

Land off Whalley Road, Hurst Green BB7 9QJ

ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

August 2025

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd Reference: 2025-170b

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Document Control

Survey Type:	Surveyors	Survey Date(s)
UK Habitat Classification Survey (including Condition Assessments of habitats)	Victoria Burrows B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. CEnv MCIEEM Principal Ecologist	20 th June 2025 13 th August 2025
Reporting	Personnel	Date
Author	Victoria Burrows B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. CEnv MCIEEM	14 th August 2025
Signature(s)		
Checked by	Rebecca Bayley Graduate Ecologist	18 th August 2025
Revised and issued by	Brian Robinson B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM	18 th August 2025
Report issued to	ZMA	
Version Number	1	
Metric Version	Statutory Metric version 1.0.4 of the metric published 3 rd July 2025	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

- 1.1.1 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd was commissioned to carry out an assessment of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) at the land off Whalley Road, Hurst Green BB7 9QJ (hereafter the 'site'). The Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference at the centre of the site is SD 69152 38080.
- 1.1.2 The assessment was requested to inform a planning application proposing the construction of four holiday lodges with associated facilities.
- 1.1.3 This BNG assessment has been prepared to provide an assessment of the biodiversity value of the baseline of the site, an assessment of the value of post-intervention habitats based on the site proposals and landscape strategy, and provides guidance in relation to the requirements to attain a net gain in accordance with *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development* (CIEEM, 2016).
- 1.1.4 This report also advises on how compliance with Chapter 15, paragraph 193(d) of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024)¹ can be achieved, which states '*opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate*'.

1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 An aerial image of the site is appended at **Figure 1**. The total site area is **0.9535 hectares²**.
- 1.2.2 The habitats present within the site are described and assessed in *2025-170 Land off Whalley Road, Hurst Green BB7 9QJ, Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2025), hereafter referred to as the 'ecology report'.
- 1.2.3 A summary of the habitats present within the site is presented at **Section 3.1** of this report.

1.3 Proposed Development Description

- 1.3.1 The assessment has been requested to inform a planning application proposing the construction of four holiday lodges. The proposals are presented at the *Proposed Site Plan* (ZMA, 2025) hereafter the 'proposals plan'.

1.4 Scope of Study

- 1.4.1 This report has been prepared to accompany a completed assessment of BNG using *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool* (Natural England, 2023). The completed Microsoft Excel spreadsheet assessment is presented as a separate document, named '*ERAP Ltd 2025-170b Statutory Metric Whalley Road, Hurst Green v1_ 14.08.25*', hereafter referred to as the 'BNG Metric'.

¹ Hereafter the NPPF

² As measured by ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd; detail on the methods used to measure the area of the site are presented at **Section 2.0**. It has been considered suitable in this instance to measure the area habitats in hectares to four decimal places (i.e. to a m² level of accuracy).

- 1.4.2 It is intended that this report provides a transparent assessment to demonstrate the calculation of net gain, based on the reasonable parameters assumed for the proposals (refer to **Section 2.3**). This approach has been applied on a number of other sites ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd has assisted with and has been accepted by the relevant Local Planning Authorities (LPA) and their ecological advisors to enable a planning application to progress.

2.0 METHOD OF SURVEY

2.1 Habitat Assessment and Mapping

Baseline Habitats

- 2.1.1 A Phase 1 Habitat Survey including an assessment in accordance with the UKHab and condition assessments of the habitats present was carried out by Victoria Burrows B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. CEnv MCIEEM on 20th June 2025. The weather was dry with a light air (Beaufort scale 1) and an air temperature of 17°C.
- 2.1.2 An updated survey was carried out on 13th August 2025; the weather conditions were dry and sunny with a light air (Beaufort scale 1) and an air temperature of 27°C.
- 2.1.3 On site habitat mapping was assisted via use of GPS technology and QField on-site mapping software, using the *Existing Site Plan* (ZMA, 2025) and *ESRI World Imagery* as base plans. This plan was provided to ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd without spatial referencing; the plan has been inputted into QGIS and an affine transformation completed to ensure it is accurate in accordance with *ESRI World Imagery*.
- 2.1.4 Each of the habitats within the site has been assessed in accordance with the UKHab to determine each habitat type present. This has allowed a reliable classification of habitats in accordance with those used by the BNG Metric.
- 2.1.5 The UKHab has been designed to function at two scales: fine scale (25m² or 5 metres length) and large scale (400m² or 20m² length). It has been considered for the purposes of this survey (where the UKHab has been used to inform the BNG calculation of a relatively small area) that a finer scale of 5m² is appropriate for the classification of habitats.
- 2.1.6 A plan showing the baseline habitats present within the site in accordance with UKHab symbology is appended at **Figure 2**.
- 2.1.7 Condition Assessments for each of the habitats present within the site have been completed in accordance with *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology* (Natural England, November 2023) and are appended at **Section 7.2**.

Post-intervention Habitats

- 2.1.8 The post-intervention habitats have been calculated using the *Softworks, Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan* (ZMA, 2025). This plan was provided to ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd without spatial referencing; the plan has been inputted into QGIS and an affine transformation completed to ensure it is accurate in accordance with *ESRI World Imagery* and the *Existing Site Plan*.
- 2.1.9 A plan showing the proposed habitats in accordance with UKHab symbology is appended at **Figure 3** and target condition assessments for each of the proposed habitats are appended at **Section 7.3**.

2.2 Survey and Reporting Limitations

- 2.2.1 All measurements have been either estimated whilst on site or measured using QGIS.
- 2.2.2 No survey limitations on the intended scope of survey were experienced.

2.3 Evaluation Methods and Rules Applied

Habitats and Assessment

- 2.3.1 Habitats have been assessed to determine whether they meet those described in *UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Priority Habitat Descriptions* (Maddock, A (ed), 2008); these lists are used to help draw up the statutory lists of Priority Habitats, as required under Section 41 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006*. Where suitable, the ecological value of the habitats present have been assessed using the terms outlined in *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine* (CIEEM, 2018).
- 2.3.2 QGIS has been used to calculate the total area / length of each baseline habitat present within the site and the area / length of the proposed habitats at the site.
- 2.3.3 Each habitat and individual trees have been assessed to determine whether they are 'irreplaceable habitat', defined in NPPF as '*Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen*'. The further detail presented in *The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024* (GOV.UK, 2024) has also been referred to.
- 2.3.4 Existing individual trees and proposed trees have been measured using their specification on the landscape proposals plans and the Tree Helper provided within the BNG Metric.

Relevant Guidance

- 2.3.5 Government advice on wildlife, as set out in the NPPF and associated government circulars has been taken into consideration.

Strategic Significance

- 2.3.6 The site does not lie within a Local Nature Recovery Strategy area, nor does the site have any statutory or non-statutory designation for nature conservation. For these reasons a strategic significance of 'Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy' has been applied at the BNG Metric for the habitat units and trees.

Assumptions

- 2.3.7 Reasonable assumptions, taking into consideration the proposed end use of the site, have been made in relation to the condition assessments for the proposed habitats at the site; the proposed condition assessment for each habitat is appended at **Section 7.3**. Long-term management of the proposed habitats is required to secure the proposed condition.

3.0 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Site Description

3.1.1 Refer to **Figure 2** and the photographs at **Section 7.1**.

3.1.2 The site comprises a sheep-grazed field of improved grassland bordered by a native hedgerow at the northern boundary parallel to Whalley Road and timber post and wire fencing at the western, southern and eastern site boundaries. A line of planted, even-aged Norway Spruce trees extends along the eastern and part of the northern site margins. At the southern site boundary is an earth bank which supports a line of mature Oak and Ash trees with scattered shrubs of Hazel, Hawthorn and Elder. The more steeply sloping areas of the grassland are colonised by Bracken.

3.1.3 There are no irreplaceable habitats at the site.

3.2 Assessment of Baseline Habitats

3.2.1 **Tables 3.1 to 3.3** provide a summary of the habitats present, their condition assessment result and their area within the site. Condition assessments for each habitat are appended at **Section 7.2**.

Table 3.1: Summary of Baseline Area Based Habitats within the Site

Habitat Reference	UK Habitat Classification Type	BNG Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Result	Area (ha)
Habitat 1 Modified grassland	g4 modified grassland with the secondary code 102 sheep grazed	Grassland – modified grassland	Low	Poor	0.9253
Habitat 2 Bracken	g1c Bracken with the secondary code 102 sheep grazed	Grassland – Bracken	Low	Condition assessment – N/a	0.0223
Habitat 3 Hardstanding	u1b6 other developed land	Urban – developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A - Other	0.0045
Habitat 4 Container	u1b5 buildings	Urban – developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A - Other	0.0014
Total:					0.9535

Table 3.2: Summary of Individual Trees within the Site

Habitat Reference	UK Habitat Classification Type	BNG Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Result	Area (ha) ³
Habitat 5.1 1No. small Cherry tree (T1)	secondary code 32 scattered trees within an area of g4 modified grassland	Individual trees – rural tree	Medium	Poor	0.0041
Habitat 5.2 8No. small Norway Spruce (T4 to T11)	secondary code 32 scattered trees within an area of g4 modified grassland	Individual trees – rural tree	Medium	Poor	0.0326
Habitat 5.3 2No. medium Silver Birch (T2 and T3)	secondary code 32 scattered trees within an area of g4 modified grassland	Individual trees – rural tree	Medium	Good	0.0326
Total:					0.0693

Table 3.3: Summary of Baseline Hedgerow Habitats within Site

Habitat Reference	UK Habitat Classification Type	BNG Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Result	Length (km)
Habitat 6 Hedgerow 1	h2ab other native hedgerow	Native hedgerow	Low	Good	0.097
Habitat 7 Line of trees 1 (native)	w1 broadleaved and mixed woodland with the secondary code 33 line of trees	Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	Low	Moderate	0.087
Habitat 8 Line of trees 2 (Norway Spruce)	w2 coniferous woodland with the secondary code 33 line of trees	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow ⁴	V.low	Poor	0.141
Total					0.325

3.2.2 The baseline BNG score for the site is provided at **Section 5.0**, below.

4.0 POST-INTERVENTION HABITATS

4.1 Consideration of Mitigation Hierarchy and Target Condition Assessments

4.1.1 In accordance with the mitigation hierarchy and ecological guidance the proposals plan achieves the following:

- Retention of the majority of Habitat 6: Hedgerow 1 at the northern site boundary. A length of 14 metres will be removed to create the new site access; this is compensated for by the planting of 6

³ Due to the way individual trees are calculated by the metric they do not contribute to the total habitat area calculation, but are additional to it.

⁴ In accordance with the BNG Metric “If more than 80% canopy cover is not a native UK species then class as hedge – ornamental non-native.”

metres of new hedgerow (Habitat J) at the existing field entrance and by the planting of a further 58 metres of native hedgerow within the site;

- b. Retention of the whole of Habitat 7: Line of trees 1 (and likely enhancement owing to the removal of the grazing sheep);
- c. Retention of the majority of Habitat 8: Line of trees 2 with the exception of the removal of a 10 metres long section to create the site access; this is compensated for by the planting of native hedgerows within the site (Habitat J), as described above;
- d. Retention / conservation and, where feasible, enhancement of Habitat 1: Modified grassland;
- e. Retention of all individual trees (Habitat 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3); and
- f. Retention of the majority of Habitat 2: Bracken.

4.2 Consideration of Proposed Habitats

4.2.1 The proposals plan demonstrates that in addition to the retention (and enhancement) of the habitats as described above the following habitats will be created:

- a. A pond (Habitat H) with associated marginal and emergent wetland plants and a buffer of meadow grassland (Habitat C);
- b. Areas of native mixed scrub (Habitat D);
- c. Reinstatement / creation / enhancement of modified grassland (Habitat F) to be managed in 'moderate' condition; and
- d. Planting of 69 trees. Note: Not all the tree species detailed on the *Softworks, Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan* (ZMA, 2025) have been counted. The Hawthorn shrubs (specified as T4 and T6 on the *Softworks, Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan*) are not 'trees' and have therefore been omitted from the BNG Metric.

Table 4.1: Summary of Area-based Habitats to be Retained, Enhanced and Created at the Site

Habitat Type	BNG Equivalent Habitat	Habitat Distinctiveness	Target Condition	Area (ha)	Sub-totals (ha)
Retained Habitats					
Habitat 2 Bracken	Grassland – Bracken	Low	Condition assessment – N/a	0.0196	
Habitat 3 Hardstanding	Urban – developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A - Other	0.0022	0.0218
Enhanced Habitats					
Habitat 1 Enhanced modified grassland along southern margin of site (steeply sloping land away from construction area)	g4 modified grassland	Low	Moderate (from poor) due to removal of grazing	0.2085	0.2085
Proposed Habitats					
Habitat A Buildings	Urban – developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A - Other	0.0521	

Habitat B Hardstanding	Urban – developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A - Other	0.0980	
Habitat C Pond margin	Grassland – other neutral grassland	Medium	Poor	0.0084	
Habitat D Mixed scrub	Heathland and scrub – mixed scrub	Medium	Moderate	0.0350	
Habitat E Eco-grid	Sparsely vegetated land – ruderal / ephemeral	Low	Poor	0.0082	
Habitat F Modified grassland	Grassland – modified grassland	Low	Moderate	0.5036	
Habitat G Modified grassland at picnic area	Grassland – modified grassland	Low	Poor	0.0127	
Habitat H Pond	Lakes – ponds (non- priority)	Medium	Moderate	0.0052	0.7232
Total					0.9535

Table 4.2: Summary of Individual Trees to be Retained and Created at the Site

Habitat Reference	BNG Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Distinctiveness	Target Condition	Area (ha) ⁵	Sub- totals (ha)
Retained Habitats					
Habitat 5.1 1No. small Cherry tree (T1)	Individual trees – rural tree	Medium	Poor	0.0041	
Habitat 5.2 8No. small Norway Spruce (T4 to T11)	Individual trees – rural tree	Medium	Poor	0.0326	
Habitat 5.3 2No. medium Silver Birch (T2 and T3)	Individual trees – rural tree	Medium	Good	0.0326	0.0693
Proposed Habitats					
Habitat I Urban trees (69, small size)	Individual trees – rural tree	Medium	Moderate	0.2809	0.2809
Total					0.3502

⁵ Small urban trees have a diameter at breast height (DBH) of up to 30cm, medium urban trees have a DBH of 30 to 60cm, large urban trees have a DBH of 60 to 90cm and very large trees have DBH of more than 90cm. Due to the way individual trees are calculated by the metric they do not contribute to the total habitat area calculation, but are additional to it.

Table 4.3: Summary of Hedgerow Habitats to be Retained and Created at the Site

Habitat Type	BNG Equivalent Habitat	Habitat Distinctiveness	Target Condition	Length (km)	Sub-totals (km)
Retained Habitats					
Habitat 6 Hedgerow 1	Native hedgerow	Low	Good	0.083	
Habitat 7 Line of trees 1 (native)	Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	Low	Moderate	0.087	
Habitat 8 Line of trees 2 (Norway Spruce)	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow ⁶	V.low	Poor	0.131	
					0.301
Proposed Habitats					
Habitat J New native hedgerows	Native hedgerow	Low	Good	0.064	
					0.064
Total					0.365

5.0 HEADLINE RESULTS, EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Statutory BNG Metric

5.1.1 The headline results of the BNG Metric are presented at **Table 5.1** below.

Table 5.1: Results of Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool

On-site Baseline	Area habitat units	2.43	44.90%	
	Hedgerow units	1.07		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On-site Post Intervention	Area habitat units	3.53		
	Hedgerow units	1.23		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
On—site net change (units % percentage)	Area habitat units	1.09		44.90%
	Hedgerow units	0.16		14.60%
	Watercourse units	0.00		0.00%
Total Net Unit Change	Area habitat units	1.09		
	Hedgerow units	0.16		
	Watercourse units	0.00		
Total Net % Change	Area habitat units	44.90%		
	Hedgerow units	14.60%		
	Watercourse units	0.00%		
Trading Rules Satisfied?		Yes		

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	Comment
Area habitat units	10%	2.43	2.68	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target
Hedgerow units	10%	1.07	1.18	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target

⁶ In accordance with the BNG Metric "If more than 80% canopy cover is not a native UK species then class as hedge – ornamental non-native."

Watercourse units	10%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target
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5.1.2 The proposals secure 10% statutory net gain and the trading rules are satisfied.

5.2 Other Enhancements for Biodiversity

5.2.1 It is essential that, in addition to the result of the BNG Metric, the assessment of biodiversity net gain takes into account the measures to be accommodated and implemented at the site to secure gains and betterment for biodiversity that the BNG Metric cannot take account of.

5.2.2 At this site it is advised that the following measures are also considered as part of the assessment of biodiversity net gain:

- The proposals will secure a mechanism for the eradication and future control of Indian Balsam (an invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) which is present at the site currently;
- Incorporation of opportunities / boxes for roosting bats at the retained trees although the habitats are suitable for use by foraging bat species such as *Pipistrellus* species, there are no opportunities for roosting bats at the site currently (this is considered to provide additionality);
- Creation of additional dead wood habitat piles, particularly along the established trees and shrubs at the southern site margin (Line of trees 1); and
- Preparation and implementation of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (or similar) to secure long-term management of the retained and created habitats in accordance with conservation targets and objectives.

6.0 REFERENCES

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7.0 APPENDIX: PHOTOGRAPHS, CONDITION ASSESSMENTS AND FIGURES

7.1 Photographs

Table 7.1: Photographs of the Baseline Habitats



Photo 1: Habitat 1: Modified grassland



Photo 2: Habitat 2: Bracken



Photo 3: Habitat 3: Hardstanding



Photo 4: Habitat 4: Container



Photo 5: Habitat 5.1: T1 1No. small Cherry



Photo 6: Habitat 5.2: T4 to T11 8No. small Norway Spruce



Photo 7: Habitat 5.3: T2 and T3 2No. Silver Birch



Photo 8: Habitat 6: Hedgerow 1



Photo 9: Habitat 7: Line of trees 1



Photo 10: Habitat 8: Line of trees 2

7.2 Condition Assessments of Baseline Habitats

Note: Condition assessment not required for Habitat 2: Bracken, Habitat 3: Hardstanding, Habitat 4: Building and Habitat 8: Non-native and ornamental hedgerow

Table 7.2: Condition Assessments for Habitat 1: Low Distinctiveness / Modified Grassland

Habitat Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result ¹
Habitat 1: Modified grassland	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	4	Poor
Good: Passes 6 or 7 criteria including essential criterion A									
Moderate: Passes 4 or 5 criteria including essential criterion A									
Poor: Passes 3 or fewer criteria OR passes 4 to 6 criteria, but failing criterion A									

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. There are 6 to 8 vascular plant species per m² present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in below). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m² (excluding those listed below), 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. <i>Plant Species:</i> 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>).
B. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.
C. Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area (some scattered scrub such as Bramble may be present). Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.
D. Physical damage 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.
E. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens. For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover
F. Cover of Bracken less than 20%.
G. There is an absence of invasive non-native species as listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended). This is assessed 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

Table 7.3: Condition Assessments for Habitat 5: Individual Trees

Tree Reference	Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	Size Category	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat 5.1: T1	Cherry	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Small	2	Poor
Habitat 5.2: T4 to T11	Norway Spruce	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Small	2	Poor
Habitat 5.3: T2 and T3	Silver Birch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Medium	5	Good
Good: Passes 5 or 6 criteria										
Moderate: Passes 3 or 4 criteria										
Poor: Passes 2 or fewer criteria										

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species)
B. Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up less than 10% of total area and no individual gap being more than 5 metres wide. Individual trees automatically pass this criterion.
C. The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature). See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees, available from: <i>Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England</i> (publishing.service.gov.uk) and <i>Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions</i> (www.gov.uk). Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual trees through meeting just one of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.
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.
E. Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.
F. More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath

Table 7.4: Condition Assessments for Habitat 6: Hedgerow 1

Habitat Reference	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2	E1	E2	Total No. of Group Failures	Total No. of Criteria Failures	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat 6: Hedgerow 1	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	-	-	0	2	Good
Hedgerows Without Trees							Hedgerows With Trees						
Good: No more than 2 failures in total; AND no more than 1 in any functional group.							Good: No more than 2 failures in total; AND no more than 1 failure in any functional group.						
Moderate: No more than 4 failures in total; AND does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & C2 = Moderate condition).							Moderate: No more than 5 failures in total; AND does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 & E1 = Moderate condition).						

Poor: Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & B2 = Poor condition).	Poor: Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & B2 = Poor condition).
Condition Assessment Criteria	
A1. Height: >1.5m average along length The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of 4 years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	A2. Width: >1.5m average along length. The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. Blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of 4 years (if undertaken according to good practice)
B1. Gap - hedge base. Gap between ground and base of canopy is less than 0.5m, for more than 90% of length (unless line of trees). This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (e.g. a Hazel dominated hedgerow or where the hedgerow is affected by shading from other vegetation such as woodland, see page 65 of <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook</i>).	B2. Gap - hedge canopy continuity. Gaps make up less than 10% of total length and no canopy gaps are greater than 5m. Gates and access points are not subject to the greater than 5m criterion. This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness', but are not subject to the greater than 5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).
C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation. More than 1m width ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for more than 90% of the hedgerow length, as measured from outer edge of the hedgerow, and is present on at least 1 side of the hedgerow. This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	C2. Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation. Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils do not dominate more than 20% cover of the ground area of undisturbed ground. The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), Cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.
D1. Invasive and neophyte species. More than 90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and recently introduced species.	D2. Current damage. More than 90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damaged caused by human activities. This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.

Condition Assessment Criteria	
Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website, as well as the BSBI website where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website.	This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).
Additional group – ONLY if trees are present	
E1. Tree Class There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 to 50m of hedgerow. This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	E1. Tree health At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity. This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.

Table 7.5: Condition Assessments for Habitat 7: Line of Trees 1

Condition Assessment Criteria	Habitat 7: Tree Line 1
A. More than 70% of trees are native species.	Yes
B. Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up less than 10% of total area and no individual gap being more than 5m wide.	Yes
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.	Yes
D. There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6m 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 .	No
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.	No
Good: passes 5 criteria	-
Moderate: passes 3 or 4 criteria	Yes
Poor: passes 0, 1 or 2 criteria	-

Additional information / definitions:

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. 2nd ed [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).

Footnote 2 – Where ancient and veteran trees are present, see gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from *Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England* (publishing.service.gov.uk) and *Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions* (www.gov.uk)

7.3 Condition Assessments of Retained, Enhanced and Created Habitats

Note: No condition assessment is required for Habitat A: Buildings and Habitat B: Hardstanding

Table 7.6: Condition Assessments for Habitat 1: Enhanced Modified Grassland and Habitats F and G: Modified Grassland

Habitat Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result ¹
Habitat 1: <i>Enhanced</i> modified grassland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	5	Moderate
Habitat F: Modified grassland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	5	Moderate
Habitat G: Modified grassland	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	4	Poor
Good: Passes 6 or 7 criteria including essential criterion A									
Moderate: Passes 4 or 5 criteria including essential criterion A									
Poor: Passes 3 or fewer criteria OR passes 4 to 6 criteria, but failing criterion A									

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. There are 6 to 8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in below). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m2 (excluding those listed below), 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. <i>Plant Species:</i> 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>).
B. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.
C. Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area (some scattered scrub such as Bramble may be present). Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.
D. Physical damage 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.
E. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens. For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover
F. Cover of Bracken less than 20%.
G. There is an absence of invasive non-native species as listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended). This is assessed 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

Table 7.7: Condition Assessments for Habitat C: Pond Margins

Habitat Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat C: Other neutral grassland at pond margins	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	2	Poor
Acid Grassland Types				Non-acid Grassland Types				
Good: passes 5 criteria				Good: passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criteria A and additional criterion F				
Moderate: passes 3 or 4 criteria				Moderate: passes 3 to 5 criteria, including essential criterion A				
Poor: passes 2 or fewer criteria				Poor: passes 2 or fewer criteria; or passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F				

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. The grassland is a good representation of the 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). Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. <i>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</i>
B. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.
C. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens. For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.
D. Cover of Bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including Bramble) less than 5%.
E. Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area (species are listed below). If any invasive non-native plant species as listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended) are present, this criterion is automatically failed. This is assessed 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, by applying professional judgement. <i>Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include:</i> Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Curled Dock, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Nettle, Creeping Buttercup, Greater Plantain, White Clover, Cow Parsley. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and / or site.
Additional Group – non-acid grassland types only
F. There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced at Criterion ‘E’ cannot contribute towards this count). <i>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</i>

Table 7.8: Condition Assessments for Habitats D: Mixed Scrub

Habitat Reference	A	B	C	D	E	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat D: Mixed scrub	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	3	Moderate
							Good: passes 5 criteria
							Moderate: passes 3 or 4 criteria
							Poor: passes 2 or fewer criteria

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species, with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover, except Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), Common Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>), Sea Buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) or Box (<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>), which can be up to 100% cover. Native woody species as defined and listed in the Hedgerow Survey Handbook: DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. 2nd ed.</i> [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).
B. Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present. See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran species. Available from <i>Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England</i> (publishing.service.gov.uk) and <i>Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions</i> (www.gov.uk).
C. There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended)) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover. This is assessed for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, the habitat is 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.
D. The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.
E. There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.

Table 7.9: Condition Assessments for Habitat E: Eco-grid

Habitat Reference	A	B	C	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat E: Eco-grid	No	No	Yes	1	Poor
If only 3 core Criteria Assessed					
Good: Passes all 3 core criteria; AND Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.					
Moderate: Passes 2 core criteria; OR Passes 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.					
Poor: Passes 1 or fewer of core criteria					

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area. 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. C. Invasive non-native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement)² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area. This is assessed 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 <i>Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).</i> Sources of information about detrimental non-native species can be found on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS) website: Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org) and Natural England Access to Evidence page should also be checked for up-to-date information: Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 (naturalengland.org.uk). <i>For green roof habitat types only</i> – Buddleia (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>) should be assessed alongside Schedule 9 species. This species impairs the health of the local ecosystem and reduces the biodiversity potential of the roof. It is also a sign that a roof has not been planted and seeded correctly in subsequent years.

Table 7.10: Condition Assessments for Habitat H: Pond

Habitat Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H*	I*	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat H: Pond	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	8	Moderate
If 7 Criteria Assessed:					If 9 Criteria Assessed:						
Good: passes 7 criteria					Good: passes 9 criteria						
Moderate: passes 5 or 6 criteria					Moderate: passes 6, 7 or 8 criteria						
Poor: passes 4 or fewer criteria					Poor: passes 5 or fewer criteria						

Condition Assessment Criteria
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.
B. There is semi-natural habitat (i.e. medium distinctiveness or above) for at least 10m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.
C. Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed or filamentous algae.
D. The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.
E. Pond water levels should be able to fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams ² , pumps or pipework. This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian Beaver.
F. There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species. Any species included on the Water Framework Directive UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent. Frequently occurring non-native plant species include Water Fern, Australian Swamp Stonecrop, Parrot's Feather, Floating Pennywort and Japanese Knotweed or Giant Hogweed on the bank. Frequently occurring non-native animals include Signal Crayfish, Zebra Mussels, Killer Shrimp, Demon Shrimp and Carp.
G. The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.
*Additional criteria, applicable to non-woodland ponds only. A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.
H. Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) ⁴ cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3m deep.
I. The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.

Table 7.11: Condition Assessments for Habitat I: New Individual Trees

Tree Reference	Species	A	B	C	D	E	F	Size Category	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat I: New trees	Native	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Small	4	Moderate
Good: Passes 5 or 6 criteria										
Moderate: Passes 3 or 4 criteria										
Poor: Passes 2 or fewer criteria										

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species)
B. Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up less than 10% of total area and no individual gap being more than 5 metres wide. Individual trees automatically pass this criterion.
C. The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature). See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees, available from: <i>Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England</i> (publishing.service.gov.uk) and <i>Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions</i> (www.gov.uk). Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual trees through meeting just one of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.
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.
E. Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.
F. More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath

Table 7.12: Condition Assessments for Habitat J: New Native Hedgerow

Habitat Reference	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2	E1	E2	Total No. of Group Failures	Total No. of Criteria Failures	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat H: New native Hedgerow	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	-	-	0	2	Good
Hedgerows Without Trees							Hedgerows With Trees						
Good: No more than 2 failures in total; AND no more than 1 in any functional group.							Good: No more than 2 failures in total; AND no more than 1 failure in any functional group.						
Moderate: No more than 4 failures in total; AND does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & C2 = Moderate condition).							Moderate: No more than 5 failures in total; AND does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 & E1 = Moderate condition).						
Poor: Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR fails both attributes in more than one functional group							Poor: Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR fails both attributes in more than one functional group						

(e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & B2 = Poor condition).	(e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & B2 = Poor condition).
Condition Assessment Criteria A1. Height: >1.5m average along length The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of 4 years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height). B1. Gap - hedge base. Gap between ground and base of canopy is less than 0.5m, for more than 90% of length (unless line of trees). This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (e.g. a Hazel dominated hedgerow or where the hedgerow is affected by shading from other vegetation such as woodland, see page 65 of <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook</i>). C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation. More than 1m width ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for more than 90% of the hedgerow length, as measured from outer edge of the hedgerow, and is present on at least 1 side of the hedgerow. This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches. D1. Invasive and neophyte species. More than 90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and recently introduced species. Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website, as well as the BSBI website	A2. Width: >1.5m average along length. The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. Blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of 4 years (if undertaken according to good practice) B2. Gap - hedge canopy continuity. Gaps make up less than 10% of total length and no canopy gaps are greater than 5m. Gates and access points are not subject to the greater than 5m criterion. This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness', but are not subject to the greater than 5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate). C2. Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation. Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils do not dominate more than 20% cover of the ground area of undisturbed ground. The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), Cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold. D2. Current damage. More than 90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damaged caused by human activities. This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).

Condition Assessment Criteria	
where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website.	
Additional group – ONLY if trees are present	
E1. Tree Class There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 to 50m of hedgerow. This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	E1. Tree health At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity. This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.

7.4 Figures

Figure 1: Aerial Image of the Site and its Surroundings



Figure 2: UKHab Plan: Baseline Habitats



Figure 3: UKHab Plan: Post-intervention Habitats

