FPCR | environment & design




Biodiversity Net Gain Report

Client

Peveril Homes

Project

Hunts Lane,

Desford

Date

November 2025

CONTENTS

FIGURES

APPENDICES

Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Final	EAS / 24.11.25	EJF/AR / 24.11.25

1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Report Scope and Methodology
FPCR were commissioned by Peveril Homes to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment at Hunts Lane, Desford to provide a baseline biodiversity score for the Site and compare this to proposals. Site proposals are for an outline planning application for up to 75 units with associated access and public open space within the application boundary, together with off-site landscaping measures delivered as part of a wider landscape strategy on land within the Applicant's control. This assessment has been informed by a survey of the habitats present onsite, including condition assessments, undertaken on 7th October, 11th November and 19th November 2025.
Baseline
The Site comprises intensively managed arable land, a small area of woodland and an area of other neutral grassland to the north of the Site, with three trees along the southern and eastern boundaries. Two native hedgerows are located on Site, running along the eastern and southern boundaries, and a native hedgerow with trees borders the western boundary. A stream runs from west to east along the northern boundary.
Proposals
A residential area is proposed in the southern parcel of the Site. Green infrastructure proposals include the retention of the existing woodland and the majority of the other neutral grassland and one tree. The partial loss of the other neutral grassland and the loss of two trees will be compensated for by planting native species-rich grassland and trees along the northern boundary and around the SuDS, targeting moderate habitat condition scores. Other proposed habitats include formal amenity grassland areas, a SuDS pond and mixed scrub. Sections of hedgerows will be lost as a result of the proposals. Compensatory planting will be provided via new species-rich native hedgerow planting, targeting moderate condition. The watercourse is to be retained within the proposals and enhanced by removing all encroachment along the southernbank via the replacement of arable land with more biodiverse green infrastructure.
Conclusion
The assessment undertaken demonstrates the outline proposals are capable of resulting in a 23.31% gain in habitat units, a 46.09% gain in hedgerow units and a 16% gain in watercourse units, i.e. the proposals can deliver an onsite gain that is compliant with national and local policy requirements.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The following Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd. (FPCR) on behalf of the Peveril Homes to inform an outline planning application for the redevelopment of Hunts Lane, Desford (central OS Grid Ref: SK 472 036) herein referred to as 'the Site'.

2.2 This report accompanies an Ecological Appraisal[1] for the Site that has been undertaken to inform the development proposals and to provide recommendations for ecological mitigation and enhancement. This report should therefore be read in conjunction with this accompanying Ecological Appraisal.

Site Context

2.3 The Site lies to the northwest of Desford, Leicester. A residential area lies to the south, separated from the Site by Hunts Lane and Newbold Road, and continues along part of the eastern boundary. Field parcels border the northeast boundary, Desford Cemetery lies to the west of the Site, and an arable field is located to the north.

2.4 The Site itself comprises a single intensively managed arable field compartment, with an area of other neutral grassland to the northeast, and a small area of woodland to the east. Three trees are located along the Site boundaries. Three hedgerows run along the eastern, southern and western boundaries and a tributary of Rothley Brook runs along the northern boundary.

Site Proposals

2.5 The proposals are for an outline planning application for the construction of up to 75 dwellings with associated landscaping, open space, drainage infrastructure and associated works (all matters reserved except access from Hunts Lane). Off-site landscaping measures delivered as part of a wider landscaping strategy are proposed on adjacent land within the Applicant's control ('the off-site landscaping measures') (see the Illustrative Landscape Masterplan GLY0225 MP01).

Report Scope and Objectives

2.6 This Biodiversity Net Gain Report is based on the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidance. The scope and objectives of this report are to:

- Summarise the results of the baseline UKHab Survey undertaken on the Site and to present the results of habitat condition assessment surveys following the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Guidance.
- Provide an overview of the proposed habitats following completion of the scheme.
- Present the results of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric assessment completed for the proposals.
- Demonstrate the capacity for the proposals to demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity through the Statutory biodiversity Metric.
- Provide recommendations for the proposals to maximise their biodiversity potential.

[1] FPCR (2025) *Ecological Appraisal. Hunts Lane, Desford.*

3.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

The Environment Act 2021

3.1 In England, biodiversity net gain is required under statutory frameworks introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (inserted by the Environment Act 2021). Under this framework, the majority of planning permission grants will be deemed to have been granted subject to a general biodiversity gain condition. This will require an objective for developments to deliver at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value relative to the pre-development biodiversity value of all on-site habitats.

3.2 This is a pre-commencement condition requiring the provision of a Biodiversity Gain Plan to be submitted and approved before works can be commenced, but after planning permission has been granted.

3.3 In principle, the grant of planning permission is not within the scope of BNG, however it is important to consider as part of the consenting body's decision-making process how a scheme will be able to demonstrate BNG after permission is granted. Therefore, this biodiversity net gain report presents the results of a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment that has been completed in order to demonstrate how the proposals can be compliant with the requirements of the Environment Act.

Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy

3.4 The statutory framework allows for the 10% biodiversity gain to be delivered through on-site biodiversity gains, registered off-site biodiversity gains or statutory biodiversity credits. However, as set out in Articles 37A and 37D of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, development must consider the biodiversity net gain hierarchy when designing scheme proposals. This sets out hierarchy of actions as follows:

a) First, for all medium, high and very high distinctiveness habitats, the avoidance of any adverse effects.

b) Where these can't be avoided, mitigating any adverse effects on medium, high and very high distinctiveness habitats.

c) Then, for all on-site habitats (including low distinctiveness), adverse effects should be compensated by in accordance with the following hierarchy:

- Prioritising the enhancement of existing habitats; then
- Creation of on-site habitats;
- Allocation of registered off-site unit gains; then
- Purchase of biodiversity credits

3.5 Proposals must demonstrate how the biodiversity hierarchy has been applied to or provide the reasons for any deviation.

National Planning Policy Framework

3.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 seeks to ensure that the planning system contributes to and enhances the natural and local environment, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity by:

"187. 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 and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs;

193. when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles: …

193. d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while 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 or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate."

Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain Minimum Reporting Requirements

3.7 The Government's BNG Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)[2] sets out the minimum requirements of any planning application subject to mandatory BNG to present as part of any submission in order to validate the application. For ease of reference, the minimum information required has been set out in Table 1 below.

3.8 Additional detail and information appropriate to the application is provided within this report in order to assist Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council in their decision-making process and to provide confidence that the scheme will be able to demonstrate a mandatory BNG through the provision of a Biodiversity Gain Plan following receipt of planning permission, in accordance with the PPG.

[2] Gov.uk (2024), Biodiversity Net Gain. Available at: Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK

Table 1: Checklist of Minimum BNG Reporting Requirements for Planning Application Validation

Minimum Requirements in BNG PPG	Statement of Relevance to Site
Confirmation that the Site is believed to be subject to the mandatory BNG condition.	The Site does not meet any of the exemption criteria and so it is understood that the Site will be subject to the mandatory BNG condition.
The pre-development biodiversity value of the Site, either on the data of application or an earlier proposed date (as appropriate).	The accompanying Statutory Metric completed for the scheme provides the pre-development biodiversity value of the Site. The values are also presented within this report.
Where an earlier date is proposed, provide the reasons for proposing that date.	The 'relevant date' is proposed to be the latest date that a Site survey was completed during which observations were made to check if any significant changes in habitats had occurred. For the Site, this will be 7 October 2025. This is considered to be an appropriate date as it is within the date that ecological data is considered valid (two years, as recommended by CIEEM).
The completed metric calculation showing the calculations of the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat on the data of application (or proposed earlier date) including the publication date of the biodiversity metric used.	The Statutory Biodiversity Metric, published in July 2025, was used to calculate the pre-development value of the Site. The completed metric has been provided alongside this BNG report.
A statement whether activities have been carried out prior to the date of application (or proposed date), that result in loss of on-site biodiversity value (degradation).	This statement confirms that FPCR and Peveril Homes not aware of any habitat degradation on-site.
A description of any irreplaceable habitat (as set out in column 1 of the Schedule to the Biodiversity gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024) on the Site, that exists on the date of application (or an earlier proposed date)	This statement confirms that no irreplaceable habitat has been identified on-site.
Plan(s), drawn to an identified scale and showing the direction of North, showing on-site habitat existing on the date of application (or earlier proposed date) including any irreplaceable habitat (if applicable).	Figure 1 shows the baseline habitats present on-site on the proposed relevant date (7 October 2025). This includes the minimum requirement to show an identified scale and north arrow.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Baseline Habitat Assessment

4.1 A baseline habitat survey was completed broadly following the UK Habitat Classification System and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Criteria. This involved a systematic walkover of the Site to map all habitats present for the purposes of completing the Statutory Biodiversity metric Calculation Tool and their current condition.

4.2 A habitat survey was conducted on 7th October, 11th November and 19th November 2025. Survey methods broadly followed the UK Habitat Classification System[3] (UKHab) to map habitats present onsite. This involved a systematic walk over of the Site to classify the habitat types.

4.3 Habitat condition assessment surveys were completed in accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Habitat Condition Assessments. The summary results of the habitat condition assessment survey results are presented in this report.

4.4 A River Condition Assessment Survey was undertaken following the Professional MoRPh Professional methodology as requirement by the Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Metric. This including both the MoRPh field survey and the RCA desk study elements in order to assess the condition of rivers present onsite. The survey was completed by a trained and accredited MoRPh Professional surveyor on 5th November 2025.

4.5 Further details of the survey methodologies employed to assess the ecological baseline for the Site are provided in the accompanying Ecological Appraisal.

Biodiversity Net Gain Calculation

4.6 Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool was used to inform this BNG Report. It is an MS Excel spreadsheet that is used to quantify the predicted net-change in biodiversity value ("biodiversity units") of a proposed development Site before and after development. It treats the area-based habitats and linear features such as hedgerows and lines of trees separately, and is based on pre-determined values, along with published written guidance set by a Natural England-led team of experts.

4.7 The development Site was surveyed and mapped, as described above. The survey results were digitised using QGIS, with the existing habitats identified and areas automatically generated.

4.8 On-Site post-development habitats were determined from the latest Illustrative Landscape Masterplan GLY0225 MP01) with proposed habitats mapped and digitised using QGIS to generate areas for each of the habitats proposed for enhancement.

4.9 These pre- and post-enhancement habitat areas were then inputted into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation tool. The metric automatically assigns habitat distinctiveness score for each of the baseline and proposed habitats.

4.10 The metric then assigns a range of pre-assigned factors to each of the proposed habitats. These have been advised by subject knowledge experts and are universal multipliers generated by the metric itself for the following variables relevant to habitat creation, enhancement or restoration proposals:

[3] Butcher, B., Edmonds, B., Norton, L., & Treweek, J. (n.d.). The UK Habitats Classification System V2. UKHab. Available at: https://ukhab.org/

- difficultly of creating or restoring/enhancing a habitat: This pre-assigned score is based on how difficult a particular habitat type is to create or restore/enhance
- temporal risk: this is the 'time to target condition' for any particular habitat and determines how long a particular habitat type is likely to take to reach the condition score that the desired condition score assigned to it.
- spatial risk: this score is based on the distance between the site of habitat loss and any habitats creation or enhancement proposals at any off-site offsetting solutions.

4.11 The strategic significance multiplier within the metric has been informed by a desk study review. Full details of the desktop study undertaken are provide in the accompanying Ecological Impact Assessment.

4.12 Full details of the calculation methodology are provided in The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

5.0 RESULTS

Strategic Significance

5.1 As detailed in the Ecological Appraisal, no designated sites are located within or directly adjacent to the Site boundary. The Site lies within the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy. No habitats within or adjacent to the the Site boundary have been identified as being able to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment. As such, the habitats in the baseline and proposed scenarios have been assigned low strategic significance.

Biodiversity Units

Habitats

5.2 A summary description and baseline conditions of the baseline habitats are provided in Table 2 below and an illustration is provided in Figure 1.

5.3 Full survey results, baseline condition assessment scores and baseline unit scores are provided in Appendix A.

Table 2: Baseline Habitats Summary

Habitat	Condition	Distinctiveness	Description
Non-cereal crops	Condition assessment N/A	Low	An intensively managed arable field compartment.
Other neutral grassland	Poor	Medium	An area of other neutral grassland is located to the northeast of the Site. The area was dominated by perennial ryegrass *Lolium perenne*. A full species list is provided within the Ecological Appraisal.
Other woodland, broadleaved	Poor	Medium	An area of broadleaved woodland was located to the east of the Site. The canopy was dominated by ash *Fraxinus excelsior*. A full species list is provided within the Ecological Appraisal.
Urban tree	Good	Medium	Two medium sized trees (T1 & T2) in good condition were located within the hedgerow on the southern Site boundary.
Urban tree	Moderate	Medium	One medium tree (T3) in moderate condition was located within the hedgerow on the eastern Site boundary.

Hedgerows

5.4 The Site supports a native hedgerow with trees in moderate condition running along the western boundary (H2). Two native hedgerows (H1 & H3) in moderate condition run along the southern and eastern boundaries. Further details are provided within the Ecological Appraisal and conditions assessment scores in Appendix A.

Watercourses

5.5 A tributary of Rothley Brook is located to the North of the Site and flowed from west to east and was assessed as being in poor condition. There is major encroachment on both sides of the stream in the form of arable land.

6.0 PROPOSALS

6.1 At this outline design stage, planting plans and detailed habitat creation and ongoing management measures have not yet been fixed. Therefore, a number of assumptions regarding proposed habitat types and condition have been made during this assessment. Individual habitat type and condition targets are outlined within this section and have been informed by the latest Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (GLY0225 MP01) and ecological professional judgement.

Lost, Retained and Enhanced Habitat

6.2 Figure 2 shows the habitats to be lost and retained within the proposed plan. All of the woodland, T1 and the majority of the other neutral grassland and hedgerows are to be retained within the current proposals. An area of grassland is lost to allow for the countryside access paths and SuDS. Sections of H1 and H3, as well as T2 and T3 are lost due to allow for access and residential development along the eastern boundary. All of the cropland is to be lost.

6.3 The watercourse is to be enhanced by removing the encroachment on the right bank to the south. This will be achieved by removing the arable habitat and planting green infrastructure such as other neutral grassland, mixed scrub and trees within 10m of the watercourse.

Created Habitat

6.4 Proposed habitat creation is shown at Figure 3. A residential area and associated access are proposed in the southern parcel of the Site. Habitat creation is proposed in the public open space (POS) surrounding the residential area, along the swale and to around the SuDS to the north of the Site. This will prioritise habitats that will contribute towards the biodiversity value of the Site. The proposed habitats and management are detailed in Table 4.

Table 4: Outline Habitat Creation, Enhancement and Management Proposals

Habitat	Description	Condition	Distinctiveness
Developed land; sealed surface (including 70% if residential)	Residential area and associated access and infrastructure in the southern parcel of the Site.	N/A	V. Low
Vegetated garden (30% residential)	Estimated private garden areas	Condition assessment N/A	Low
Mixed scrub	Areas of mixed scrub are proposed in the POS around the SuDS and adjacent to the woodland. This will contribute to a mosaic of habitats and promote a diversity of plants and structure within the Site. The scrub will be managed to achieve moderate condition through the following measures: • Planting will ensure a diversity of species with within blocks of scrub with no one species comprising more than 75% cover; • The borders of scrub will be subject to relaxed management extended at least 2m from the scrub edge to encourage a diverse interface between habitats; • Replacement planting of failed specimens during establishment period; • Additional planting after 10 years where natural regeneration has not been successful.	Moderate	Medium

Habitat	Description	Condition	Distinctiveness
Modified grassland	Areas of amenity grassland are proposed boarding the residential development and form the countryside access paths. These should be planted with Naturescape N14 'Flowering Lawn Mixture' or similar andwill be managed as amenity grasslands. The below management prescriptions are recommended: • Ensuring management encourages a varied sward height, particularly during the spring/summer; • Regular management to prevent scrub/bracken encroachment; and reseeding any areas of failed establishment	Poor	Low
Other neutral grassland	Areas of other neutral grassland, including the swale, are proposed along the northern Site boundary and surrounding the SuDS and countryside access paths.. For these areas, management will focus on maximizing their biodiversity to create a diverse sward by employing the following management measures: • Overseeding with a Naturescape N5 'Long Season Meadow Mixture' and Naturescape N9 'Hedgerow Meadow Mixture' or similar. • Creation of colonization gaps through raking or chain harrowing to break up the sward and expose some bare ground without substantial disturbance of soils to allow new seed to germinate; • Management will be reduced to create a varied sward height, taking a late hay cut to allow plants to set seed; • The seed mix will contain a sufficient number of species to encourage the establishment of grassland with a minimum of 10 species per m^2; and Removal of any bracken, bramble, or scrub clumps.	Moderate	Medium
Sustainable drainage system	An attenuation feature is proposed in the north of the Site and should be sown a species-rich wet tolerant grassland mix, such as Emorsgate EM8 'Meadow Mixture for Wetlands' or similar, and marginal planting to create a varied vegetation structure.	Moderate	Low
Urban tree	31 small trees are to be planted within areas of POS. Each individual tree will be targeted to moderate condition via the management prescriptions below: • All trees should be native species or native cultivars; • If planted in groups, the distance between centres should be set such that the expected canopies should be less than 5m apart; • Relaxed management removing only branches that pose a risk to traffic/pedestrians such that trees retain more than 75% of the expected canopy size for the corresponding age; • Planted with verges or green infrastructure such that at least 20% of the ground beneath each tree is vegetated.	Moderate	Medium
	23 small trees are proposed within the amenity grassland. Due to their proximity to the residential area, these trees have been classified as poor condition.	Poor	Medium

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The habitat retention, enhancement and creation proposals highlighted within this report have all been inputted into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Table 5 provides a summary of the headline results of the assessment completed for the proposals.

Table 5: Statutory Biodiversity Metric Headline Results

Baseline	Habitat Units	11.35
	Hedgerow Units	1.95
	Watercourse Units	0.77
Post-Intervention	Habitat Units	14.00
	Hedgerow Units	2.85
	Watercourse Units	0.90
Total Net Unit Change	Habitat Units	2.65
	Hedgerow Units	0.90
	Watercourse Units	0.12
Total Net Percentage Change	Habitat Units	23.31%
	Hedgerow Units	46.09%
	Watercourse Units	16.00%

7.2 The Statutory Metric has demonstrated that the scheme will result in net gain of 23.31% habitat units, 46.09% hedgerow units and 16% watercourse units.

Habitat Trading Rules

7.3 The trading rules for habitats, hedgerows and watercourses are satisfied based on the current proposals.

Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy

7.4 The Biodiversity Net Gain hierarchy is provided within the Government's PPG and sets out guidance on how to prioritise habitat avoidance, retention and compensation for more vlaueable habitats. The BNG Hierarchy has influenced the Site design through the following measures:

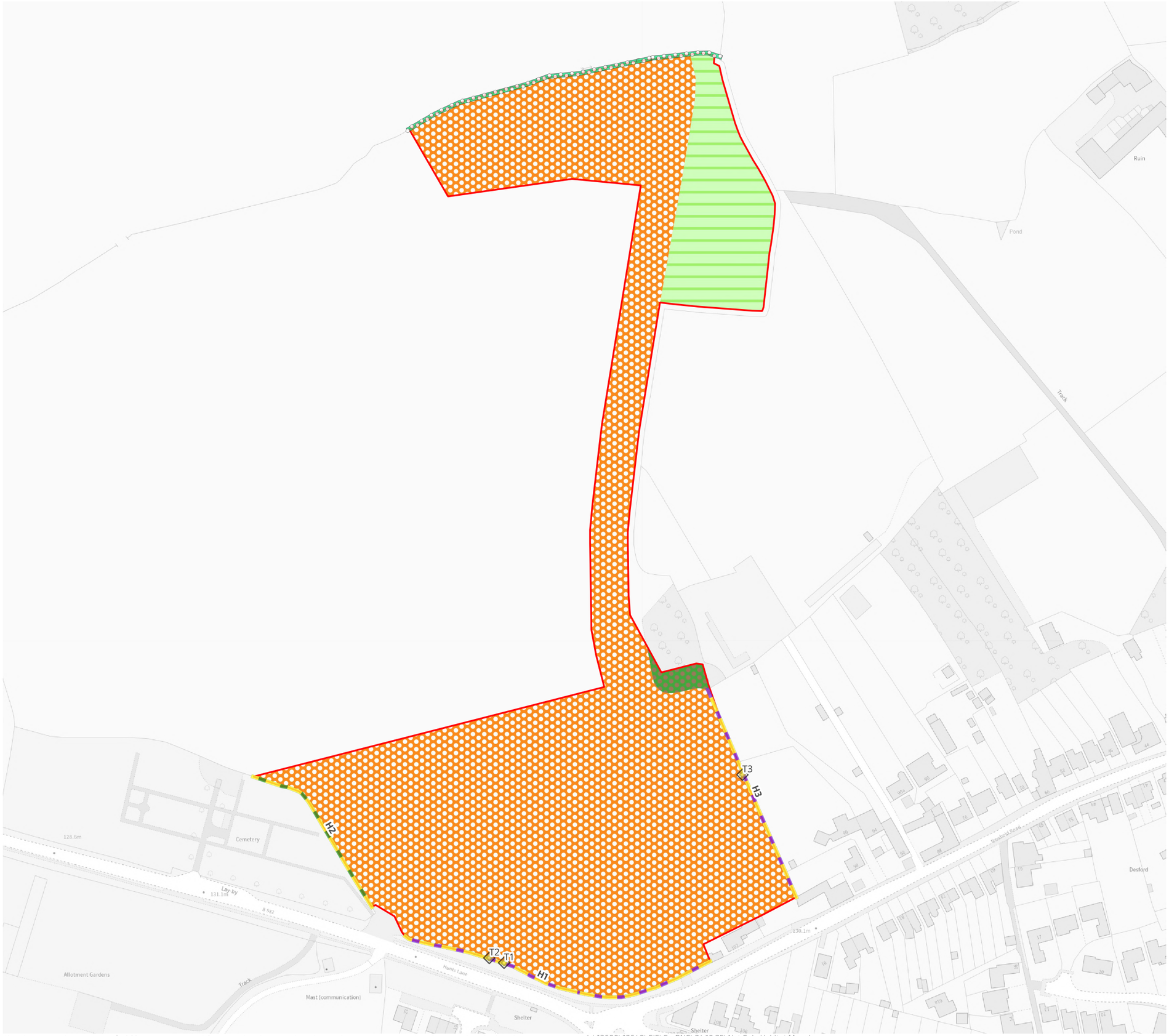
- Habitat loss has for the most part been restricted to low or very low distinctiveness habitats which have very limited ecological value.
- Proposals have sought to retain medium distinctiveness habitats where possible, however the scheme will result in the loss of an area of other neutral grassland to allow for the countryside access paths and SuDS, as well as trees and hedgerows to allow for access and the development parcel.
- The proposals will provide compensatory habitat creation by planting species-rich grassland along the norther boundary and around the SuDS and countryside access paths and species-rich hedgerows and trees within and around the development. Theses will be managed in the long-term to maintain its biodiversity value.
- On balance, the scheme will result in a great extent of this medium distinctiveness habitat and the small loss of medium distinctiveness grassland is therefore not considered to be a constraint to this assessment.

Securing BNG

7.5 This BNG report outlines the approach and measures proposed to achieve a measurable net gain in biodiversity as part of the development. It demonstrates how the current design and habitat proposals are expected to achieve the required BNG target in accordance with the Environment Act 2021 and associated national and local planning policy. However, the assessment and calculations are based on the information available at this stage and may be subject to change as the project design, landscaping, and management details are refined through the planning process or as further ecological information becomes available. Any updates will be reflected in the Biodiversity Gain Plan to ensure continued compliance with statutory requirements.

7.6 Further details on habitat creation, enhancement and management can be provided at the detailed design stage of the proposals, where ecologists will input directly into landscape planting. A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan will also be provided as part of a Biodiversity Gain Plan which, in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Act, will be provided following receipt of full planning permission. This HMMP will provide detail on how creation, retained and enhanced habitats across the Site that are significantly contributing to the Site's BNG will be managed for a minimum of 30 years.

7.7 Biodiversity Net Gain has been used to inform the habitat creation and enhancement proposals for the scheme and the resulting habitats will provide a betterment for local wildlife.



N

0 25 50 m

Key

- Redline Boundary

Baseline Habitats

- Non-cereal crops
- Other neutral grassland
- Other woodland; broadleaved

Baseline Hedgerow

- Native hedgerow
- Native hedgerow with trees

Baseline Watercourse

- Other rivers and streams

Baseline Individual Trees

- Existing medium urban tree

date 17/11/25

drwn/chkd EAS

client
Peveril Homes

project
Hunts Lane, Desford

title
BASELINE HABITAT PLAN

scale 1:2,000 @ A3

number
FIGURE 1

rev -

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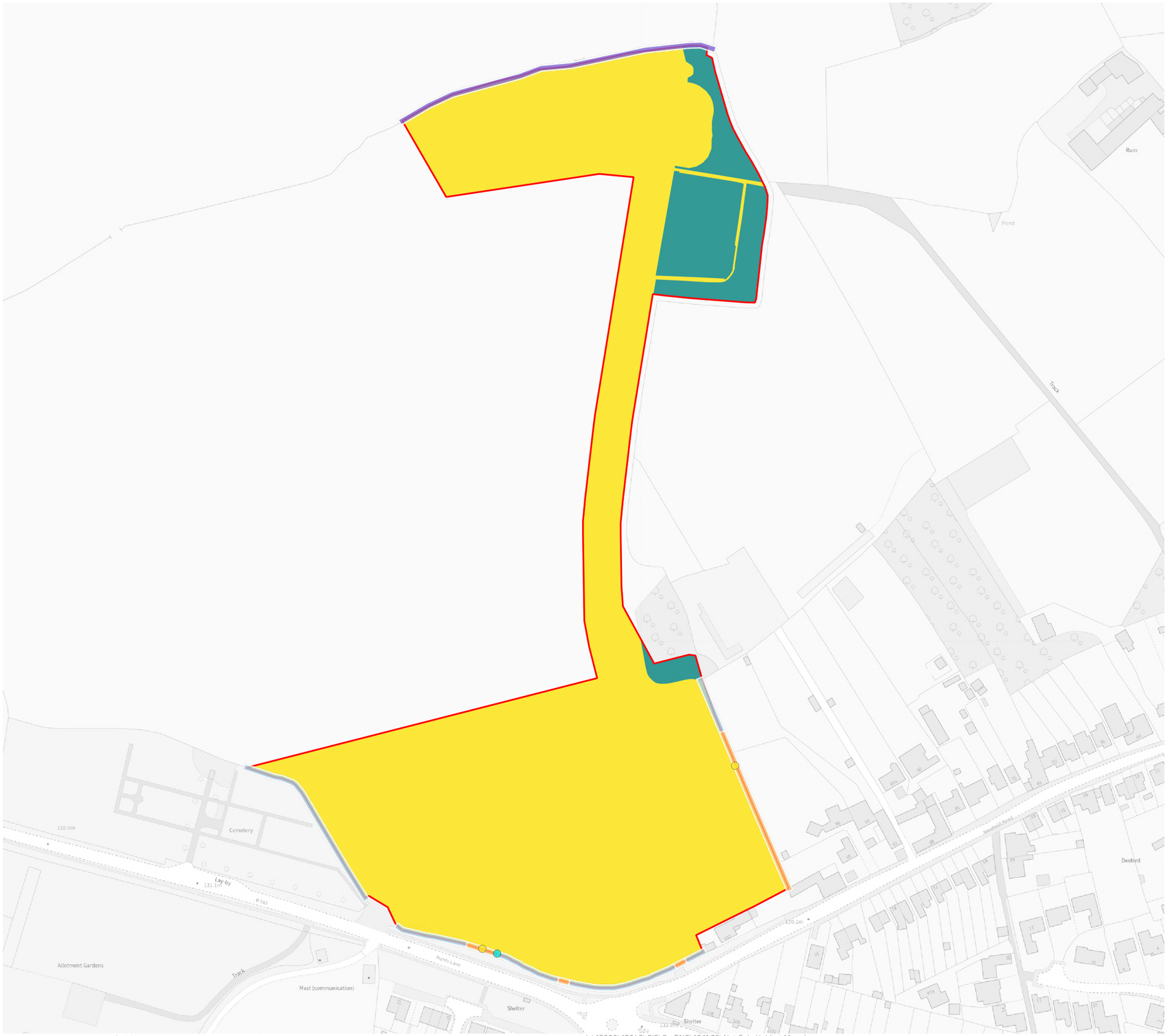
t: 01509 672772 e: mail@fpcr.co.uk w: www.fpcr.co.uk



N

0 50 100 m

Key

- Redline Boundary

Habitats

- Retained
- Lost

Hedgerows

- Retained
- Lost

Watercourses

- Enhanced

Individual Trees

- Retained
- Proposed Lost

date 19/11/25

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Hunts Lane, Desford

title
HABITAT RETENTION PLAN

scale 1:2,000 @ A3

number
FIGURE 2

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t: 01509 672772 e: mail@fpcr.co.uk w: www.fpcr.co.uk

N

0 50 100 m

Key

Redline Boundary

Proposed Habitats

Developed land; sealed surface

Mixed scrub

Modified grassland

Other neutral grassland

Other woodland; broadleaved

Sustainable drainage system

Residential

Proposed Hedgerows

Native hedgerow

Native hedgerow with trees

Species-rich native hedgerow

Proposed Watercourse

Other rivers and streams

Proposed Individual Trees

Proposed small urban tree

Retained medium urban tree

date
19/11/25

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**Hunts Lane,
Desford**

title
PROPOSED HABITAT PLAN

scale
1:2,000 @ A3

number
FIGURE 3

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APPENDIX A: BASELINE HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Non-cereal crops

There is no condition assessment for this habitat.

Other Neutral Grassland

Condition Criteria	
A- The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description).[1] Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only."	Fail
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.	Pass
C- Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[2].	Fail
D- Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Fail
E- Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition[3] and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species[4] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA5) are present, this criterion is automatically failed."	Pass
F- There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m^2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count).	Pass
Condition	Poor
Passes 5 of 6 criteria, including essential criterion 1 and 6 Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F	Good Moderate Poor

Other Woodland; broadleaved

Condition Criteria	**Woodland**
A Age of trees 3pts – 3 age classes; 2pts – 2 age classes; 1pt – 1 age class	2
B Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage 3pts – no significant browsing; 2pts - <40% of woodland; 1pt - >40% of woodland	3
C Invasive plant species 3pts – no invasive species; 2pts - <10% cover AND no rhododendron or laurel; 1pt - >10% cover OR rhododendron or laurel present	3

Condition Criteria	Woodland
D Number of native tree species 3pts – 5+ native trees and/or shrubs; 2pts – 3-4 native trees and/or shrubs ; 1pt – 0-2 s native trees and/or shrubs	1
E Cover of native tree and shrub species 3pts - >80% of canopy and understorey; 2pts – 50-80% of canopy and understorey; 1pt - <50% of canopy and understorey	3
F Open space within woodland 3pts – 10-20% temporary open space. If woodland area <10ha 0-20% temporary open space = Good; 2pts – 20-40% temporary open space; 1pt - <10% or >40% temporary open space	1
G Woodland regeneration 3pts – 3 age classes; 2pts – 1-2 classes; 1pt – no classes or coppice regrowth in woodland	2
H Tree health 3pts - <10% mortality and no pests/diseases/dieback; 2pts – 10-25% mortality and/or dieback, low risk pests/disease present 1pt - >25% mortality or high risk pests/disease present	3
I Vegetation and ground flora 3pts – Recognisable NVC community including ancient flora species; 2pts – recognisable NVC community at ground level; 1pt – no recognisable NVC community	1
J Woodland vertical structure 3pts – three or more storeys or a complex woodland; 2pts – 2 storeys; 1pt – 1 or no defined storeys	2
K Veteran trees 3pts – 2+/ha; 2pts – 1/ha; 1pt – none	1
L Amount of deadwood 3pts – 50%+ of plots have deadwood; 2pts – 25-50%; 1pt - <25%	1
M Woodland disturbance 3pts – no enrichment/damage or damaged ground; 2pts - <1ha enriched OR <20% area damaged ground l; 1pt - >1ha enriched OR >20% area damaged ground	1
Total Score	24
Condition	Poor
Total score 33-39 Total score 26-32 Total score < 26	Good (3) Moderate (2) Poor (1)

Hedgerows

Condition Assessment Criteria	H1	H2	H3
A1. Height >1.5 m average along length	Pass	Pass	Pass
A2. Width >1.5 m average along length	Pass	Pass	Fail
B1. Gap Hedge base gap between ground and base of canopy 90% of length (unless 'line of trees')	Pass	Pass	Pass
B2. Gap – Hedge canopy continuity. Gaps make up <5 m	Pass	Pass	Pass
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)	Fail	Fail	Fail
C2. Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate	Fail	Fail	Fail
D1. Invasive and neophyte species >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and neophyte species	Pass	Pass	Pass
D2. Current damage >90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	Pass	Pass	Fail
E1 Tree class There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	-	Fail	-
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.	-	Pass	-
Condition	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 in any functional group.			Good
No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group			Moderate
Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group			Poor

Individual Trees

Condition Assessment Criteria	T1 Medium	T2 Medium	T3 Medium
A The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Pass	Pass	Pass
B The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Pass	Pass	Pass
C The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Pass	Pass	Pass
D There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Pass	Pass	Fail
E Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Fail	Pass	Fail
F More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Pass	Pass	Pass
Condition	Good	Good	Moderate
Passes 5 or 6 criteria Passes 3 or 4 criteria Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Good (3) Moderate (2) Poor (1)		

Other rivers and streams

Location	Feature	Code	Scores
Bank top	Vegetation structure	B1	0
	Tree feature richness	B2	0
	Water-related features	B3	0
	NNIPS cover	B4	0
	Managed ground cover	B5	-3
Bank face	Riparian vegetation structure	C1	1
	Tree feature richness	C2	0
	Natural bank profile extent	C3	3
	Natural bank profile richness	C4	2
	Natural bank material richness	C5	1
	Bare sediment extent	C6	0
	Artificial bank profile extent	C7	0
	Reinforcement extent	C8	0
	Reinforcement material severity	C9	0
	NNIPS cover	C10	0
Channel margin	Aquatic vegetation extent	D1	0
	Aquatic morphotype richness	D2	0
	Physical feature extent	D3	0
	Physical feature richness	D4	0
	Artificial features	D5	0
Channel bed	Aquatic morphotype richness	E1	1
	Tree features richness	E2	0
	Hydraulic features richness	E3	0
	Natural features extent	E4	0

	Natural features richness	E5	0
	Material richness	E6	2
	Siltation	E7	-2
	Reinforcement extent	E8	0
	Reinforcement severity	E9	0
	Artificial features severity	E10	0
	NNIPS extent	E11	0
	Filamentous algae extent	E12	-3
Positive Index Average			0.526316
Negative Index Average			-0.61538
Preliminary Condition Score			-0.08906882
Condition Score (for use in Defra Metric 2.0)			Poor
to +4 for positive indicators (green) or 0 to - 4 for negative indicators (red)			

APPENDIX B: THE STATUTORY METRIC

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