

Land East of Leicester Road, Earl Shilton
(1006771)

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment **(Updated August 2024)**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Proposals

- 1.1.1 Aspect Ecology is advising Manor Oak Homes in respect of ecological issues relating to land east of Leicester Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, centred at grid reference SP 469 984 (hereafter referred to as 'the site'), which is proposed for new residential development (See Appendix 6771/BNG1).
- 1.1.2 The site is proposed for residential development, for which an outline planning application was submitted to Hinkley and Bosworth District Council in May 2024 (ref: 24/00484/OUT). The planning application was informed by ecological information, including a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment to determine the level of biodiversity net gain that could be achieved under the scheme, as set out within the previous version of this report (dated May 2024) and accompanying Ecological Appraisal report (Aspect Ecology, ref: 6771 EcoAp dv1, dated April 2024).
- 1.1.3 The previous information was based on survey work undertaken in February 2024 (and therefore outside of the optimal seasonal period of May to September for grassland survey in particular), and accordingly as set out, represented an initial indication, with further survey work programmed to take place during the appropriate season in 2024, following which the BNG assessment would be updated.
- 1.1.4 The additional (in-season) survey work has now been undertaken and accordingly, the BNG assessment has been updated in order to reflect the seasonal survey results.
- 1.1.5 This work is based on the Statutory Metric tool issued by Defra and informed by associated biodiversity net gain guidance issued by Defra in line with recently implemented legislative requirements relating to planning applications, in combination with guidance developed by CIRIA, CIEEM and IEMA.

1.2 Biodiversity Net Gain

Environment Act 2021

- 1.2.1 The Environment Act 2021 establishes a comprehensive legal framework for environmental improvement within the UK, forming one of the key measures to deliver the vision set out under the 25 Year Environment Plan.
- 1.2.2 The Environment Act 2021 is intended to establish the structure for long-term environmental governance and accountability and includes key measures to drive improvements for nature. In particular, it lays the foundation for a Nature Recovery Network, and introduces a mandatory requirement for biodiversity net gain in the planning system, to ensure that new developments enhance biodiversity and create new green spaces for local communities to enjoy.
- 1.2.3 Following the Environment Act 2021 and implementation of the relevant associated secondary legislation, Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), identifies (Part 2) that planning permissions granted for development in England (with certain exceptions) are deemed to have been granted subject to a condition requiring the submission of a *Biodiversity Gain Plan*, (including details in regard to Biodiversity Net Gain, demonstrating how the development will achieve a gain in calculated biodiversity value of at least 10%), prior to any commencement of development.

1.2.4 Specific consideration in regard to the requirements for information to be submitted with planning applications are set out within The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015 (as amended), including in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain (section 7(1A)). In particular, this sets out that planning applications should be accompanied by:

- a. *A statement as to whether the applicant believes that planning permission, if granted, would be subject to the biodiversity condition;*
- b. *Where the applicant believes that planning permission, if granted, would not be subject to the biodiversity gain condition, the reasons for that belief;*
- c. *In cases where the applicant believes that planning permission, if granted, would be subject to the biodiversity gain condition-*
 - i. *The completed biodiversity metric calculation tool or tools (as the case may be) showing the calculation of the biodiversity value of the onsite habitat, for the purpose of the biodiversity gain plan required to be submitted under paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the 1990 Act if permission is granted...*
 - ii. *The biodiversity value or values (as the case may be) referred to in paragraph (i)*
 - iii. *the publication date of the biodiversity metric calculation tool or tools (as the case may be) used to calculate the values referred to in paragraph (i)*
 - iv. *if an earlier date is proposed by the applicant under paragraph (i)(bb), the reasons why that earlier date is proposed;*
 - v. *if any activities of the type mentioned in paragraph 6 or 6A of Schedule 7A to the 1990 Act have been carried out on the land— (aa) a statement that such activities have been carried out, (bb) confirmation of the date immediately before those activities were so carried out, and (cc) any available supporting evidence for the date referred to in subparagraph (bb) and for the value referred to in paragraph (i)(cc).*
 - vi. *a description of any irreplaceable habitat, corresponding to the descriptions in Table 1 or in column 1 of Table 2 of the Schedule to the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024, that— (aa) is on the land to which the application relates, and (bb) exists on the date referred to in paragraph (i)(aa) or (bb) (as applicable);*
 - vii. *a plan showing the location, on the date referred to in paragraph (i)(aa) or (bb) (as applicable), of—*
 - (aa) the onsite habitat included in the calculations referred to in paragraph (i), and*
 - (bb) any irreplaceable habitat.”*

Local Policy

1.2.5 Planning policy at the local level is set out within Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2006 to 2026 (formerly Local Development Framework). No specific reference to Biodiversity Net Gain appears to be present within the adopted policy, albeit emerging planning policy within the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan 2020-2039 (Regulation 19 Consultation, dated February 2022) includes reference to Biodiversity Net Gain requirements, including under Policy NAT08, requiring that all developments provide a measurable 10% net gain, including the use of suitable metric calculation tools.

Good Practice Principles for Development

1.2.6 CIRIA, CIEEM and IEMA have developed a set of principles on good practice to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain¹, accompanied by a practical guide². These principles provide a framework that helps improve the UK's biodiversity by contributing towards strategic priorities to conserve and enhance nature while progressing with sustainable development. They also provide a way for industry to show that projects follow good practice. Ten key principles are identified:

- 1) **Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy.** Do everything possible to first avoid and then minimise impacts on biodiversity. Only as a last resort, and in agreement with external decision-makers where possible, compensate for losses that cannot be avoided. If compensating for losses within the development footprint is not possible or does not generate the most benefits for nature conservation, then offset biodiversity losses by gains elsewhere.
- 2) **Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere.** Avoid impacts on irreplaceable biodiversity - these impacts cannot be offset to achieve No Net Loss or Net Gain.
- 3) **Be inclusive and equitable.** Engage stakeholders early, and involve them in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the approach to Net Gain. Achieve Net Gain in partnership with stakeholders where possible, and share the benefits fairly among stakeholders.
- 4) **Address risks.** Mitigate difficulty, uncertainty and other risks to achieving Net Gain. Apply well-accepted ways to add contingency when calculating biodiversity losses and gains in order to account for any remaining risks, as well as to compensate for the time between the losses occurring and the gains being fully realised.
- 5) **Make a measurable Net Gain contribution.** Achieve a measurable, overall gain for biodiversity and the services ecosystems provide while directly contributing towards nature conservation priorities.
- 6) **Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity.** Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity by using robust, credible evidence and local knowledge to make clearly-justified choices when:
 - Delivering compensation that is ecologically equivalent in type, amount and condition, and that accounts for the location and timing of biodiversity losses
 - Compensating for losses of one type of biodiversity by providing a different type that delivers greater benefits for nature conservation
 - Achieving Net Gain locally to the development while also contributing towards nature conservation priorities at local, regional and national levels
 - Enhancing existing or creating new habitat
 - Enhancing ecological connectivity by creating more, bigger, better and joined areas for biodiversity
- 7) **Be additional.** Achieve nature conservation outcomes that demonstrably exceed existing obligations (i.e. do not deliver something that would occur anyway).

¹ CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2016) *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development*.

² CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2019) *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. A practical guide*.

- 8) **Create a Net Gain legacy.** Ensure Net Gain generates long-term benefits by:
- Engaging stakeholders and jointly agreeing practical solutions that secure Net Gain in perpetuity
 - Planning for adaptive management and securing dedicated funding for long-term management
 - Designing Net Gain for biodiversity to be resilient to external factors, especially climate change
 - Mitigating risks from other land uses
 - Avoiding displacing harmful activities from one location to another
 - Supporting local-level management of Net Gain activities
- 9) **Optimise sustainability.** Prioritise Biodiversity Net Gain and, where possible, optimise the wider environmental benefits for a sustainable society and economy.
- 10) **Be transparent.** Communicate all Net Gain activities in a transparent and timely manner, sharing the learning with all stakeholders.

1.3 **Statement as to whether the biodiversity gain condition would apply in relation to the proposals and purpose of this report**

- 1.3.1 On the basis of the site proposals and habitats present, along with the relevant legislative requirements, it is considered that a planning permission, if granted in respect of the proposals, would necessarily be subject to the Biodiversity Gain planning condition under the legislation.
- 1.3.2 Accordingly, this report provides a biodiversity net gain assessment, including details of the existing (baseline) calculated biodiversity value(s) and associated information, accompanied by a completed biodiversity metric calculation tool in line with the legislative requirements associated with new planning applications.
- 1.3.3 In addition, going beyond the scope of the statutory BNG requirements, this report provides an initial assessment of the likely net change in biodiversity value under the proposed (outline) development, and associated consideration of how a 10% gain can be delivered.

2 Methodology

2.1 Habitat Survey

- 2.1.1 The site was initially surveyed in February 2024 in order to ascertain the general ecological value of the land contained within the boundaries of the site and to identify the main habitats and ecological features present. Following the previously submitted information, in-season survey work was undertaken in June 2024.
- 2.1.2 The site was surveyed based on standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology³, whereby the habitat types present are identified and mapped, together with an assessment of the species composition of each habitat. The site was classified into areas of similar botanical community types, with a representative species list compiled for each habitat identified. Habitats were classified in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification system, version 2.0⁴, and condition assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in the Metric Technical Annex⁵ and using professional judgement. In line with guidance⁶, the fine scale minimum mapping unit (MMU) of 25sqm or 5m in length has been used where possible / relevant.
- 2.1.3 In particular, to accurately determine species diversity within grasslands, 1m x 1m quadrats were surveyed across the grassland areas during the June 2024 survey work. Quadrats were located so as to sample evenly across each area of homogeneous grassland, but with precise locations being selected at random to avoid potential bias.
- 2.1.4 The results of the previous habitat and general faunal survey work undertaken are set out separately within the accompanying Ecological Appraisal report (Aspect Ecology, ref: 6771 EcoAp dv1, dated April 2024). Where relevant, following the in-season survey work undertaken in June 2024, updated survey information is included within this report.
- 2.1.5 During the Habitat Survey, the condition of each habitat type was also assessed in accordance with the Statutory Metric guidance, with the condition assessment updated following the in-season survey work undertaken in June 2024 (as detailed below).

2.2 Survey Constraints and Limitations

- 2.2.1 All of the species that occur in each habitat would not necessarily be detectable during survey work carried out at any given time of the year, since different species are apparent during different seasons. The previous Phase 1 habitat survey and condition assessment survey was undertaken outside the optimal season for grassland survey in particular (May to August). However, further in-season survey work and condition assessment was undertaken during June 2024 and the previous assessment has therefore been updated accordingly.
- 2.2.2 Overall therefore, the updated habitat survey and condition assessment include surveys undertaken within the optimal season and therefore a robust assessment of the habitats and botanical interest across the site could be made.

³ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010, as amended) '*Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit.*'

⁴ UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)

⁵ Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1 - Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology

⁶ The UK Habitat classification User Manual. Version 1.1. 2020

2.3 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

To quantify the level of biodiversity net gain that can be delivered under the proposed development, the change in biodiversity value resulting from the scheme has been calculated using the Statutory Metric calculation tool, as informed by the associated user guide⁹. This takes account of the size, distinctiveness and ecological condition of existing and proposed habitat areas to provide a proxy measure of the present and forecast biodiversity value of a site, and therefore determine the overall change in biodiversity value. These calculations are provided at Appendix 6771/BNG2, with a copy of the relevant completed excel spreadsheet tool available to accompany this document.

- 2.3.1 To establish the habitat baseline, broad habitat areas have been identified based on the survey work undertaken at the site, with habitat condition assigned based on the guidance associated with the statutory metric and professional judgement.
- 2.3.2 The post-development habitat creation is based on the drawing 'Proposed Landscape Strategy Plan; Aspect Landscape Planning Drawing No. 8196/ASP4/LSP' (April 2024). A number of assumptions have been made in terms of the detailed landscaping and management proposals, based on comparative developments and what is realistic and feasible under the proposed land uses and landscape space types. Further details of assumptions made in populating the Metric are provided in Chapter 4 below.

⁹ Defra (February 2024) *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide*.

3 Habitats and Ecological Features

3.1 Existing Habitats

Overview

3.1.1 In line with the previously submitted information, the following habitats/ecological features were identified within the site:

- Grassland
- Buildings, Hardstanding and Associated Features
- Hedgerows;
- Woodland

3.1.2 The locations of individual existing habitats are shown at Plan 6771/BNG1 and further (updated) consideration in regard to individual habitats is provided below.

Grassland

3.1.3 As set out within the previously submitted information, the majority of the site is formed by grassland, which was previously categorised as Modified Grassland (western part of the site) and Other Neutral Grassland (eastern part of the site), albeit it was noted that the previous survey work was necessarily undertaken at a sub-optimal time for grassland survey and accordingly, the previous categorisation and condition assessment was identified as provisional awaiting in-season survey work.

3.1.4 Accordingly, as set out above, additional in-season survey work was undertaken at the site in June 2024, during which species diversity/density within the grassland areas was recorded, through multiple quadrat samples (see Appendix 6771/BNG4).

3.1.5 The grassland present was previously identified to be divided into 4 parcels (G1-G4), with G1 categorised as Other Neutral Grassland (based on a precautionary approach to the out of season survey information). However, following the in-season survey, species diversity/density was recorded to be 7.3 species/m² (including species indicative of sub-optimal condition), with individual quadrats ranging between 5 and 9 species, whilst Perennial Rye-grass was noted to be abundant. As such it is clear that this habitat best meets the definitions for Modified Grassland (including failing three of the four criteria set out within UK Habitat Classification 2.0 for Other Neutral Grassland). Following the grassland survey this habitat has therefore been re-categorised as Modified Grassland.

3.1.6 In line with the previous information, grasslands G2-G4 were recorded to support lower species diversity/density than G1 (see Appendix 6771/BNG4) and as such are similarly confirmed as Modified Grassland.

Buildings, Hardstanding and Associated Features

3.1.7 The buildings, hardstanding and associated features were recorded to remain unchanged from the previously reported position during the survey work undertaken in June 2024.

Hedgerows

3.1.8 The hedgerows present at the site were subject to updated survey work and condition assessment during the June 2024 survey, with the resultant condition assessment adjusted

accordingly where appropriate. The overall description of the hedgerows remains largely unchanged. However, following consultation comments received in relation to the planning application, hedgerow H7 has been reclassified as a “Species-rich Hedgerow with Trees” on a precautionary basis.

- 3.1.9 In addition, during the June 2024 survey work, the presence of small amounts of Japanese Rose *Rosa rugosa* was noted within the west of hedgerow H5 (consistent with the previous background records identified within the previously submitted Ecological Appraisal), albeit this species covered less than 10% of the hedgerow length and accordingly, does not impact on the assigned condition score. Nonetheless, where possible it is recommended that the proposals incorporate the eradication of this species from the retained vegetation in the long term.

Woodland

- 3.1.10 The small group of trees located at the north western corner of the site remains as previously described and accordingly, it categorised as Other woodland, broadleaved in line with the previous information.

3.2 Habitat Condition

- 3.2.1 An updated summary of the classification and condition rationale for the existing (pre-development) habitats is set out at Table 3.1. (including reference to the June 2024 survey work where appropriate), below, with pre-development Hedgerows set out at Table 3.2., below (for further detail refer to the Summary Condition Assessment at Appendix 6771/BNG2 and habitat descriptions within the accompanying Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report). Pre-development habitats and hedgerows are shown at Plan 6771/BNG1.
- 3.2.2 During the survey work undertaken in February 2024 (and in June 2024, albeit noting that this survey work was undertaken subsequent to the application submission), no evidence was recorded to suggest that any activities of the type mentioned in paragraph 6 or 6A of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), and accordingly the baseline habitat value is considered to be as recorded during the surveys, which remains up to date at the current time in line with standard guidance¹¹.

Table 3.1. Pre-development Habitats

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Grassland – Modified Grassland	Poor	G2, G3, G4 Heavily grazed improved grassland. Frequent Perennial Rye with closely-grazed (consistently <2cm) sward and high levels of poaching with considerably greater than 10% bare ground. June 2024 survey work identified an average of 4.9 species/m ² (5.7 across G2 and 3.7 across G3, with G4 clearly similar, small in area and heavily disturbed with manure piles present) such that criterion A (essential for achieving moderate or good condition) is failed.
Grassland – Modified Grassland	Good	G1 Previously assigned as Other Neutral Grassland on a precautionary basis due to out of season survey information, however June 2024 survey work confirmed an average of 7.3 species/m ² whilst Perennial Rye-grass

¹¹ CIEEM (April 2019) *On the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys*

		is abundant. Sheep were noted to be present, albeit the sward remained tall (consistently greater than 7cm), with frequent Nettle patches (over 5% coverage) and lacking bare ground <1%, with significantly less than 10% forb cover (excluding Nettles and Thistles).
Urban – Developed Land, sealed surface	N/A	Existing buildings and hard surfacing. A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Woodland – Other coniferous woodland	Poor	Single line of conifers, measuring over 5m width, which cannot therefore be counted as a hedgerow/line of trees. Non-native, single species lacking in other woodland flora or variation (see condition sheet).
Woodland – Other woodland, broadleaved	Poor	Small group of trees at north western corner. Frequent Lombardy Poplar, poor condition (see condition sheet).
Urban – Bare Ground	Poor	Small area of bare ground associated with chicken coup in residential garden associated with offsite property. Devoid of all vegetation and A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Urban – Vegetated Garden	N/A	Small area of residential garden associated with offsite property. A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Individual Tree – Rural Tree	Moderate	Single semi-mature Scots Pine present within western site boundary. No evidence of adverse impact on tree health and lacking in features such as deadwood, cavities, Ivy or loose bark.

Table 3.2. Pre-development Hedgerows

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Native Species-rich Hedgerow (H1)	Good	Recorded to pass all of the relevant condition criteria, with the exception of C2 (Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominante <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground).
Native Hedgerow (H2, H3, H5)	Good	Recorded to pass all of the relevant condition criteria, with the exception of C1, in the case of H2 and H4 (Undisturbed ground – due grazed grassland and gardens immediately adjacent) and C2 for C2, C3 and C4 (Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominante <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground).
Native Species-rich Hedgerow (H7)	Moderate	Recorded to pass all of the relevant condition criteria, with the exception of of C1, (Undisturbed ground – due grazed grassland/grazing pressure and buildings to the north and road adjacent to the south), C2 (Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominante <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground) and D2 (due to damage from road usage including wheel ruts, excessive rubbish).

3.3 Post-development Habitats

Assumptions

3.3.1 When inputting the post-development habitat areas and condition to the Statutory Metric, the following assumptions have been made:

- The proposed habitats are based on the latest Landscape Strategy Plan (Aspect Landscape Planning Drawing No. 8196/ASP4/LSP, dated April 2024 – see Appendix 6771/BNG1)
- New and enhanced habitats under the proposals will be managed appropriately to reach the assigned target condition (anticipated to be defined by a future management plan);
- Further specific assumptions in regard to individual habitat areas are identified as appropriate within the “User Comments” column within the completed Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet.

Habitat Type and Condition

3.3.2 A summary of post-development habitat creation is set out in Table 3.3. with proposed new hedgerow creation set out in Table 3.4., below. Post-development habitats are shown at Plan 6771/BNG2.

Table 3.3. Post-development Habitat Creation

Habitat	Target Condition	Condition Rationale
Urban – Developed Land; Sealed Surface	N/A	This includes all roads, parking and buildings within the site. A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Grassland – Other Neutral Grassland	Good	Proposed wildflower grassland provided using an appropriate species-rich wildflower mixture and managed appropriately to maximise ecological value. Given appropriate creation and suitable long-term management it is anticipated that all of the relevant condition criteria could be met for good condition.
Grassland – Other Neutral Grassland	Moderate	Proposed attenuation basin – created and managed as wildflower grassland using an appropriate species-rich wildflower mixture. Assigned moderate condition on a precautionary basis in view of requirement for drainage management, albeit it is anticipated that all of the relevant condition criteria could be met for good condition.
Grassland – Modified Grassland	Poor	Amenity grassland including mown paths.

Heathland and Shrub – Mixed Scrub	Good	Small amounts of scrub, associated with the site boundaries to be provided , which will include a minimum of three woody species. No invasive or undesirable species to be included. A well-developed edge and good age range can be developed over time and planting will be in patches within wildflower grassland. The scrub is therefore expected to achieve good condition.
Urban – Vegetated garden	N/A	This includes the gardens of the proposed properties. No assessment for the condition of this habitat is required.
Individual Trees – Rural Tree	Moderate	Proposed individual native trees within wildflower grassland/open space areas. (Good condition unlikely to be achievable within the relevant timescales due to the requirement for mature trees and varied habitat niches such as standing deadwood, lifted bark or cavities)
Individual Trees – Urban Tree	Moderate	Proposed individual native trees within residential areas (outside of private gardens). (Good condition unlikely to be achievable within the relevant timescales due to the requirement for mature trees and varied habitat niches such as standing deadwood, lifted bark or cavities)

Table 3.4. Post-development Linear Feature (Hedgerow) Creation

Habitat	Target Condition	Condition Rationale
Species-rich Native Hedgerow	Moderate	A mix of native species will be planted at a density of five or more woody species per 30m and managed in the long term to maximise biodiversity value. Assigned moderate condition on a precautionary basis, albeit good condition likely to be achievable based on relevant criteria.

3.4 Strategic Significance

- 3.4.1 Strategic significance in the metric is assigned to give extra value to habitats that are located in optimal locations, or are of a type that meet local objectives for biodiversity. No available Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been published to date for Leicestershire. Accordingly, no strategic significance has been applied to the habitats pre or post-development of the site, particularly given the nature of the existing habitats, which do not provide any specifically raised ecological value .

4 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Results

4.1 Metric calculation

- 4.1.1 The data from the updated baseline habitat survey work and the proposed habitat enhancement and creation works have been coded into the Metric, based on the assumptions and considerations set out. The results are summarised in Table 4.1 below, whilst copies of the relevant sections of the completed (updated) Metric tool are provided at Appendix 6771/BNG3 (a copy of the completed Metric calculator tool in MS excel format is also provided to accompany this report).

Table 4.1 Summary of Statutory Metric calculation results (following in-season survey work June 2024)

Unit type	Existing baseline 'value'	Post-intervention 'value'	Identified net unit change	Identified net % change
Habitat units	7.62 units	6.71 units	-0.91 units	-12.00%
Hedgerow units	2.94 units	3.30 units	+0.36 units	+12.25%

- 4.1.2 In summary, following the updated (in-season) survey work and associated considerations, the Metric indicates that based on the indicative landscape strategy, the proposed development will result in a calculated loss of 0.91 habitat units (representing a loss of 12.00%), whilst an indicative gain of 0.36 Hedgerow Units (representing a gain of 12.25%) is identified. Any final BNG result would necessarily be dependent on the final detailed scheme, which would clearly not be available at the current outline stage, albeit on the basis of the current information it is likely that the proposed development would result in a small loss of habitat units amounting to approximately 1 habitat unit.

4.2 Offset Availability and Provision

- 4.2.1 Any detailed layout design would look to minimise the calculated loss of biodiversity wherever possible as part of an updated, detailed BNG assessment. As set out above, with the exception of a single break in the northern boundary hedgerow to provide access (which clearly cannot be avoided in order to achieve a viable access to the site), the proposals would not result in adverse effects on any priority habitats, whilst (following the in-season survey work), the only medium distinctiveness habitat that will be affected is the single semi-mature Scots Pine located north of building B2.
- 4.2.2 Accordingly, on the basis of the current information it is unlikely that a calculated loss of biodiversity units could be avoided, or the required 10% BNG provided within the site boundary whilst maintaining the proposed contribution to local housing need (albeit noting the current outline stage of the application, any final assessment would necessarily depend on the final detailed design information and accordingly would need to be confirmed at the appropriate design stage following granting of any outline planning permission).
- 4.2.3 As such, in order to compensate for the calculated loss of habitat units and provide an overall net gain in line with standard requirements, it is proposed that offsetting be provided through offsite habitat provision (or as a last resort, purchase of statutory credits), final details of which would be anticipated to be confirmed at the reserved matters stage, once the detailed layout and associated deficit figure can be confirmed (and therefore, the precise number of offsite units required would need to be confirmed at the detailed stage). In line with statutory requirements, details of the amount and type of the proposed offsite gains would be set out within the Biodiversity Gain Plan submitted following the granting of

planning permission (prior to commencement of any development) in line with the Statutory Biodiversity Gain Condition.

- 4.2.4 At this stage, in line with government advice, it is anticipated that offsite BNG delivery would be provided through offsets purchased on the market. Given the recent nature of the legislative requirement and developing market, a range of available offsets and offset providers are anticipated to emerge, whilst noting the relatively small number of habitat units required (approximately 1.7 habitat units allowing for the 10% net gain requirement), these would be anticipated to be readily available on the market prior to the commencement of any development at the site. Nonetheless, as a last resort (and only should it be possible to demonstrate that insufficient off-site options are available in England in line with guidance available at www.gov.uk, following approaches to at least 3 local or national suppliers) purchase of statutory credits remains an available option, such that it is clear that offsite units could be provided in respect of the development.

4.3 **Additional faunal benefits not captured by the Metric**

- 4.3.1 Further biodiversity benefits will be provided by faunal enhancements, for example through the provision of new bat and bird boxes (which can be secured via suitably worded planning conditions). Such faunal enhancements are not quantified under the Metric as this deals with habitats alone and does not address faunal benefits.

5 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1.1 Aspect Ecology is advising Manor Oak Homes in respect of ecological matters relating to land east of Leicester Road, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, which is proposed for residential development. The proposals are the subject of an outline planning application submitted to Hinkley and Bosworth Council (ref: 24/00484/OUT).
- 5.1.2 The planning application was informed by ecological information, including a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment to determine the level of biodiversity net gain that could be achieved under the scheme, as set out within the previous version of this report. The previous information was based on survey work undertaken during February 2024 (outside of the optimal seasonal period) and accordingly, this was identified to form an initial assessment, to be updated once with further in-season survey work had been completed. The in-season survey work was undertaken at the site in June 2024 and the BNG assessment information updated, details of which are set out within this updated report.
- 5.1.3 Following the completion of the in-season survey work and associated updated assessment, on the basis of the calculations set out and associated assumptions, the metric identifies that the proposals would result in a calculated biodiversity loss of approximately 0.91 habitat units, albeit a net gain in hedgerow units (greater than 10%) is calculated on the basis of the assumptions set out. BNG guidance is very clear that Habitat Units and Hedgerows units are calculated within separate ‘modules’ within the metric and cannot be summed, traded or converted, with net gains required separately in respect of each relevant unit type.
- 5.1.4 Accordingly (in line with the previously submitted position), in order to reflect the calculated loss in Habitat Units, further provision of BNG Habitat Units will be required, and (particularly given the nature of the site and associated constraints) it is proposed to address this through offsite provision of compensatory habitats (offsetting) in line with standard guidance requirements, the precise level of which would be determined at the detailed stage (albeit given the relatively low number of units anticipated, such provision would be anticipated to be readily available from local or national offsetting providers).

Plan 6771/BNG1:

Existing Habitats



- Key:
- Site Boundary
 - Grassland 1 - refer to text (1.0850ha)
 - Grassland 2 - refer to text (0.2100ha)
 - Grassland 3 - refer to text (0.2050ha)
 - Grassland 4 - refer to text (0.0150ha)
 - Vegetated garden (0.0200ha)
 - Other woodland; mixed (0.0200ha)
 - Bare ground (0.0100ha)
 - Developed land; sealed surface: Building (0.0150ha)
 - Developed land; sealed surface: Hardstanding (0.0100ha)
 - Native hedgerow (0.26km)
 - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees (0.09km)
 - Tree [1]



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Land off Leicester Road,
Earl Shilton
Pre-development Habitat Measurements

PROJECT

TITLE

DRAWING
NO.

REV

DATE

QC



6771/BNG1

B/JP

August 2024

CL/JP

Plan 6771/BNG2:

Post-development Habitats

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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Retained Other woodland; mixed (0.0100ha)
- Other neutral grassland (0.3275ha)
- Other neutral grassland: Attenuation basin (0.0525ha)
- Modified grassland (0.0550ha)
- Mixed scrub (0.1775ha)
- Vegetated garden (0.5600ha)
- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (0.0125ha)
- Developed land; sealed surface: Hardstanding (0.1900ha)
- Developed land; sealed surface: Building (0.2075ha)
- Retained Native hedgerow (0.255km)
- Retained Species-rich native hedgerow with trees (0.09km)
- Proposed Native hedgerow (0.075km)
- Proposed Rural Tree [41]
- Proposed Urban Tree [30]

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APEM Group

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Land off Leicester Road, Earl Shilton Post-development Habitat Measurements	PROJECT
	TITLE
	DRAWING NO.
	REV
	DATE
	QC

Appendix 6771/BNG1:

Proposed Landscape Strategy Plan

Indicative Ornamental Hedge

Planting
Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)
Ligustrum ovalifolium (Privet)
Osmanthus x burkwoodii
Skimmia spp
Prunus spp
Escallonia spp
Mixed native species hedges to site boundaries



Indicative Grass Seed

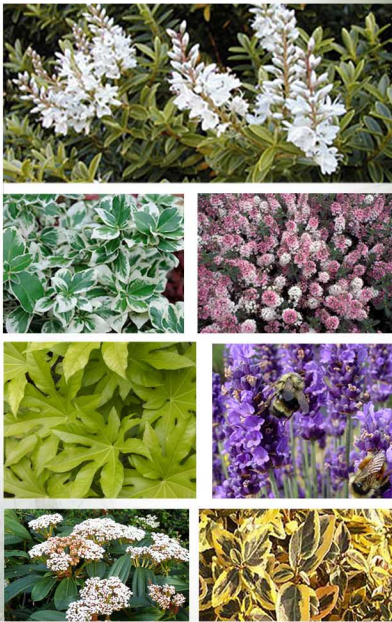
Mixes
Wildflower:
Emorsgate - EH1
Hedgerow Mix or similar by hedgerows & in shaded areas
Emorsgate - EM2
Standard general purpose meadow mix or similar for central areas
Emorsgate - EM8 Meadow
Mix for wetlands or similar for SUDS

Amenity Grass:
Hurrells P8 Flowering
Lawn Wildflower & Grass seed mixture or similar

Mown Grass Paths:
Hurrells HM3 Hard wearing lawn grass seed mix or similar

Indicative Ornamental Shrubs

Cistus corbariensis, Cornus sanguinea, Euonymus fortunei 'Silver Queen', Fatsia japonica, Hebe 'Nicola's Blush', Hebe rakaiensis, Viburnum davidii



Indicative Native Shrub

& Hedge Planting
Acer campestre
Cornus sanguinea
Corylus avellana
Crataegus monogyna
Ilex aquifolium
Ligustrum vulgare
Prunus spinosa
Rhamnus cathartica
Rosa canina
Sambucus nigra
Viburnum lantana
Viburnum opulus



Mixed Native Hedgerows
10% Cornus sanguinea
10% Corylus avellana
40% Crataegus monogyna
5% Ligustrum vulgare
25% Prunus spinosa
5% Rosa canina
5% Viburnum lantana

Approved application for development at Hill Top Farm of 50 dwellings (ref:20/00916/FUL)

Indicative Native Understorey Planting to include:
Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa)
Dogwood (Cornus sanguinea)
Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna)
Hazel (Corylus avellana)
Holly (Ilex aquifolium)
Privet (Ligustrum vulgare)

Attenuation Basin Planting & Wetland Meadow

Dogwood (Cornus sanguinea), Coppiced Willow (Salix spp), Alder (Alnus glutinosa), Downy Birch (Betula pubescens).



Indicative Open Space & Native Boundary Trees

Acer campestre
Betula pendula
Carpinus betulus
Corylus avellana
Crataegus monogyna
Malus sylvestris
Prunus avium



1. Existing boundary vegetation mostly retained and reinforced to provide a further degree of containment to the built form.

2. Minimum 5-metre landscape buffer incorporated along the western site boundary with boundary enhancements and acoustic fencing to soften noise levels from Leicester Road.

3. New mixed native hedgerow to provide a continuous boundary treatment along the southern Site boundary, with a maintenance strip of a minimum 3 metres provided.

4. Native shrub and native tree planting to integrate the built form and protect and enhance existing residential amenity from adjacent properties.

5. Street tree planting to provide vertical interest and break up the massing of the built form.

6. Ornamental shrub planting and clipped, low-growing hedgerow to provide a high-quality landscape setting within the development, offering year-round interest.

7. Public open space to mainly comprise species-rich wildflower grassland to enhance biodiversity levels and retain a degree of openness on-site.

8. Housing to front onto the proposed areas of open space to establish a positive development edge and provide natural surveillance.

9. Mown grass paths to provide connectivity through the open space and link onto the adjacent bridleway (PRoW U25).

10. New pedestrian and cycle link between the Site and Leicester Road.

11. LAP play space to provide play space opportunities on-site.

12. Integrated SuDS feature to enhance on-site biodiversity levels and form a focal point within the open space.

13. Seating opportunities to enhance views of the countryside to the north as well as views of the grade II* listed Church of St Simon and St Jude to the south-east.

NOTES:
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REV	DATE	NOTE	DRAWN	CHK'D

aspect landscape planning

TITLE
Earl Shilton, Leicestershire
Landscape Strategy Plan

CLIENT
Manor Oak Homes **DRAFT**

SCALE 1:750 @ A3	DATE APR 2024	DRAWN EL	CHK'D IC
DRAWING NUMBER 8196 / ASP4 / LSP	REVISION		

Appendix 6771/BNG2:

Habitat Condition Sheets (updated August 2024)

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)													
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type													
Grassland - Modified grassland													
Habitat Description													
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Leicester Road, Earl Shilton	Survey date and Surveyor name		16/02/2024 and 24/06/2024 CL									
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		G2	G3	G4		G1							
		Grid reference											
Condition Assessment Criteria													
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)	
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	N	N	N		Y							
	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.												
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	N	N	N		Y							
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present).	Y	Y	N		Y							
	Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.												
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	N	N	N		Y							
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	N	N	N		N							
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	Y	Y		Y							
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Y	Y	Y		Y							
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		N	N	N		Y							
Number of criteria passed		3	3	2		6							
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√											
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)					6							
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)												
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	3	3	2									
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													
Footnotes													
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .													
Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.													
Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.													
Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).													

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type															
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															
Ukhav - UK Habitat Classification This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (wylva.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	Leicester Road, Earl Shilton	Survey date and Surveyor name	16/02/2024 CL	Habitat parcel reference											
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		Grid reference											
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.	1	1										
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	3										
C Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ³ >10% cover.	3	3										
D Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species ⁴ across woodland parcel.	1	1										
E Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	1	2										
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	3										
G Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland ⁸ ; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland ⁸ .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	1	2										
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	2										
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	1										
J Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland ¹¹ .	Two storeys across all survey plots ¹¹ .	One or less storey across all survey plots ¹¹ .	1	1										
K Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.	1	1										
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 .	1	3										
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 .	1	1										
Total Score (out of a possible 39)				21	24										
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved											
Total score >32 (33 to 39)		Good (3)													
Total score 26 to 32		Moderate (2)													
Total score <26 (13 to 25)		Poor (1)		21	24										
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score															

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type												
Habitat Types												
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral												
Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs												
Urban - Allotments												
Urban - Biodiverse green roof												
Urban - Bioswale												
Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards												
Urban - Facade-bound green wall												
Urban - Ground based green wall												
Urban - Intensive green roof												
Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land												
Urban - Rain garden												
Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)												
Urban - Vacant or derelict land												
Urban - Bare ground												
Habitat Description												
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs, and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats: ukhab -- UK Habitat Classification												
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Leicester Road, Earl Shilton		Survey date and Surveyor name		16/02/2024 CL						
				Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)								
Limitations (if applicable)				Habitat parcel reference								
				BG1								
				Grid reference								
Condition Assessment Criteria											Notes (such as justification)	
				Criterion passed (Yes or No)								
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types:												
A		Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.		N								
B		The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.		N								
C		Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ . Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).		Y								
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land only:												
D		The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: - At least four early successional communities (a) to (i): Communities: (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland; (i) pools.		N/A								
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for Bioswale and SuDS habitat types only:												
E1		Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife ⁴ .		N/A								
E2		The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.		N/A								
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for intensive green roofs only:												
F		The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).		N/A								
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Biodiverse green roofs only:												
G		The roof has a varied depth of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers. Note – to achieve Good condition, some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc. are present.		N/A								
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)				Y								
Number of criteria passed				1								
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved <i>N/A</i>								
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):												
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Good (3)										
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)										
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.		Poor (1)		1								
Results for Green roofs and Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (requiring assessment of 4 criteria only - core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type):												
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (D, F or G).		Good (3)										
• Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR • Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)										
• Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.		Poor (1)										
Results for Bioswale or SuDS (requiring assessment of 5 criteria - core criteria plus additional criteria specified for habitat type):												
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group E)		Good (3)										
• Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR • Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)										
• Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.		Poor (1)										
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score												
Footnotes												

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. <i>Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of <u>rural</u> trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</i>																						
Habitat Description																						
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 should predominantly 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	Leicester Road, Earl Shilton				Survey date and Surveyor name		24/06/2024 CL															
					Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		T6 (single Scots Pine)															
Limitations (if applicable)					Habitat parcel reference																	
					<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>																	
Condition Assessment Criteria				Grid reference																		
				<table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>																		
				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).				Y																	
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).				Y																	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .				N																	
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.				Y																	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.				N																	
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.				Y																	
Number of criteria passed																						
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved x/√																		
Passes 5 or 6 criteria		Good (3)																				
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)		Y																		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)																				
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.																						
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²																						

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types

Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch

Native hedgerow with trees

Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch

Species-rich native hedgerow

Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch

Species-rich native hedgerow with trees

Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch

Initial Description

Link - UK Habitat Classification

On-site or off-site, site name and location

Leicester Road, East Shilton

Survey date and Surveyor name

16/02/2024 & 24/06/2024 CL

Limitations (if applicable)

Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)

Surveying procedure (Details)

A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.

This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook¹ and 'Favourable Conservation Status documents'.² For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.

Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)

Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'

Criteria description

Habitat parcel reference

Grid reference

Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types

Criteria passed (Yes or No)

Notes (such as justification)

A1

Height

>1.5 m average along length

The average height of woody growth estimated from least of stem to the top of the shoot, excluding any bank formed by the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.

Newly tall or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).

A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion unless it is >1.5 m height.

Y

Y

Y

Y

A2

Width

>1.5 m average along length

The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.

Outgrowths (such as blackthorn Prunus spinosa suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height.

Last 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).

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

B1

Gap - hedge base

Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.2 m for >50% of length

This is the vertical 'gapness' 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 62 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).

N

Y

Y

N

N

B2

Gap - hedge canopy continuity

Gaps make up <10% of total length and no canopy gaps >4 m

This is the horizontal 'gapness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (the matter how small).

Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gapness' but are not subject to the >4 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

C1

Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation

>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >50% 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 (including water) disturbance at the base of the hedgerow.

Undisturbed ground is present for at least 50% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow.

This criterion recognizes the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, healthy trampled, grazed, planted ground etc. can limit available habitat (richness).

Y

Y

Y

Y

N

C2

Native-perennial ground vegetation

Plant species indicative of native environment of site dominate >20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.

The indicator species used are native grasses, clovers, thistles, etc. These species, when they are native, do not exceed the 20% cover threshold.

N

N

N

N

N

D1

Invasive and neophyte species

>50% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCCA) and recently introduced species.

Recently introduced species refer to plants that have introduced in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Acquisophytes cover all natives. For information on acquisophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website³, as well as the JNCC website⁴ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Plant Community' is available. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Species Portal⁵.

Y

Y

Y

Y

Y

D2

Current damage

>50% 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 disturbance in other attributes.

This could include evidence of pollution, proof of major or minor, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).

N

Y

Y

Y

N

Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only

E1

Tree class

There is more than one species (or morphology) of tree present (for example, young, mature, veteran and/or ancient), and there is an 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 recruitment of trees and provide opportunities for different species.

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

E2

Tree health

At least 50% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding where features valuable for wildlife). There is no or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activities.

This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

N/A

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

Assessment Categories for hedgerows with trees

Category

Category Requirements

Metric Score

Good

No more than 2 failures in total;
AND
No more than 1 failure in any functional group.

3

Moderate

No more than 4 failures in total;
AND
Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C1 = Moderate condition).

2

Poor

Fails a total of more than 4 attributes;
OR
Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).

1

Score achieved

Assessment Categories for hedgerows without trees

Category

Category Requirements

Metric score

Good

No more than 2 failures in total;
AND
No more than 1 failure in any functional group.

3

Moderate

No more than 5 failures in total;
AND
Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).

2

Poor

Fails a total of more than 5 attributes;
OR
Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).

1

Score achieved

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Appendix 6771/BNG3:

Extracts from the completed Statutory Biodiversity Metric tool
(updated August 2024)

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric
Start page

Project details			
Planning authority:	Hinckley & Bosworth DC		
Project name:	Land off Leicester Road, Earl Shilton		
Applicant:	Manor Oak Homes		
Application type:	Outline		
Planning application reference:	24/00484/OUT		
Completed by:	Aspect Ecology (CL)		
Date of metric completion:	02 August 2024		
Reviewer:			
Calculation iteration:	v11		
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	No ✓		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	1.59	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

Cell style conventions	
	Attention required
	Input error/rules and principles not met
	Use of this cell is not appropriate
	Enter data
	Automatic lookup
	Result

On-site baseline map

Insert

On-site baseline map reference number

Off-site baseline map

Insert

Off-site baseline map reference number

On-site post intervention map

Insert

On-site post-intervention map reference number

Off-site post intervention map

Insert

Off-site post-intervention reference number

Main menu

Results

View all

Reset view

Land off Leicester Road, Earl Shilton
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ▲

Return to
results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	7.62		
	Hedgerow units	2.94		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	6.71		
	Hedgerow units	3.30		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	-0.91	-12.00%	On-site net gain is less than target set ▲
	Hedgerow units	0.36	12.25%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%	

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-0.91		
	Hedgerow units	0.36		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00		
	Hedgerow units	0.00		
	Watercourse units	0.00		

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-0.91
	Hedgerow units	0.36
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	-12.00%
	Hedgerow units	12.25%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?		No - Check Trading Summaries ▲

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Habitat units	10.00%	7.62	8.38	1.68	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓ No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	2.94	3.23	0.00	
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Input errors/rule breaks present in metric ▲

[illegible]

Appendix 6771/BNG4:

Grasslands – botanical quadrat survey data (June 2024)

Species recorded within the grassland sward areas of the site during specific grassland survey work undertaken on 24 June 2024.

Grassland G1 (Previously assigned as Other Neutral Grassland)

Species		Quadrat Number										Total Number of Quadrats Present
Scientific name	Common name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<i>Grasses/Sedges/Rushes</i>												
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	8
<i>Poa</i> sp.	Meadow-grass species	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	9
<i>Anoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal	X	X	X	X	X				X		6
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	9
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail		X					X				2
<i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail		X	X	X							3
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome								X			1
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Woodrush			X								1
<i>Carex</i> sp.	Sedge sp.				X							1
<i>Forbs</i>												
<i>*Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	X		X			X					3
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	X								X	X	3
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	X	X				X		X	X		5
<i>*Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle		X		X			X	X			4
<i>*Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	8
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribworth Plantain			X	X		X					3
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel			X	X	X		X			X	5
<i>Traxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion						X				X	2
<i>Total Species (Forbs)</i>		7 (3)	9 (3)	9 (4)	9 (4)	5 (1)	8 (5)	7 (3)	6 (3)	6 (3)	7 (4)	

Total: 9 grass species and 8 forbs recorded across all quadrats, with individual quadrats each containing a recorded total of 5-9 species (Average number of species per m² (quadrat)= 7.3)

Other species recorded within the grassland sward during June 2024, but not present within any of the individual quadrats: Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Stinging Nettle *Urtica dioica* (including dense patches), Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*. Throughout the sward, forbs were recorded to be no more than rarely occurring with the exception of Creeping Thistle and Stinging Nettle.

Based on quadrat data, grassland within G1 is therefore assessed as Modified Grassland.

*Species indicative of suboptimal condition as listed in Footnote 3 (Other Neutral Grassland) or Footnote 1 (Modified Grassland) within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition sheets

Grassland G2 & G3 (Modified Grassland)

Species		Quadrat Number																Total Number of Quadrats
Scientific name	Common name	(G3)						(G2)										
Grasses/Sedges/Rushes		A	B	C	N	O	P	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	16
<i>Poa</i> sp.	Meadow-grass species					X					X				X	X	X	5
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent								X				X	X				3
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	X	X	X				X	X	X		X	X			X		9
<i>Anoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal															X		1
<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad rush						X								X			2
Forbs																		
* <i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover			X	X			X		X		X	X	X		X		8
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear		X		X	X					X					X		5
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow					X	X	X				X	X	X		X		7
* <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle										X							1
* <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup								X		X				X			3
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribworth Plantain											X		X				2
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel					X		X		X			X					4
<i>Traxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion											X	X	X				3
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal											X						1
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat’s-ear													X				1
* <i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain				X										X		X	3
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field Horsetail														X			1
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knot-grass																X	1
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy																X	1
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell					X												1
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle						X											1
Total Species (Forbs)		2 (0)	3 (1)	3 (1)	4 (3)	6 (4)	4 (2)	5 (3)	4 (1)	4 (2)	5 (3)	7 (5)	7 (4)	7 (5)	6 (3)	7 (3)	5 (3)	

Total: 6 grass/sedge/rush species and 16 forbs recorded across all quadrats, with individual quadrats each containing a recorded total of 2-7 species (Average number of species per m² (quadrat)= 4.9 across all areas (5.7 within G2 and 3.7 within G3))

Based on quadrat data, grassland within G2 and G3 is therefore assessed as Modified Grassland.

*Species indicative of suboptimal condition as listed in Footnote 3 (Other Neutral Grassland) or Footnote 1 (Modified Grassland) within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition sheets



- Key:
- Site Boundary
 - Grassland 1 - refer to text (1.0850ha)
 - Grassland 2 - refer to text (0.2100ha)
 - Grassland 3 - refer to text (0.2050ha)
 - Grassland 4 - refer to text (0.0150ha)
 - Quadrat Location
 - Location of Japanes Rose

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Land off Leicester Road,
Earl Shilton
Update Survey Plan

PROJECT

TITLE

DRAWING
NO.

REV

DATE

QC



6771/BNG3

A/JP

August 2024

CL/JP

ecology • landscape planning • arboriculture



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