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& design



Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy

Client

Bloor Homes East Midlands

Project

**Aston Flamville Road,
Burbage**

Date

August 2026

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Rev	Issue Status	Prepared/Date	Approved/Date
-	Final	EAS / 20.08.26	AJR / 20.08.26

1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Report Scope and Methodology
FPCR were commissioned by Bloor Homes East Midlands to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Strategy assessment for the northern parcel of land opposite and south of pumping station, Aston Flamville Road, Burbage to partially satisfy condition 15 of the approved outline planning permission for the wider permitted area (ref: 23/00673/OUT, amended 25/01016/NMA). This BNG strategy will also inform the reserved matters application for the northern parcel (ref: 26/00314/REM) (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale). This assessment has been informed by a survey of the habitats present onsite, including condition assessments, undertaken on 16th June 2023.
Baseline
The Site comprises a single modified grassland field in moderate condition, bounded by native hedgerows with trees to the north, northeast and west and native hedgerows to the south and southeast. No watercourses were identified onsite.
Proposals
A residential development is proposed across the majority of the Site, with public open space (POS) located along the boundaries, comprising other neutral grassland and urban tree planting. An attenuation basin is proposed to the north of the residential area. Hedgerows H1 and H2 are to be retained whilst H4 is to be lost to allow for access and the residential development. Hedgerow H3 is retained within residential gardens and has been classified as lost and recreated in poor condition as per the guidance.
Conclusion
The Site will result in a -35.03% loss in habitat units and a -12.87% loss in hedgerow units. The proposals fall short of national policy requirements to deliver a no net loss due to an overall loss of habitat units. The proposals will therefore seek to deliver a sufficient quantity of offsite habitat units in order to demonstrate the required BNG.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The following Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Strategy has been prepared by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd on behalf of Bloor Homes East Midlands to accompany the reserved matters application (26/00314/REM) for the northern parcel of the wider permitted outline area at Aston Flamville Road, Burbage (23/00673/OUT, amended 25/01016/NMA). The northern parcel for which the BNG assessment has been undertaken is herein referred to as 'the Site'.

Site Background

- 2.2 The wider outline scheme area was subject to an Ecological Appraisal in 2023¹ to inform the outline application (Reference 23/00673/OUT, amended 25/01016/NMA). The scope of ecological surveys undertaken to inform the application was agreed with the Leicestershire County Ecologist² who provide planning advice to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and entailed an updated extended Phase I survey. A BNG assessment using the then current Defra metric 4.0 was also completed taking account of the habitat assessment and development proposals.
- 2.3 The following report has been produced for the Site to partially satisfy condition 15 of the granted outline permission which states:

"Prior to the commencement of each phase of development, a Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (BNGS) and a Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for that phase shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority, unless a BNGS and PIP have previously been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority for the whole site. The BNGS shall detail proposals to redress loss of biodiversity and the mitigation strategy proposed shall include all on and off-site habitats required to deliver a net gain. The BNGS shall use the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool unless an amended statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculator associated with the Environment Act 2021 becomes mandatory.

The PIP shall detail the delivery of ecological BNG mitigation and compensation, in accordance with the approved BNG strategy. The PIP shall include timescales for implementation, and an ongoing management and maintenance plan. The BNGS and PIP shall be implemented, managed and maintained in accordance with the approved details.

- 2.4 Therefore, the following BNG Strategy details the results of the BNG assessment undertaken for the reserved matters proposals for the Site.
- 2.5 A Project Implementation Plan is to be submitted separately.

Site Context

- 2.6 The Site comprises the northern parcel of the wider outline scheme (23/00673/OUT) and lies to the northeast of Burbage, Hinckley. The Site is bound by a multiuse complex, arable fields and a residential building to the east, Aston Flamville Road to the south and Sapcote Road to

¹ FPCR (2023) Land South of Sapcote Road, Burbage, Ecological Appraisal, July 2023.

² Email from Sarah Postlewaite – Scope of Ecology Surveys – Land at Aston Flamville, Burbage (16 May 2023).

the west and north. Arable fields, residential areas and a woodland are located within the wider area.

- 2.7 The Site comprises a single grassland field bound by native hedgerows with trees to the north, northeast and west and native hedgerows to the south and southeast.

Report Scope and Objectives

- 2.8 This Biodiversity Net Gain Report is based on the CIEEM guidance³. 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 Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide.
 - Provide an overview of the proposed habitats following completion of the scheme.
 - Present the results of the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 assessment completed for the proposals.
 - Demonstrate the capacity for the proposals to demonstrate a net gain in biodiversity through the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool.

3.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- 3.1 National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (Paragraph 187), which was relevant at the time of the outline application, recommends that "planning policies and decisions should.... identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity." The government has mandated biodiversity net gain across all developments in England, with the Environment Act used to make the statutory changes necessary to implement mandatory net gain. The Environment Act was passed in November 2021 and Part 6 of the Act relating to biodiversity and biodiversity net gain was mandated on 12th February 2024.
- 3.2 The OPA planning application was validated by the Local Authority (LA) on 7th July 2023, and as such, the Site is not subject to the mandatory 10% net gain. comply with the recommendations at Paragraph 187(d) of the NPPF, the Site should seek to achieve a net gain to biodiversity, but the NPPF does not specify the level of net gain that should be achieved post-development. Biodiversity net gain does not need to be provided within the red line of a development. It can be proved on-site, off-site or a combination of the two mechanisms.

Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy

- 3.3 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:

³ CIEEM (2021) *Biodiversity Net Gain Report and Audit Templates*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester, UK.

- 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
- 3.4 Proposals must demonstrate how the biodiversity hierarchy has been applied to or provide the reasons for any deviation. This biodiversity net gain hierarchy is distinct from the mitigation hierarchy set out by CIEEM.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024, which was relevant at the time of the outline application, 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

- 3.6 Paragraph 011 of the BNG PPG⁵ 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. Whilst the Site is not subject to mandatory BNG, the minimum information required has been set out in Table 1 below in order to assist Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council in their decision-making process. Additional detail and information appropriate to the application is also provided within this report.

⁵ Defra (2025) Biodiversity Net Gain. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain>

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

Minimum Requirements in BNG PPG	Statement of Relevance to Site
<i>The pre-development biodiversity value of the Site, either on the data of application or an earlier proposed date (as appropriate).</i>	The accompanying Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool completed for the scheme provides the pre-development biodiversity value of the Site. The values are also presented within this report.
<i>Where an earlier date is proposed, provide the earlier date and reasons for proposing that date.</i>	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 16 th June 2023. This is considered to be an appropriate date as it is within the date that ecological data is considered valid in relation to the validation of the outline application (two years, as recommended by CIEEM).
<i>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.</i>	The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool, published in March 2023, was used to calculate the pre-development value of the Site. The completed metric has been provided alongside this BNG report.
<i>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).</i>	This statement confirms that FPCR and Bloor Homes East Midlands are not aware of any habitat degradation on-site.
<i>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)</i>	This statement confirms that no irreplaceable habitat has been identified on-site.
<i>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).</i>	Figure 1 shows the baseline habitats present on-site on the proposed relevant date (16 th June 2023). This includes the minimum requirement to show an identified scale and north arrow.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Baseline Habitat Assessment

- 4.1 A habitat survey was conducted on 16th June 2023 to inform the outline application with survey methods broadly following the UK Habitat Classification System⁶ (UKHab) to map habitats present on Site. This involved a systematic walk over of the Site to classify the broad habitat types which were broadly mapped in the field using a detailed topography map.
- 4.2 Habitat condition assessment surveys were completed at the same time in accordance with the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide⁷ criteria. The summary results of the habitat condition assessment survey results are presented in this report, and details are provided in Appendix A.
- 4.3 The baseline habitat and hedgerows within the BNG submitted to inform the permitted outline application have been used for this BNG assessment of the Site, with further details of the survey methodologies employed to assess the ecological baseline for the Site provided in the Ecological Appraisal.

Biodiversity Net Gain Calculation

- 4.4 The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool was used to inform this BNG Strategy. 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.
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 On-Site post-development habitats were determined from the latest Biodiversity Area Plan by Bloor Homes East Midlands (EM097-BNG-1) with proposed habitats mapped and digitised using QGIS to generate areas for each of the habitats proposed for enhancement.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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:
- difficulty 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.

⁶ Butcher, B., Edmonds, B., Norton, L., & Treweek, J. (n.d.). The UK Habitats Classification System V2. UKHab. Available at: <https://ukhab.org/>

⁷ Defra (2023) The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 - Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology

- 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.
- 4.9 The Site lies within the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Although the baseline strategic significance is in line with the BNG submitted to inform the outline application, the LNRS was reviewed to inform the post-development strategic significance.
- 4.10 Full details of the calculation methodology are provided in The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide⁹.

⁹ Defra (2023) *The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide*.

5.0 RESULTS

Strategic Significance

- 5.1 The Site has been identified as 'areas that could become of particular importance' for grassland opportunities within the LNRS¹⁰. The proposed other neutral grassland and modified grassland are considered to target GL006 and GL007, and the other neutral grassland will also target GL002. As such these have been assigned high strategic significance within the metric.
- 5.2 Other habitats have been assigned low strategic significance.

Biodiversity Units

Habitats

- 5.3 The baseline habitat comprised a single field parcel of modified grassland in moderate condition. The field was ungrazed at the time of the survey and comprised abundantly occurring meadow fox-tail *Alopecurus pratensis*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus* and rough meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*. Further details and a full species list is provided within the Ecological Appraisal².
- 5.4 An illustration is provided in Figure 1, and the baseline condition assessments are provided in Appendix A.

Hedgerows

- 5.5 The Site supports four native hedgerows, located along the Site boundaries. These comprise two different hedgerow types and are detailed in Table 2 and illustrated in Figure 1. A full species list is provided within the Ecological Appraisal.

Table 2: Baseline Hedgerow Summary

Ref	Hedgerow Type	Condition	Distinctiveness	Description
H1	Native hedgerow with trees	Good	Medium	Located along the western boundary, the hedgerow classified as a HEGS grade 2+ and supported species such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> and ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .
H2	Native hedgerow with trees	Good	Medium	Located along the northeastern boundary, the hedgerow classified as a HEGS grade 1 and supported species such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> and ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> .
H3	Native hedgerow	Moderate	Low	Located along the southeastern boundary, the hedgerow classified as a HEGS grade 3+ and supported species such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> and Wild cherry <i>Prunus avium</i> .
H4	Native hedgerow	Moderate	Low	Located along the southern boundary, the hedgerow classified as a HEGS grade 3 and supported species such as hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , English elm <i>Ulmus procera</i> and apple <i>Malus pumila</i> .

¹⁰ Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy Steering Group (2025) *Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Local Nature Recovery Strategy*.

Watercourses

- 5.6 No watercourses were identified within the Site boundary.

6.0 PROPOSALS

Retained Habitat

- 6.1 All of the baseline modified grassland is to be lost as a result of the proposals. Hedgerows H1 and H2 are to be retained whilst H4 is to be lost to allow for access and the residential development. Hedgerow H3 is retained within residential gardens and as such, the condition of the hedgerows cannot be maintained. Therefore, the hedgerow has been classified as lost and recreated in poor condition as per the paragraph 6.1.5 of the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide..

Created Habitat

- 6.2 Proposed habitat creation is shown in Appendix B, with the proposed condition assessments detailed in Appendix C. A residential development is proposed across the majority of the Site, with public open space (POS) located along the boundaries, comprising other neutral grassland and urban tree planting. An attenuation basin is proposed to the north of the residential area. 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	Comprises the residential buildings and associated infrastructure.	N/A	V. Low
Vegetated garden	Vegetated gardens associated with the residential buildings.	Condition Assessment N/A	Low
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	Permeable paving associated with the residential development.	N/A	V. Low
Modified grassland	Areas of modified grassland are proposed within the residential area. These areas will be planted with Emorsgate EG22 lawn grass mix or similar and will be managed as amenity grasslands. The below management prescriptions are recommended: • Regular management to prevent scrub/bracken encroachment; and reseeding any areas of failed establishment	Poor	Low
Other neutral grassland	Areas of other neutral grassland are proposed boarding the residential development SuDS feature to the north of the Site. These areas will be planted with Emorsgate EM3 or similar and will be managed as wildflower meadow. Management will focus on maximizing their biodiversity to create a diverse sward by employing the following management measures:	Moderate	Medium

Habitat	Description	Condition	Distinctiveness
	- 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; - Cuts will occur in spring/late summer to allow species to flower and set seed. - Removal of any bracken, bramble, or scrub clumps.		
Sustainable drainage system	An attenuation feature is proposed in the north of the Site, to be sown with a species-rich wet tolerant grassland mix, such as Emorsgate EM8 'Meadow Mixture for Wetlands' or similar.	Moderate	Low
Urban tree	41 small native trees are to be planted within areas of POS. Each individual tree will be target moderate condition via the planting and management prescriptions below: - 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
	11 small trees are proposed within the amenity grassland. Due to their proximity to the residential area, these trees have a target condition of poor.	Poor	Medium

- 6.3 The establishment of five native hedgerows are proposed across the Site. The hedgerows are expected to reach moderate condition through the appropriate management techniques.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The habitat retention and creation proposals highlighted within this report have all been inputted into the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Calculation Tool. 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	17.26
	Hedgerow Units	7.62
	Watercourse Units	0.00
Post-Intervention	Habitat Units	11.21
	Hedgerow Units	6.64
	Watercourse Units	0.00
Total Net Unit Change	Habitat Units	-6.05
	Hedgerow Units	-0.98
	Watercourse Units	0.00
Total Net Percentage Change	Habitat Units	-35.03%
	Hedgerow Units	-12.87%
	Watercourse Units	0.00

- 7.2 The Statutory Metric has demonstrated that the scheme will result in net loss of -35.03% habitat units and -12.87% hedgerow units, which results in a deficit to no net loss of 6.05 habitat units and 0.98 hedgerow units.

Habitat Trading Rules

- 7.3 No medium or high distinctiveness habitats are being lost, with all losses being of poor distinctiveness habitats and hedgerows. This can be compensated for through the creation of 6.05 habitat units and 0.98 hedgerow units, which will satisfy the trading rules and demonstrate a policy compliant BNG.

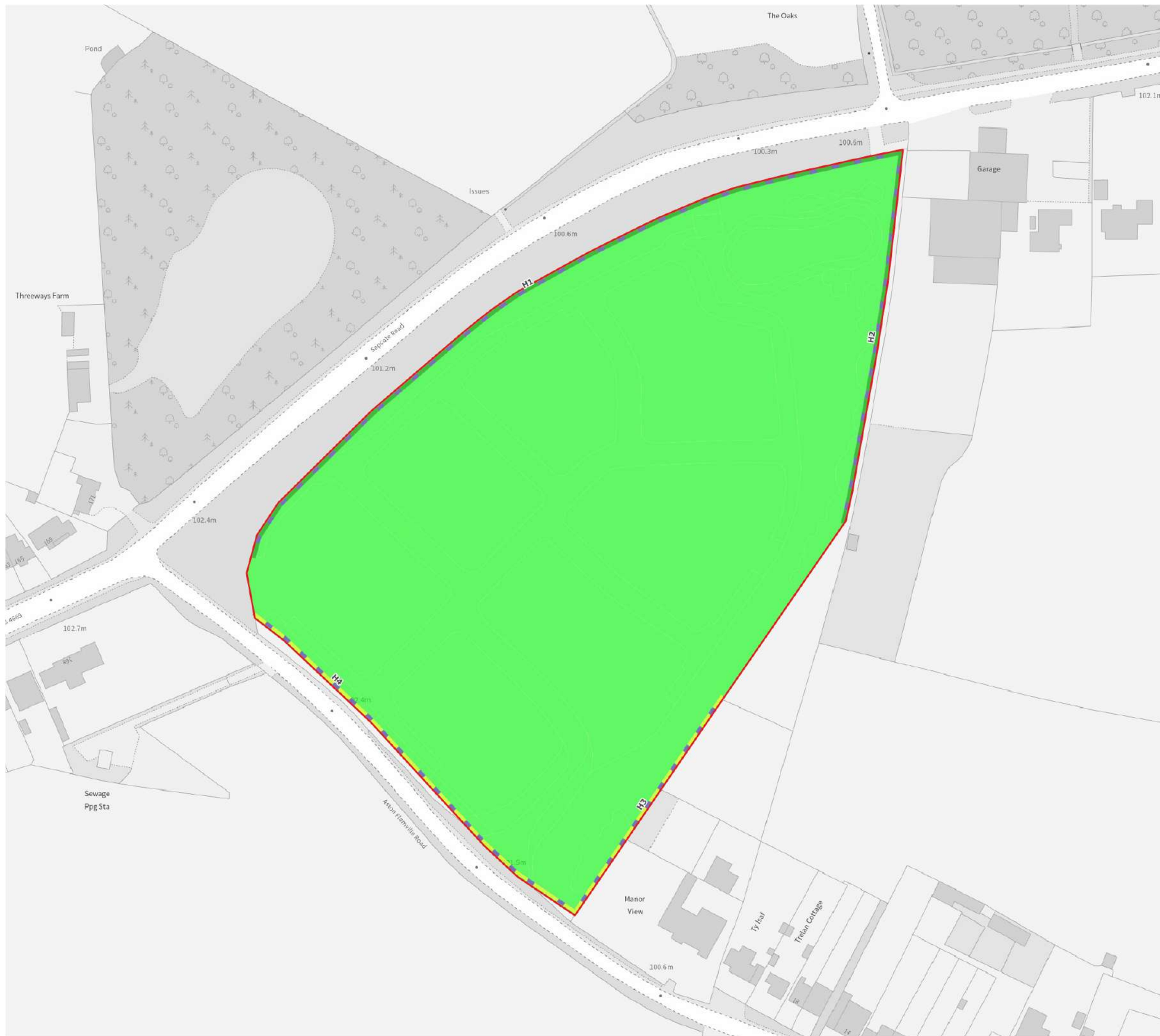
Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy

- 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 valuable habitats. The BNG Hierarchy has influenced the Site design through the following measures:

- Proposals have retained the medium distinctiveness hedgerows. No other medium distinctiveness habitats were present onsite.

Compensation

- 7.5 The Site requires the use off-site biodiversity credits to achieve a position of no net loss or net gain position in line with the requirements of the NPPF (noting that the outline application was submitted before the mandatory requirement to demonstrate a 10% net gain).
- 7.6 6.05 habitat units and 0.98 native hedgerow units are required offsite to provide a no net loss and satisfy the trading rules.
- 7.7 Compensatory units will be delivered through one of the following options:
- Purchasing Units from a Local Habitat Bank: Units can be purchased from any habitat banks run within the local planning authority.
 - Purchasing Units from a Nearby Habitat Bank: Where units are not available in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, units will be purchased from a habitat bank in an adjacent Local Planning Authority Boundary/National Character Area.
 - Purchasing Units from a National Habitat Bank: Where local habitat bank cannot be found, units can be purchased from a habitat bank elsewhere in England. Proximity will be considered while sourcing units, with the closest available units preferred.
 - Purchasing Statutory Credits: Where units cannot be sought from a national habitat bank, statutory credits will be purchased. A sufficient number of units will be purchased to both meet the trading rules and to deliver the no net loss requirement.
- 7.8 Units will only be purchased from Sites that are registered on Natural England's BNG Sites Register. Consequently, they will have been secured under a minimum 30-year legal agreement with habitat enhancements to be delivered through an agreed habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP).



N

0

25

50 m

Key

Site Boundary

Baseline Habitats

Modified grassland

Baseline Hedgerows

Native hedgerow

Native hedgerow with trees

date	19/08/26	drwn/chid	EAS
client	Bloor Homes East Midlands		
project	Aston Flamville Road, Burbage		
title	BASELINE HABITATS PLAN	scale	1:1,500 @ A3
number	FIGURE 1	rev	-

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

APPENDIX A: BASELINE HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENT**Modified Grassland**

Condition Criteria	
1 There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² 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.	Pass
2 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.	Fail
3 Some scattered scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. <i>NB - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.</i>	Pass
4 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.	Pass
5 Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Fail
6 Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Pass
7 There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	Pass
Condition	Moderate
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 of criteria but failing criterion 1	Poor

Hedgerows

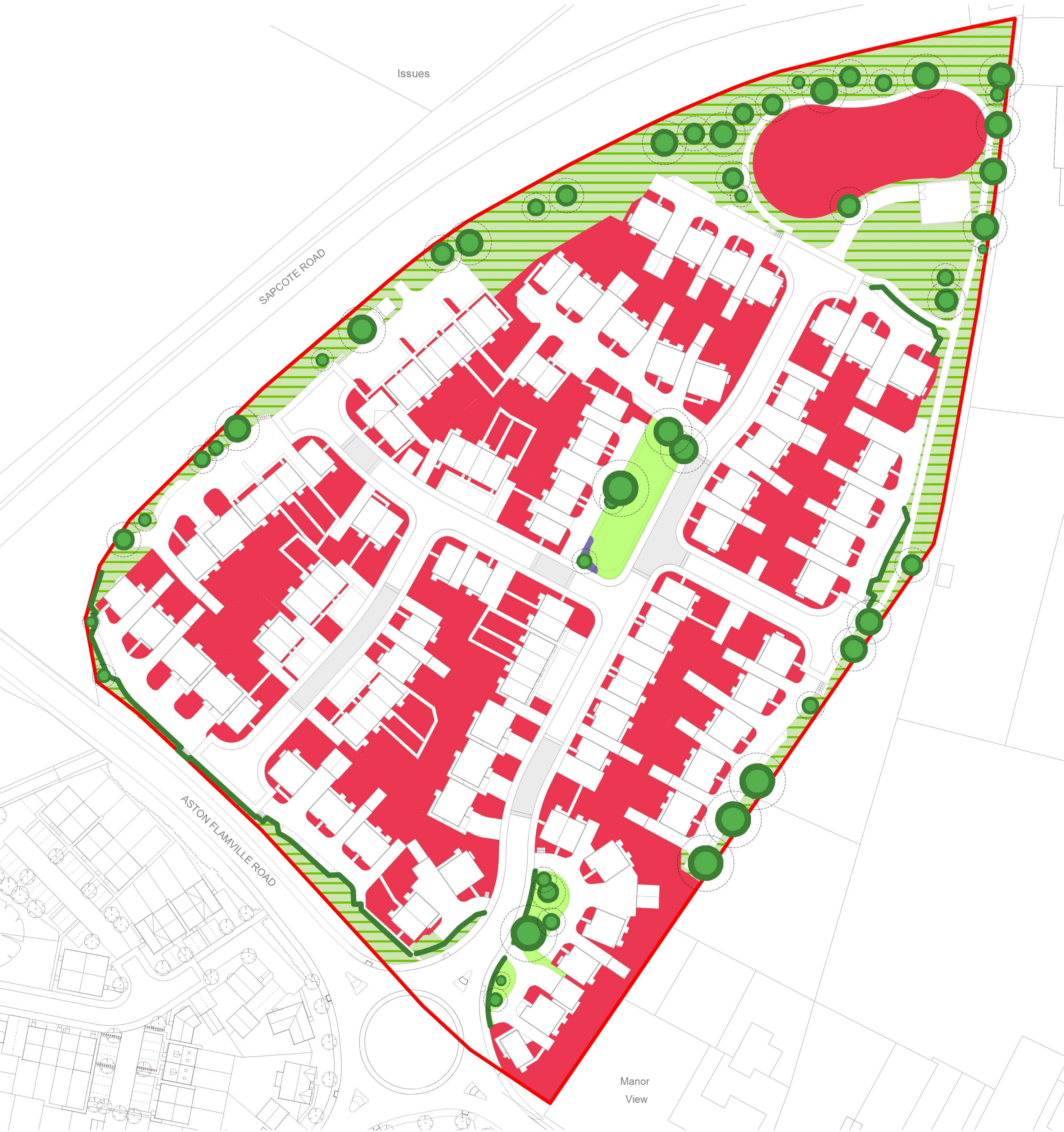
Condition Assessment Criteria			H1	H2	H3	H4
A1 Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management 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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
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).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
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).	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass

Condition Assessment Criteria			H1	H2	H3	H4
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
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.	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail
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, as well as the BSBI website where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora 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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
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).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
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.	Pass	Pass	-	-

Condition Assessment Criteria			H1	H2	H3	H4
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.	Pass	Pass	-	-
Condition			Good	Good	Moderate	Moderate

APPENDIX B: ASTON FLAMVILLE ROAD, BURBAGE – BIODIVERSITY AREA PLAN

- Key
- Red Line Boundary
 - Developed Land; sealed surface
 - Sensory Planting
 - Modified grassland
 - Other Neutral Grassland
 - SuDS
 - Vegetated garden
 - Urban Tree
 - Proposed native species rich hedgerow



Aston Flamville Road, Burbage - Biodiversity Area Plan

EM097-BNG-1

APPENDIX C: PROPOSED HABITAT CONDITION ASSESSMENTS**Modified Grassland**

Condition Criteria	
1 There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). <i>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</i>	Fail
2 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.	Fail
3 Some scattered scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. <i>NB - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.</i>	Pass
4 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.	Pass
5 Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Pass
6 Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Pass
7 There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	Pass
Condition	Poor
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 of criteria but failing criterion 1	Good Moderate Poor

Other Neutral Grassland

Condition Criteria	
1 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. <i>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</i>	Pass
2 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.	Fail
3 Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Pass
4 Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Pass
5 Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition 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. <i>Note- If any invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA4) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.</i>	Pass
6 There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (INNS and those indicative of sub-optimal condition cannot contribute towards this count). <i>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</i>	Fail

Condition Criteria	
Condition	Moderate
Passes 5 of 6 criteria, including essential criterion 1 and 6.	Good
Passes 3, 4 or 5 of 6 criteria, including essential criterion 1.	Moderate
Passes 0, 1, 2 criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion 1 and 6	Poor

SuDS

Condition Criteria	
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.	Fail
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.	Fail
C - Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area. Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Pass
E1 - Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife.	Pass
E2 - The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.	Pass
Condition	Moderate
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
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
Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.	Poor

Urban Tree

Condition Criteria	Within meadow grassland	Within amenity grassland
A - The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Pass	Fail
B - The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Pass	Pass
C - The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Fail	Fail
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.	Fail	Fail
E - Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Fail	Fail
F - More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Pass	Pass
Condition	Moderate	Poor
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate	

Condition Criteria	Within meadow grassland	Within amenity grassland
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor

Native Hedgerows

Condition Assessment Criteria			
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).	Pass
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).	Pass
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).	Pass
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).	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 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	Fail

Condition Assessment Criteria			
		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.	
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.	Fail
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, as well as the BSBI website 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.	Pass
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).	Pass
Condition			Moderate
No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.			Good
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).			Moderate
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)."			Poor

APPENDIX D: THE BIODIVERSITY METRIC 4.0 CALCULATION TOOL

FPCR Environment and Design Ltd

Registered Office: Lockington Hall, Lockington, Derby DE74 2RH
Company No. 07128076. [T] 01509 672772 [E] mail@fpcr.co.uk [W] www.fpcr.co.uk

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