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CONSULTANT ECOLOGISTS

Wickhurst Green

Biodiversity Net Gain

May 2025

CIEEM
REGISTERED
PRACTICE 2025-2026

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Wickhurst Green

Biodiversity Net Gain

May 2025

Report Ref: DFA25032

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Derek Finnie Associates was commissioned by Vistry to provide ecological advice in relation to an area of land to the south of Broadbridge Way, Broadbridge Heath, herein referred to as the 'Site'. Vistry are preparing a full Planning Application for the erection of 89 residential dwellings comprising, creation of new vehicular access on to Sergent Way, provision of public open space, landscaping and drainage solutions.

1.1.2 As part of the wider ecological assessment, a Biodiversity Net Gain calculation, using the Defra Statutory Metric (July 2024 version), was undertaken to provide an objective, quantitative assessment of the baseline ecological condition within the Site as well as the predicted increase in ecological value of the Site post development.

1.2 Current Policy and Guidance

1.2.1 Within Section 98 of the Environment Act 2021, there is provision for achieving a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) within a development, with the particulars being covered under Schedule 14 of the Act.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Defra Metric

2.1.1 The Defra Metric looks at the biodiversity value of a site prior to the proposed development by assigning values to each habitat type, the quality or condition of the habitat and the extent of that habitat. This results in a combined value for the site presented in an arbitrary figure expressed as Biodiversity Units. A similar approach is also taken for linear features within a site, such as hedgerows and rivers, where applicable.

2.1.2 A second calculation is then undertaken for the post development scenario based on the proposed scheme layout in the absence of detailed landscape planting plans. The difference in units pre and post development is then expressed as a percentage for habitats, hedgerows and rivers (where applicable).

2.1.3 If a significant increase in BNG value cannot be achieved within the Site, there is the potential to provide off site enhancements to complement on-site works. Alternatively, it possible to 'purchase' biodiversity units from a third party.

2.2 Current Scheme

2.2.1 As the statutory framework for biodiversity net gain involves the discharge of the biodiversity gain condition following the grant of planning permission it would be generally inappropriate to refuse an application on the grounds that the biodiversity gain objective will not be met. (Defra Guidance 019 Reference ID: 74-019-20240214).

3 THE SITE

3.1 Current description

3.1.1 An 'extended' Phase 1 Habitat Survey was carried out on 17th August 2023 and 22nd May 2024, with a verification site visit undertaken on 11th March 2025; these followed the methodology presented by the JNCC (2010).The Phase 1 technique aims to classify each habitat into categories based on the assemblage of plant species present, with the dominant plant species for each habitat being noted. In some cases, sub-divisions or modifications of the standard categories can be made where this is useful in providing further detail.

3.1.2 The Phase 1 survey provides sufficient information to allow the habitats present to be placed into a UKHabs V2 classification category, as used in the Defra Metric.

3.1.3 Additional information was also collected during the site survey to allow the condition of the habitats identified to be assessed based on pre-determined criteria. The Site comprises two relatively small fields, separated by a line of semi-mature trees running more or less north to south. Both fields support species poor grassland with varying amount of tall ruderal habitat. From reviewing aerial photography, it is apparent the western field was used as a site compound during the construction of the wider Broadbridge Heath development and was bare soil until as late as June 2021.

3.1.4 The following Phase 1 habitats were identified within the Site:

- Linear belt of trees;
- Scrub;
- Semi-improved grassland;
- Ditch; and
- Ruderal vegetation

3.1.5 Each habitat is depicted on Figure 1.

3.1.6 Further details of the habitat are presented within the Ecological Assessment (Derek Finnie Associates Report Ref: DFA25030) submitted with the application and hence are not repeated here. For reference, there are no irreplaceable habitats as defined by the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitats) Regulation 2024 on site. And there is no evidence that any form of adverse, or destructive, management has taken within the Site which would affect the condition of the habitats present.

3.1.7 In terms of the BNG Metric, a summary of the habitats is present in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of on-site habitats

Habitat	Condition	Area/length
Other neutral grassland	Poor	1.7ha
Bramble scrub	Condition Assessment N/A	0.4ha

Habitat	Condition	Area/length
Ruderal/Ephemeral	Poor	0.3ha
Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	Moderate	0.11km
Native hedgerow with trees	Moderate	0.2km
Ditches	Moderate	0.1km

3.2 Post development

3.2.1 Habitat creation and ecological enhancements have been considered from the outset, with the landscape design being developed with input from the ecology team from the start.

3.2.2 However, given the constraints within the Site it is not possible to provide an increase in the Biodiversity Value of the Site, as defined by the Metric. Wherever possible, areas of species rich grassland will be created and managed as a traditional hay meadow in the long term. This will be supplemented by new tree planting and understory planting; the later will require minimal on-going management.

3.2.3 The Defra Biodiversity metric provides the baseline value of the Site. When the future scenario is considered, there is a significant reduction in the BNG value. Hence offsite options, or the purchasing of credits for a third party, will be considered to ensure that a 10% increase in BNG is realised as a result of the scheme.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Headline Results

4.1.1 The headline results from the Biodiversity Metric for presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Headline Results

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	-3.83
	Hedgerow units	-0.04
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	-42.52%
	Hedgerow units	-1.96%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲	

4.1.2 As can be seen from Table 2, a significant increase in the biodiversity value of the Site is not achieved.

5 HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN

5.1.1 Whilst the habitat a creatin and enhancement within the Site is limited, it still provides some benefit to the ecological resource and well as providing some offset for the BNG. Hence there is a need to ensure its long term management is considered as part of the Sites maintenance.

5.1.2 The 'other neutral grassland' areas within the Site will be sown with a species rich mix such as Emorsgate EM4 and them managed in a traditional hay meadow style, with a singe cut being taken in late July/early August and the arising removed.

5.1.3 Once planted, the native tree and shrub planting should require minimal management in the long term, beyond replacement of failed specimens.

5.1.4 Monitoring of the newly created and enhanced habitats will be undertaken in years 1, 3, 5, 10, 20 and 30.

5.1.5 A detailed HMMP will be submitted prior to the commencement of works on Site.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1.1 As can be seen from Table 2, the proposed development is not predicted to result in a net biodiversity gain , hence offsite solutions will be sought. It is proposed that a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) be prepared the scheme to ensure the long-term management of the habitats is undertaken, with appropriate monitoring and remedial works as necessary.

Legend

- Broad-leaved tree
- Scrub
- Semi-improved grassland
- Grassland with tall ruderal
- Dry ditch

Drawing Number:
Figure 1

Title:
Phase 1 Habitat Map

Date:
March 2025

Project:
Broadbridge School

Client:
Vistry

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Appendix 1

Landscape Plan

0 5 10 20 30 40 50m

SCALE 1:500

KEY

- Site boundary
- 1 Existing trees retained
- 2 Existing understorey vegetation retained
- 3 Asphalt access road
- 4 Asphalt pedestrian path
- 5 SUDS filter strip with wildflower meadow planting
- 6 Paved parking court with ornamental planting and trees
- 7 Courtyard with ornamental hedge, shrub planting and trees
- 8 Timber fence to rear gardens
- 9 Self binding gravel cycle / pedestrian path
- 10 Proposed concrete flag paving for private front and rear access paths and bin collection point
- 11 Proposed tree planting
- 12 Ornamental shrub planting to private frontages
- 13 Proposed native shrub mix planting
- 14 Informal public open space with bench seating

Rev	Date	Amendment	Initials
A	01.05.2025	Draft issued for comments	CLB

Project:

WICKHURST GREEN

BROADBRIDGE HEATH

Client:

VISTRY MAJOR PROJECTS

Drawing:

ILLUSTRATIVE LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

PRELIMINARY

Drawing no: 24.2114.L100

Rev: A

Scale@A1: 1:500 **Date:** MAR '25 **Drawn:** CLB **Checked:** JM

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Appendix 2

Condition Sheets

Condition Sheet: DITCH Habitat Type			
Habitat Type			
Watercourses - Ditches			
Habitat Description			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Wickhurst Green	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	D Finnie March 2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	

	Condition Assessment Criteria	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	**Notes (such as justification)**
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Y	
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20 m ditch length.	N	
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed *Lemna* spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Y	
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	N	Occasion Carex Penduluous and Juncus Inflexus only
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	Y	
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m in main drains.	N	
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	N	All heavily shaded
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species[1].	Y	
	Number of criteria passed		

Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/✓**
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	x

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type			
Grassland - Modified grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Wickhurst Green	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	D Finnie. March 2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	
Habitat Description			
Semi-improved grassland. Graminoid species include those commonly associated with agriculturally improved grassland such as perennial rye grass Lolium perenne, cock's-foot Dactylis glomerata, Yorkshire fog Holcus lanatus			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			

	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.** 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.	No	Sward dominatwed by a few grass species
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.	No	Sward generally even due to mowing
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	No	No scrub present; atreas of bramble scrub on siute, but treated as different habitat
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.	Yes	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes	
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	Yes	Minimal bracken presetn art periphery of some fields.
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes	None noted
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		Yes
	Number of criteria passed		Four

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		

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)	x	

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

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: 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	Wickhurst Green	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	D Finnie March 2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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.	No	Tall ruderal, of limited species richness, accounts fopr majority of habitat
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.	No	
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).**	Yes	
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.		
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].		
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.		
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).		
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.**		
		Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)	
		Number of criteria passed	

Condition Assessment Result	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/✓**
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)	X
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: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type

Habitat Types

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

Please see the separate Individual trees condition sheet for linear blocks and groups of trees in an urban setting. You should only use this Line of trees condition assessment and record this habitat type in rural locations.

Habitat Description

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

On-site or off-site, site name and location	Wickhurst Green	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	D Finnie March 2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	

	Condition Assessment Criteria	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	**Notes (such as justification)**
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Yes	
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice[2].	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.	Yes	
		Number of criteria passed	

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

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types

Habitat Type

Native hedgerow
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

Habitat Description

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

On-site or off-site, site name and location	Wickhurst Green	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	D Finnie March 2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	

Condition Assessment 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 Handbook[1] and Favourable Conservation Status document[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.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		**Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Criteria description**	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	**Notes (such as justification)**
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	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. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Y	
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Y	
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	N	

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles *Urtica* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	N	
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[3]) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website[4], as well as the BSBI website[5] where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'[6] contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website[7].	Y	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Y	
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient[8]), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N	
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Y	

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.

Condition 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 4 failures in total; **AND** Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = 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:	

Condition 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 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:	2

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score