Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Land North of Normandy Way, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1SW

Morro Partnerships

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Final	2	Abby Pidgen BSc (Hons) MSc, Graduate Ecologist	18/02/2025

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Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Construction Industry Research and Information Association & Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2019). Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Development.

Proportionality

> The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate.
>
> The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.
>
> (BS 42020, 2013)

Executive Summary

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Morro Partnerships to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at Land North of Normandy Way, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1SW (hereafter referred to as "the site"). The assessment was required to inform a planning application for the construction of up to 25 new residential dwellings along with access (hereafter referred to as "the proposed development").

The baseline habitat value of the site is 5.90 area-based units and 0.90 hedgerow units, comprising buildings and hardstanding (no value), 2.96 units of neutral grassland, 1.12 units of mixed woodland, 0.02 units of ponds, 0.33 units of bramble scrub, 1.46 units of individual trees and a single line of trees.

To achieve a net gain on the site, a total of 6.49 area-based units (baseline of 5.90 +10%) and 0.99 hedgerow units (baseline of 0.90 +10%) is required, the following landscaping recommendations could be followed to achieve this:

- Retention and enhancement of all individual trees and treelines.
- The woodland and pond on the site could be retained and enhanced.
- Areas of neutral grassland can be retained and enhanced.

Contents

1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Morro Partnerships to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at Land North of Normandy Way, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1SW (hereafter referred to as "the site"). The assessment was required to inform a planning application for the construction of up to 25 new residential dwellings along with access (hereafter referred to as "the proposed development"). A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, February 2025)

1.2 Site Location, Geology and Landscape Context

The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SP43199580 and has an area of approximately 0.8ha. The site is currently disused and is formed of a series of allotments. A number of small outbuildings in the form of timber sheds are seen, along with a garage in the western corner. As a result of a lack of management and maintenance, bramble scrub and self-set saplings are a common feature throughout the space, along with more mature trees. A pond is also found in the northeastern corner of the site. Habitats within the site are common and widespread. The underlying soil type on the site is a slightly acid, loamy and clayey soil with impeded draining. The site is situated within the Leicestershire Vales National Character Area. A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

1.3 BNG Informative

BNG is a specific, measurable outcome of project activities that deliver demonstrable and quantifiable benefits to biodiversity compared to the baseline situation. In order to achieve BNG, a project must be able to demonstrate that it has followed all 10 of the Principles of Biodiversity Net Gain (as outlined in the British Standard 8683:2021 Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain).

The legalised Environment Act (2021) requires developments in England to demonstrate a measurable net gain in biodiversity and sets a target of a minimum of 10% BNG for all developments. It also stipulates that a management plan with a minimum 30-year term, should be adopted to ensure biodiversity net gain can be delivered. The requirement for biodiversity net gain is also enshrined within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024). The DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric is the widely accepted tool used to calculate BNG. It enables the calculation of habitat value pre- and post-development in order to determine the overall change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposed development. The Biodiversity Metric has separate BNG assessments for areas of habitat, hedgerows and watercourses. The biodiversity value of a site should be maximised. However, it may not always be possible to achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain within a site and therefore the Statutory Biodiversity Metric can also account for offsite habitat creation, where land is available. Alternatively, developers can seek to provide an agreed financial contribution to an appropriate third party (such as the Local Authority, the UK Government or another landowner) to deliver the required biodiversity net gain elsewhere on their behalf.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Baseline Biodiversity Value

The baseline BNG Calculation was informed by the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, February 2025). A baseline habitat plan is provided in Appendix 3.

Habitat Classification

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal classified the habitats on site according to The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023).

Habitat Area/Length

The area or length of each habitat was calculated using qGIS software. In calculating the area or length of each habitat, habitats which occur as two or more isolated parcels across the site were combined, where they were deemed to be of a similar composition and condition. Distinctions were made between habitats to be retained (i.e. left as found in baseline), enhanced (i.e. improved condition) or lost (i.e. destroyed by proposed development).

Areas of scattered trees were calculated using the Tree Helper tool within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Class sizes for urban trees are set out in Table 14 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023).

Habitat Condition

Habitat condition was assessed using the relevant condition assessment sheets found in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023).

Strategic Significance

Strategic significance was assigned for each habitat based upon a review of the following:

- Ecological value
- Function within the landscape
- Any site or habitat allocations under the Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Adopted 2009)

2.2 Limitations

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken outside of the optimal period for botanical species identification and habitat classification, therefore condition assessment categories pertaining to species abundance and densities have been automatically passed.

3.0 Results

3.1 Baseline Habitats

Table 1 details the baseline habitats present within the site along with their area/length, condition and strategic significance. A full condition assessment for each habitat (where relevant) is provided in Appendix 4.

Table 1: Baseline Biodiversity Value

Habitat	Area / Length	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Developed land; sealed surface – u1b5 (buildings)	0.01ha	A number of buildings are present onsite; such as timber sheds, greenhouses and a garage which are all due to be removed.	N/A - Other	Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy.
Developed land; sealed surface – u1b (hardstanding)	0.003ha	A small hardstanding entrance is present along the southern border of the site.	N/A - Other	Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy.
Other neutral grassland – g3c	0.673ha	The site formerly comprised a series of allotments, however due to it being disused it has succeeded into an area of neutral grassland containing scattered trees and self-set saplings. The grassland does not appear to have regular management and maintenance, and as a result a diverse sward height is seen with good structural and species composition which gives opportunities for microclimates to form. Bare ground accounts for more than 10% of the total area, and areas of bramble scrub are present. Bracken, and other invasive species are absent from the site. Species present are perennial rye (D), red fescue (A), thistle (O), yarrow (O), plantain (O), cleavers (O), common nettle (O), herb robert (O), willowherb (O), spurge (O) and creeping buttercup (O).	Poor – passes 3/7 criteria but fails essential criteria A. Assessed using the 'grassland medium, high and very high' habitat condition assessment.	Medium strategic significance. Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. Provides connectivity and foraging habitat for a range of species.

Bramble scrub – h3d	0.083ha	Areas of bramble scrub are a common feature on the site due to a lack of regular management and maintenance.	Condition assessment N/A	Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy.
Other woodland; mixed – w15h	0.122ha	A small plot of woodland is found in the south east of the site; this is beyond the site of the development but found within the red line boundary of the site. The woodland is comprised of mature trees, which are predominantly native (more than 75%). Young and mature trees are present, and no invasive species were noted. Tree mortality appears to be less than 10%, and no recognisable NVC community is found. No veteran trees were noted within the plot, and no significant browsing damage is seen.	Moderate – scores 31/39. Assessed using the 'woodland' habitat condition assessment.	High strategic significance. Formally identified in local strategy - Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
Pond – r1g	0.0025ha	A pond is present in the northeastern corner of the site. The pond is relatively shallow and looks as though it dries infrequently. No fish were present, and no signs of waterfowl were noted either. Aquatic vegetation is scarce, and bank vegetation comprises bare ground and the neutral grassland which dominates the rest of the site.	Moderate – passes 6/9 criteria. Assessed using the 'pond' habitat condition assessment.	High strategic significance. Formally identified in local strategy – Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
Individual trees – 32	0.1588ha	In total, 39 trees are present onsite. They are all small in size, and are at least semi-mature in age. There are no veteran trees onsite, and they all appear to be in a good condition. No signs of damage as a result of human activities was noted, and no features which bats could utilise for roosting were found.	Moderate – all trees pass 4/6 criteria. Assessed using the 'individual tree' habitat condition assessment.	High strategic significance. Formally identified in local strategy – Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.
Line of trees - 33	0.13km	A mature tree line is present along the northern boundary of the site. Most of the trees are native, and they all appear to be in a good condition with no signs of damage as a result of	Moderate – passes 4/5 criteria.	High strategic significance. Formally identified in local strategy – Policy 20, Green Infrastructure.

		human activities. No veteran features were noted, and the tree line is planted over the neutral grassland which dominates the site. Species identified were cypress, silver birch, willow, ash, holly, hawthorn and cherry laurel.	Assessed using the 'line of trees' habitat condition assessment.	

3.3 Baseline Biodiversity Value of the Site

Full details are provided in the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The headline results are presented in Appendix 5.

Areas of Habitat

The baseline habitat value of the site is 5.90 units, comprising buildings and hardstanding (no value), 2.96 units of neutral grassland, 1.12 units of mixed woodland, 0.02 units of ponds, 0.33 units of bramble scrub and 1.46 units of individual trees.

To achieve a net gain on the site, a total of 6.49 area-based units (baseline of 5.90 +10%) is required.

Hedgerows

The baseline hedgerow value of the site is 0.90 units, comprising a single line of trees.

To achieve a net gain on the site, a total of 0.99 hedgerow units (baseline of 0.90 +10%) is required.

4.0 Recommendations to Deliver BNG

4.1 Discussion

In order to achieve the required minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity as a result of the proposed development, the provision of additional or alternative landscaping should be explored and the proposed plans amended accordingly to either achieve a 10% net gain on site or to reduce off-site compensation requirements that may be required to achieve a 10% net gain.

4.2 Landscaping

To maximise the biodiversity of the site and aid in the efforts to achieve a net gain, the following recommendations could be incorporated into the landscaping plans:

- Retention of individual trees and treelines with the addition of hedgerows and planting new scattered trees across the site.
- The woodland and pond on the site could be retained and enhanced to achieve good condition through good management practices.
- Areas of neutral grassland can be retained and enhanced to achieve moderate or good condition by seeding of an appropriate mix with suitable management.

4.3 Biodiversity Offsetting

If landscaping plans do not deliver a 10% net gain on the site, a unit deficit will be created will need to be delivered in a suitable offsite location i.e. biodiversity offsetting.

Currently, the site would need to provide a total of 6.49 habitat units and 0.99 hedgerow units onsite to achieve a net gain, however, if this is not possible units will need to be provided to offset the loss in biodiversity and achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain.

The mechanism for securing this off-setting will need to be proposed to, and confirmed by the LPA e.g., purchasing conservation credits though a registered provider, habitat creation directly through the client owned or LPA offered land or a financial contribution towards another provider such as a local nature reserve or park. As well as the creation of new habitats, this should also secure the management of the proposed habitats to help achieve the desired condition for at least 30 years. This would be linked to the application through a planning obligation Section 106 (S106) agreement. The proposed habitat compensation should be of an appropriate distinctiveness to meet the trading rules of BNG. An ecology survey of the baseline habitat of any off-site land will be required to inform the baseline conditions of any land subject to off-site compensation measures.

- The costs of BNG compensation using statutory credits have been issued by the government as outlined here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/statutory-biodiversity-credit-prices
- Statutory prices are not guideline prices for biodiversity units sold in the off-site private market. Credit prices are set high to ensure they do not compete with the development of the private market.
- These units may be cheaper to source in the local third party BNG unit market, or in collaboration with the LPA.
- If you buy statutory credits, a ‘spatial risk multiplier’ (SRM) will apply, which doubles the number of statutory credits you need.

- For each habitat type in the table, you can see its ‘tier’. Statutory credits are priced in tiers according to habitat type for area-based biodiversity units.

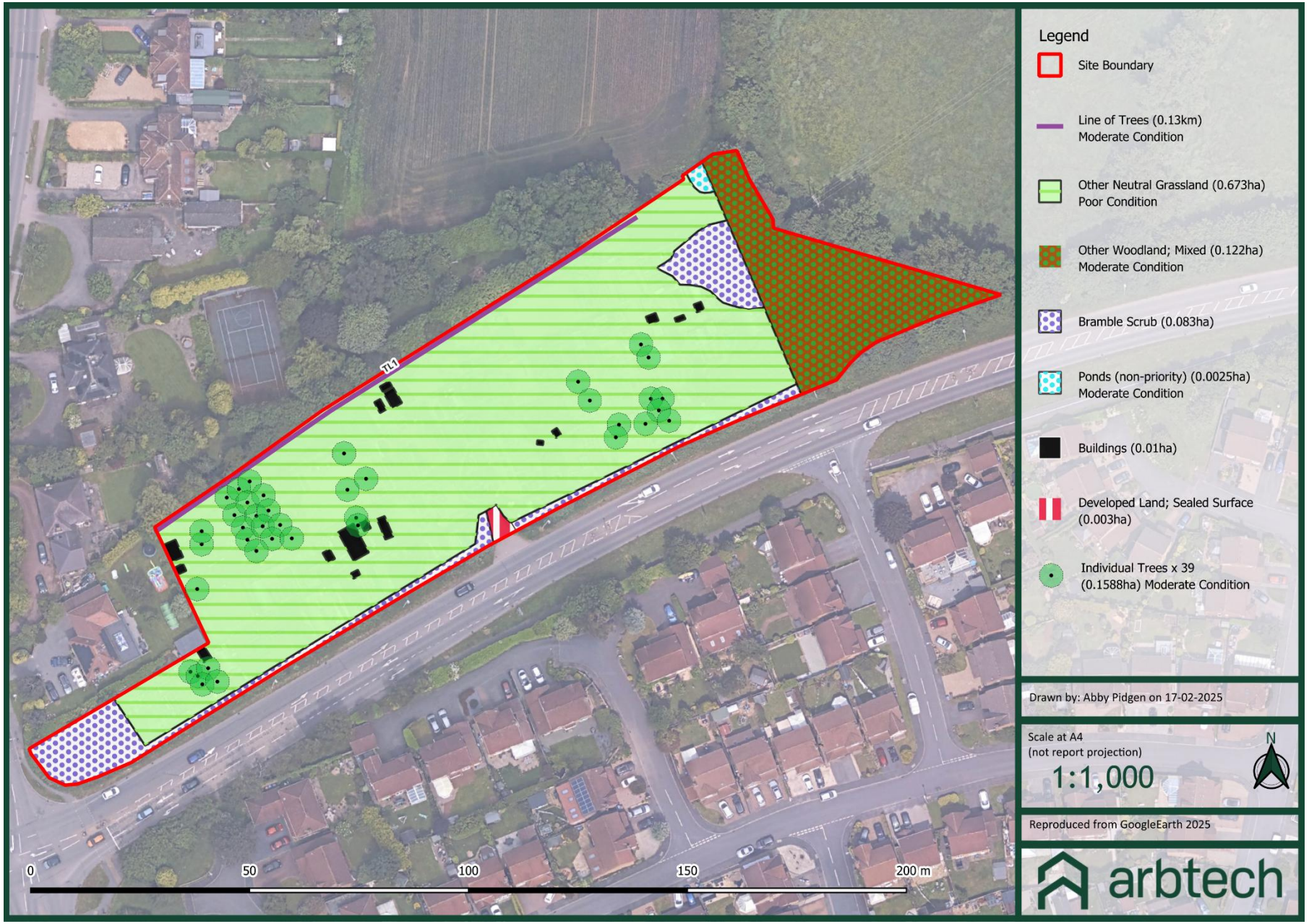
5.0 Bibliography

- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.
- CIEEM-CIRIA-IEMA (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Development.
- Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Adopted 2009) https://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/downloads/file/487/core_strategy_adopted_document
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey a technique for environmental audit. http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/pub10_handbookforphase1habitatsurvey.pdf
- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric (JP039).
- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (JP039).
- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 - Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (JP039).
- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 – Technical Information (JP039).
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, February 2025) Land North of Normandy Way, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 1SW
- The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023)

Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan

Appendix 2: Site Location Plan

Appendix 3: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 4: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets – Baseline

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types

Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland
Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands
Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland
Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed
Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods
Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods
Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood
Woodland and forest - Wet woodland

Habitat Description

A small plot of woodland is found in the south east of the site; this is beyond the site of the development but found within the red line boundary of the site. The woodland is comprised of mature trees, which are predominantly native (more than 75%). Young and mature trees are present, and no invasive species were noted. Tree mortality appears to be less than 10%, and no recognisable NVC community is found. No veteran trees were noted within the plot, and no significant browsing damage is seen.

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)

IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being input into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators.

On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	George Collier-Smith 13/02/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Baseline
Grid reference	SP43199580	**Habitat parcel reference**	Other Woodland; Mixed

Condition Assessment Criteria

	Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A	**Age distribution of trees**	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	2	Two age classes present
B	**Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage**	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	3	No browsing damage noted
C	**Invasive plant species**	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, and other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] ≥10% cover.	3	No invasive species recorded
D	**Number of native tree species**	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	3	At least 5 native tree species present
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species**	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	3	Native understory
F	**Open space within woodland**	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	3	<1ha with no temporary open spaces
G	**Woodland regeneration**	All three classes present in woodland[8]: trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	2	One class present
H	**Tree health**	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	3	Tree mortality is <10%
I	**Vegetation and ground flora**	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	1	No NVC community
J	**Woodland vertical structure**	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	2	Two storeys present
K	**Veteran trees**	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	1	No veteran trees noted
L	**Amount of deadwood**	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	2	Some deadwood present but <50% of survey plots
M	**Woodland disturbance**	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	3	No nutrient enrichment noted
	Total Score (out of a possible 39)				31	

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

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types

Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland
Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland
Grassland - Lowland meadows
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland
Grassland - Other neutral grassland
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.]
Grassland - Upland acid grassland
Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland
Grassland - Upland hay meadows
Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland

On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	George Collier-Smith 13/02/2025
Limitations (if applicable)	Winter Survey	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Baseline
Grid reference	SP43199580	**Habitat parcel reference**	Other Neutral Grassland

Habitat Description

The site formerly comprised a series of allotments, however due to it being disused it has succeeded into an area of neutral grassland containing scattered trees and self-set saplings. The grassland does not appear to have regular management and maintenance, and as a result a diverse sward height is seen with good structural and species composition which gives opportunities for microclimates to form. Bare ground accounts for more than 10% of the total area, and areas of bramble scrub are present. Bracken, and other invasive species are absent from the site. Species

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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.**	No	Nettle, buttercup and plantain present suggesting suboptimal condition
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.	Yes	Sward height is diverse
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[2].	No	Bare ground accounts for more than 10%
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	No bracken present
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 WCA[5]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	Suboptimal species present throughout
	Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types		
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). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Yes	Winter survey with limited species available, however 11 species were present throughout with more likely present in optimal season.
	Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)	Yes	
	Number of criteria passed	3	

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

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type

Habitat Type

Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)
Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170) [Use this condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools, use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes]
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental ponds, use Lake condition sheet for Ornamental lakes]

Habitat Description

A pond is present in the north eastern corner of the site. The pond is relatively shallow, and looks as though it dries infrequently. No fish were present, and no signs of waterfowl were noted either. Aquatic vegetation is scarce, and bank vegetation comprises bare ground and the neutral grassland which dominates the rest of the site.

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

For ponds (non-priority) – see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2.

On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	George Collier-Smith 13/02/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Baseline
Grid reference	SP43199580	**Habitat parcel reference**	Pond (non-priority)

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
	Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland[1] and non-woodland):		
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	No	High turbidity
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	Yes	Surrounded by neutral grassland and woodland
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed *Lemna* spp. or filamentous algae.	Yes	No duckweek present
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Yes	Natural pond, no artificial influence
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams[2], pumps or pipework.	Yes	Pond appears to dry throughout the year
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species[3].	Yes	No invasive non-native species
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Yes	No fish present
	Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:		
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed)[4] cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	No	No emergent plants present
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	No	Pond is >50% shaded by surrounding trees
	Number of criteria passed	6	

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Results for woodland ponds which require assessment of 7 core criteria		
Passes 7 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria		
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type

Habitat Types

Individual trees – Urban trees
Individual trees – Rural trees
Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.

Please see separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of Rural trees.

Habitat Description

In total, 39 trees are present onsite. They are all small in size, and are at least semi-mature in age. There are no veteran trees onsite, and they all appear to be in a good condition. No signs of damage as a result of human activities was noted, and no features which bats could utilise for roosting were found.

Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment):
Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching.

Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only):
Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies must overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.

On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	George Collier-Smith 13/02/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Baseline
Grid reference	SP43199580	**Habitat parcel reference**	Individual Trees

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes	Majority were prunus species
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).	Yes	Individual trees automatically pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	No	Trees were young and semi-mature
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.	Yes	No evidence of damage
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Young trees lacking in features
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Oversailing neutral grassland
	Number of criteria passed	4	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type

Habitat Types

Line of trees
Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch
Ecologically valuable line of trees
Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch

Habitat Description

A mature tree line is present along the northern boundary of the site. Most of the trees are native, and they all appear to be in a good condition with no signs of damage as a result of human activities. No veteran features were noted, and the tree line is planted over the neutral grassland which dominates the site. Species identified were cypress, silver birch, willow, ash, holly, hawthorn and cherry laurel. Moderate condition score (4/5).

See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook[1]. For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook.
Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.

On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	George Collier-Smith 13/02/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Baseline
Grid reference	SP43199580	**Habitat parcel reference**	Line of trees

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	Mostly native species
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Yes	No canopy gaps noted
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No veteran trees or features noted
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice[2].	Yes	Surrounded by neutral grassland
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Yes	All trees appear healthy
	Number of criteria passed	4	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Appendix 5: Headline BNG Results

The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric is provided as a separate excel spreadsheet.