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Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

The Daisy Croft, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9RN

Client:

Bruckland Developments Ltd

Assessment Date:

5th January 2026

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Horsham District Council. The proposal is described as: *The construction of an estimated 10 residential dwellings.*

BNG assessment methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **BNG Methodology and Legislation – 2025**.

The results and recommendations contained within this report are valid for 18 months. An updated site visit and BNG assessment may be required if the report is to be used any longer than 18 months after completion.

Version Control			
Status	**Issue**	**Name**	**Date**
Draft	0.1	Anya White BSc, Consultant Ecologist	05/01/2026
Final	1.0	Anya White BSc, Consultant Ecologist	06/01/2026

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Site Location and Context

A baseline habitat map is provided in **Appendix 1**, a post development habitat map in **Appendix 2**, a proposed development plan in **Appendix 3**, headline BNG results in **Appendix 4**, and condition assessments in **Appendix 5**.

The survey site is centred on National Grid Reference TQ 21838 15817 and has an area of approximately 0.55ha. The site consists primarily of neutral grassland, with a non-native hedgerow along part of the northern boundary, and four scattered trees (two mature oaks, one immature willow, one immature beech), there is one building on site. Surrounding land comprises scattered woodland and grasslands. The site is relatively flat, surrounded by residential dwellings to the south and west, with two trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders which abuts Henfield Conservation Area. Deciduous woodlands occur in the wider landscape approximately 25–264 m from the site, with traditional orchards ~275 m to the northeast.

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

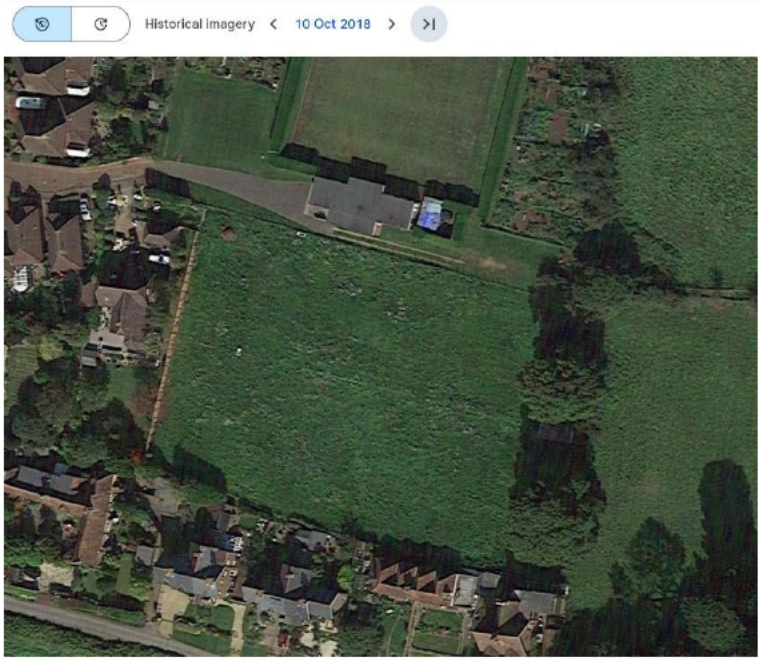
- Statutory Metric - The Daisy Croft, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9RN - V1 - 43701830 - 15-10-25 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)
- PEA - The Daisy Croft, BN5 9RN - v1 - 43701830 - 02-10-25 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)

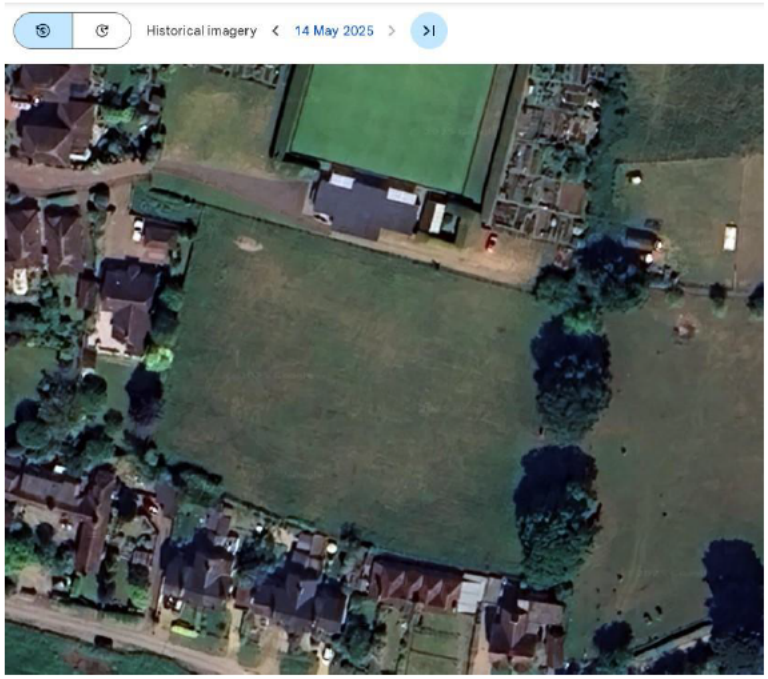
Executive Summary

- The current landscaping proposal generates a net loss of area-based habitat units (-56.04%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (+1997.69%). As such, the proposed development is not compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was not achieved for area-based habitat units, however it is compliant for linear-based units as there is a net gain of >10%.
- All trading conditions have been satisfied for linear-based units, but not for area-based units as there is a net loss.

Introduction

BNG Informative		
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations	5th January 2026
	The baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from the site as observed during the PEA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025). As evident in the screenshots of satellite imagery obtained from GoogleEarth dated 10th October 2018 and 14th May 2025, the site does not appear to have undergone any degradation. The habitats on site, and therefore biodiversity value of the site, is not considered to have undergone degradation since 30th January 2020.	





<table>
<tr><td>Irreplaceable Habitat Statement</td><td colspan="3">No irreplaceable habitats as listed under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations (2024) are currently present nor were present before 30th January 2020.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Metric Version & Publication Date</td><td colspan="3">Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool first published 29th November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 3rd July 2025.</td></tr>
<tr><td>BNG Target Uplift</td><td colspan="3">+10%</td></tr>
<tr><td>National Character Area (NCA)</td><td colspan="3">121 – Low Weald</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="6">Strategic Significance</td><td colspan="3">West Sussex County Council, the responsible authority for drafting the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Horsham District Council, has yet to adopt a comprehensive LNRS. The Draft LNRS and local habitat map with the draft priorities were used to determine strategic significance.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Habitat</td><td>Baseline / Post-Development</td><td>Justification</td></tr>
<tr><td>Other neutral grassland</td><td>Low</td><td>The site is not within an area of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB), nor is it mapped as a location for the grassland measures.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Individual trees</td><td>Low</td><td>The site is not within an area of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hedgerows</td><td>Low</td><td>The site is not within an area of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB), nor is it mapped as a location for the woodland, hedgerow and scrub measures.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Urban habitats – vegetated garden, developed land; sealed surface and buildings</td><td>Low</td><td>The site is not within an area of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB), nor are these habitats ecologically valuable.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Limitations</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">There were no specific limitations to the assessment.</td></tr>
</table>

Baseline

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Area-Based Habitats (A-1)				
Habitat	**Area (ha)**	**Description**	**Condition Assessment**	**Strategic Significance**
Other neutral grassland	0.53805	The site is dominated by neutral grassland with an even sward. The uniform sward height and limited structural diversity indicate intermittent management, though the presence of some nutrient-tolerant species suggests the land may have previously been subject to enrichment. Occasional tussocks and broader-leaved herbs provide some minor variation, offering foraging and shelter opportunities for invertebrates. The grassland also has some mole hills present [redacted]	***Moderate**: passes 3 of 6 criteria* Assessed using the 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance
Buildings	0.002187	One building (shed) is located east of site along the site boundary.	Habitat condition pre-determined as '***N/A***' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	**Low** Strategic Significance
Developed land; sealed surface	0.023843	To the west of the grassland there is a hardstanding access track and road.	Habitat condition pre-determined as '***N/A***' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	**Low** Strategic Significance

Rural Tree	Moderate: 0.0204	There are four trees on site, including 2x large oak trees, 1x medium willow and 1x small beech tree.	***Moderate:*** *passes 4 of 6 criteria* Assessed using the 'individual trees' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance
	Good: 0.0733		***Good****: passes 5 of 6 criteria* Assessed using the 'individual trees' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Linear-Based Habitats (B-1)				
Habitat	**Length (km)**	**Description**	**Condition Assessment**	**Strategic Significance**
Non-native hedgerow	0.014082	The site contains a non-native hedgerow running along part of the north boundary. The hedgerow is predominantly composed of ivy, laurel, garden privet and cotoneaster. The hedgerow appears unmanaged but is intact, forming a dense, low-growing structure that provides some visual screening. It offers limited structural diversity and minimal native species representation.	Habitat condition pre-determined as '***Poor***' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	**Low** Strategic Significance

Post-Development

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site					
Area-Based Habitats					
	Habitat	**Area (ha)**	**Description**	**Condition Assessment**	**Strategic Significance**
Retained (A-1)	Other neutral grassland	0.096502	Throughout the new development, some neutral grassland will be retained as communal open spaces, with scattered trees planted throughout.	***Moderate**: passes 3 of 6 criteria* Assessed using the 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance
	Rural Tree	Moderate: 0.0204	There are four trees on site, including 2x large oak trees, 1x medium willow and 1x small beech tree.	***Moderate:** passes 4 of 6 criteria* Assessed using the 'individual trees' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance
		Good: 0.0733		***Good**: passes 5 of 6 criteria* Assessed using the 'individual trees' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance

Created (A-2)	Buildings	0.124181	New houses built throughout the development, with associated car ports and garages.	Habitat condition pre-determined as '***N/A***' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	**Low** Strategic Significance
	Developed land; sealed surface	0.154356	Roads, parking and hard landscaping associated with the new development.	Habitat condition pre-determined as '***N/A***' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	**Low** Strategic Significance
	Vegetated garden	0.18904	All habitats within the curtilage of residential gardens are to be recorded as vegetated garden, as per the BNG user guide.	Habitat condition pre-determined as '***N/A***' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	**Low** Strategic Significance
	Rural trees	0.0611	15 small, native trees are to be planted throughout the communal grassland.	***Poor:*** *passes 2 of 6 criteria* Assessed using the 'individual trees' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site					
Linear-Based Habitats					
	Habitat	**Length (km)**	**Description**	**Condition Assessment**	**Strategic Significance**
Created (B-2)	Native hedgerow	0.051003	A native hedgerow is to be planted along the south, outside of the gardens.	***Poor:*** *passes 3 of 8 criteria* Assessed using the 'Hedgerows' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance
	Native hedgerow with trees	0.051026	A native hedgerow with trees is to be planted along the northern boundary.	***Poor:*** *passes 4 of 10 criteria* Assessed using the 'Hedgerows with trees' habitat type condition sheet.	**Low** Strategic Significance

Change of Biodiversity Value

		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
On-Site	Baseline	❖ 5.35	❖ 0.01	❖ N/A
	Post-Development	❖ 2.35	❖ 0.30	❖ N/A
	Net Change	-3.00 units	0.28 units	N/A
Overall Net Change		**-56.04%**	**+1997.69%**	**N/A**

Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

BNG Informative	
Results	The current landscaping proposal generates a net loss of area-based habitat units (-56.04%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (+1997.69%) with unmet trading rules for area-based habitats. In line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (2024), any loss of a habitat must be replaced on a like-for-like or like-for-better principle. At present, trading conditions are not satisfied for the loss of other neutral grassland (medium distinctiveness). With unmet trading conditions and a net loss, the proposal fails principal Rules 1 and 2 of BNG and is not compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024). In order to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for area-based habitats, a minimum area-based unit score of 5.88 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 3.53 units, which should be made from other neutral grassland to satisfy trading rules.
Recommendations and Next Steps	In order to achieve the required net gain in biodiversity as a result of the proposed development, the provision of additional or alternative landscaping should be explored and the proposed plans amended accordingly to achieve a net gain on site. The provisioning of additional landscaping should first be considered within the site boundary. There is limited scope on site and this provision may not be possible to achieve on site or adjacent with the current arrangement (within the redline boundary or offsite on other owned land) considering the size of the proposed development area and the limited amount of soft landscaping within the parcel. Based on the proposed plans, it is unlikely that net gain will be achieved by ways of habitat creation/enhancement without significant changes to the proposals on site or require unfeasible commitments off-site. As such, a financial contribution to off-site ecological enhancements (i.e. purchasing biodiversity units) within an approved scheme is required to make up the +10% net gain for area-based habitat units. The mechanism for securing this off-setting will need to be proposed to and confirmed by the LPA and would be linked to the application through a

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>planning obligation Section 106 (s106) agreement. The proposed habitat compensation must be of an appropriate distinctiveness to meet the trading rules of BNG.

A summary as to what off-site units will be required is detailed in the table below.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Distinctiveness</th><th>Broad Habitat Group</th><th>Habitat</th><th>Units Required</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Area-Based</td><td>Medium</td><td>Grassland</td><td>Other Neutral Grassland</td><td>3.53</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Total</td><td>3.53</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pre-Commencement</td><td>A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.

These additional requirements can only be actioned following the finalisation of the BNG assessment – be it on-site or off-site net gains sought.</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">BNG Mitigation Hierarchy</th></tr>
<tr><td>Avoidance</td><td>Impacts to the trees on site will be avoided, as all trees are to be retained.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minimisation</td><td>Impacts to notable habitats on site have been minimised, as all trees are to be retained along with some neutral grassland.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mitigation</td><td>Land that is not buildings, hardstanding or driveway is to become vegetated garden, as stated in the rules surrounding private gardens.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Offset</td><td>Net gain for linear-based habitats have been achieved on site. Compensation for area habitats will be sought offsite.</td></tr>
</table>

Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan

Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan

Appendix 3: Proposed Development Plan

Appendix 4: Headline BNG Results

FINAL RESULTS			
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	-3.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.28	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	-56.04%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲
	Hedgerow units	1997.69%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲		

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Area habitat units	10.00%	5.35	5.88	3.53	
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.01	0.02	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Rural trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)			
		T1	T2	T3	T4
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	Y	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	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	Y	Y	N
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Y	Y	Y	Y
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	Y	Y	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Number of criteria passed	4	5	5	4

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓	
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	Good (3)	✓	
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	Poor (1)		

Other neutral grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type. **Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate or good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Y
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20% is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	N
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Y
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. If any invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types		
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m^2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	F
	Number of criteria passed	3

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

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Hedgerow with Trees; assessed using 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet:

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes			
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)	**Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Description**	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**
A1. Height	>1.5 m 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 four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	N
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 (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 four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	N
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).	N
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).	N

			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).	
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 hedge (at least)	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.	N
C2.	Undesirable 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, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	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 (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	N
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient), 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	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Y

	livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.		
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees			
Category	**Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2**	**Weighting (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 (e.g., 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 (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = poor condition)	1	
Score achieved:	POOR		

Hedgerow; assessed using 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet:

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes			
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, & D)	**Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Description**	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**
A1. Height	>1.5 m 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 four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	N
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 (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 four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	N
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).	N
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 hedge (at least)	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.	N
C2.	Undesirable 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, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	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 (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	N

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	**Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2**	**Weighting (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	2

	than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and C2 = 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, and B2 = poor condition)	1	
Score achieved:	POOR		

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 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).	N
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N
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.	N
	Number of criteria passed	2

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	Poor (1)	✓

Retained as on baseline - Other neutral grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type. **Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate or good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	Y
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20% is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	N
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Y
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. If any invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types		
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m^2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	F
	Number of criteria passed	3

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

Retained as on baseline - Rural trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)			
		T1	T2	T3	T4
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	Y	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	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	Y	Y	N
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Y	Y	Y	Y
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	Y	Y	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Number of criteria passed	4	5	5	4

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓	
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	Good (3)	✓	
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	Poor (1)		