
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.	No										(31459742 - HP1) Frequently horse grazed; very low sward height	
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes										(31459742 - HP1) Some encroachment of suckering blackthorn from hedgerow but none present	
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.	No										(31459742 - HP1) Evidence of poaching from horses and rutting from	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	No										(31459742 - HP1) Estimated cover of bare ground 40-50%	
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Yes										(31459742 - HP1) None present	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Yes										(31459742 - HP1) None recorded	
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		Yes											
Number of criteria passed		4											
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	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)	Yes											
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)												
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													

Footnotes

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: HEDGEROW Habitat Types														
Habitat Type														
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch														
Habitat Description														
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification														
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site - Hind Quarters, LE9 9FF			Survey date and Surveyor name	30th April 2025 - Olivia Leversedge									
Limitations (if applicable)				Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Condition Assessment Details														
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. 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. 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. Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.														
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes														
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Habitat parcel reference											
			H3	H2	H1									
			Grid reference											
			SK 47920 05077	SK 47806 05097	SK 47838 05023									
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					Criterion passed (Yes or No)								Notes (such as justification)	
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).	Yes	Yes	Yes								(31459728 - H3) Exceeds 2m along length (31459729 - H2) Exceeds 4m on average (31459788 - H1) At least 2m
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes	Yes	Yes								(31459728 - H3) Estimated 2.5m (31459729 - H2) At least 3m (31459788 - H1) At least 2m
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).	Yes	Yes	Yes								(31459728 - H3) Leafy growth predominantly begins at hedge base (31459729 - H2) Leafy growth predominantly begins at hedgerow base (31459788 - H1) Leafy growth

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).	Yes	Yes	Yes									(31459728 - H3) Continuous (31459729 - H2) Small gap in hedgerow understorey to west (see photos) but hedgerow is otherwise continuous (31459788 - H1) Gaps associated with trees and field corner but otherwise continuous
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length; · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	No	No									(31459728 - H3) Grazed up to hedgerow base on field side but a grass verge occurs along the road side (31459729 - H2) Adjacent grass is grazed up to hedgerow base (31459788 - H1) Grazed and poached along hedgerow base and within sections of hedge
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No	No	No									(31459728 - H3) Some nettle, cleavers, dead nettle, garlic mustard etc occurring at low abundances (31459729 - H2) Docks are frequent to abundant along length (31459788 - H1) Nettle, dock
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 .	Yes	Yes	Yes									(31459728 - H3) None recorded (31459729 - H2) None recorded (31459788 - H1) None recorded
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Yes	Yes									(31459728 - H3) Hedgerow appears to have been cut/failed but appears in good condition and vigour overall (31459729 - H2) Manure pile along hedgerow base which may have led to localized

Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only

E1.	Tree 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.												(31459728 - H3) N/A (31459729 - H2) N/A (31459788 - H1) 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 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.												(31459728 - H3) N/A (31459729 - H2) N/A (31459788 - H1) N/A

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

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees			Score achieved
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score	

Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3							
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2							
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1							
Score achieved:									
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees			Score achieved						
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 (for example, 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 (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1							
Score achieved:									
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score									

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type													
Habitat Types													
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs Urban - Allotments Urban - Biodiverse green roof Urban - Bioswale Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards Urban - Facade-bound green wall Urban - Ground based green wall Urban - Intensive green roof Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land Urban - Rain garden Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS) Urban - Vacant or derelict land Urban - Bare ground													
Habitat Description													
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs, and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats: ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site - Hind Quarters, LE9 9FF	Survey date and Surveyor name	30th April 2025 - Olivia Leversedge										
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference										Notes (such as justification)	
		HP5											
Grid reference													
Condition Assessment Criteria		SK 47959 05017											
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types :													
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	No											
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.	No											
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ . Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Yes											
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land only:													
D	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: - At least four early successional communities (a) to (i); Communities: (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland, (i) pools.												
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 wildlife ⁴ .												
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.												
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Intensive green roofs only:													
F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).												
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Biodiverse green roofs only:													

G	The roof has a varied depth of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers.												
	Note – to achieve Good condition, some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc. are present.												
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)		No											
Number of criteria passed		2											
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√										
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):													
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Good (3)											
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)											
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.		Poor (1)	Yes										
Results for Green roofs and Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (requiring assessment of 4 criteria only - core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type):													
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (D, F or G).		Good (3)											
• Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR • Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)											
• Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.		Poor (1)											
Results for 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 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)											
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													
Footnotes													

APPENDIX IV – QUADRAT DATA

Common name	Binomial nomenclature	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Frequency
Agrostis sp.	<i>Agrostis sp.</i>	6	6	7	-	5	-	-	-	5	4	-	-	5
Creeping Bent	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	-	-	-	7	-	4	5	-	-	-	5	6	5
Common Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	2	3	2	-	-	2	-	4	-	3	3	2	7
Carex sp.	<i>Carex sp.</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Yorkshire-fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	3
Perennial Rye-grass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	-	-	-	-	4	6	4	7	4	5	6	5	7
Plantago major	<i>Plantago major</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Ribwort Plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	3	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	4	-	5
Creeping Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Annual Meadow-grass	<i>Poa annua</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	5	5	3
Poa sp.	<i>Poa sp.</i>	5	7	5	5	6	-	4	-	6	6	-	-	7
Cut-leaved Selfheal	<i>Prunella laciniata</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	1
Selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	-	-	4	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	-	5	5	5	4	5	3	-	6	4	4	4	9
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	5	3	-	-	3	3	5	5	4	5	-	5	8
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	2
Broad-leaved Dock	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rumex sp.	<i>Rumex sp.</i>	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dandelions	<i>Taraxacum spp.</i>	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Clover sp.	<i>Trifolium sp.</i>	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
White Clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	4	4	5	-	5	4	-	4	-	6	4	4	8
Thyme-leaved Speedwell	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Species richness	7	9	8	7	7	6	7	6	7	10	8	7	
	Average species richness	7.4												

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