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Biodiversity Net Gain plan

Highfields,
East Grinstead.

On behalf of Igloo Care Ltd (Developer)&
EQ Care East Grinstead (Operator)

5th December 2024.

Contents

1. Submission details

1.1 Date

05/12/2024

1.2 Planning application reference number

1.3 Local planning authority (LPA)

West Sussex

1.4 Development site Address

Highfields,
East Grinstead,
RH19 4DL.

1.5 Brief description of the development

Proposal plans will see the addition of a care home complex with associated infrastructure. To facilitate this, the removal of existing hard standing, modified grassland and a section of broadleaved woodland is proposed.

2. Consultancy Details

2.1 Name of Responsible Person

Christian Leigh

2.2 Company name

Leigh Ecology Ltd.

2.3 Address

8 Hall Drive
Marston
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 6DT

2.4 Contact number

01606 892032

3. Methodology

DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric

3.1 Biodiversity Net Gain was calculated using the Statutory Metric Auditing and Accounting for Biodiversity Calculation tool.

- The onsite habitat baseline calculations are measured on MapInfo GIS software using the Phase 1 Habitat map.
- The Phase 1 habitat classifications are translated to UK Habitat Regulations using the translation tool in the Biodiversity Metric.
- All habitat conditions are based on the condition assessments listed in the habitat condition sheets excel document.
- The strategic significance is determined by deciding if the habitat is desirable within the location and seeing if it is identified within a local strategy.
- The areas to be retained or enhanced habitats are calculated using the Proposed Landscaping Masterplan.
- The proposed off-setting site habitat baseline calculations are measured on MapInfo GIS software using a Phase 1 Habitat map.
- The site proposed habitats and associated scores are calculated using measurements and habitat information provided by Surfacing Standards Ltd, as well as over-laying site plans onto the MapInfo GIS software and taking area measurements.

3.2 The change in biodiversity is calculated by subtracting the baseline unit values from the post-development values of the broad habitat types. This is combined with any off-site gains or losses to give a final Biodiversity Unit Value for the scheme.

4. Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy

4.1 How will the proposal minimise impacts to habitats?

The proposals will see the removal of a section of the existing broadleaved woodland on site, to facilitate an access road. This woodland area is the most significant habitat on site, and will be suitably mitigated on site, within the same area of removal. The replanting of this woodland will ensure a higher quality woodland floor and flora, as well as the effective planting of native species to achieve a higher quality woodland habitat. Several individual trees will be removed across site removed from the woodland habitat. These trees are either to facilitate the development footprint or for health and safety reasons. A large section of existing lawn area (poor quality modified grassland) will be lost also.
The mitigation and BNG hierarchy have been closely followed, with great importance on the replanting and re-establishment of the woodland habitat specifically to site.

4.2 Is the net gain percentage being achieved On-site, Off-site or Both?

On site

4.3 How many biodiversity units are required to meet the 10% net gain requirement?

3.91

4.4 Is there a habitat management and monitoring plan?

Supplied upon Validation.

4.5 Has the statutory biodiversity metric tool been used?

Yes

4.6 Reference Number of pre-development habitat survey report and map

Phlorum PEA Report, December 2022

4.7 Pre-development habitat map (On-site)

UKHABS Existing Map, Leigh Ecology 2024.

4.8 Post-development habitat map (On-site)

5. Irreplaceable Habitats

5.1 Does the development impact any irreplaceable habitats?

No

5.2 If yes, what habitats?

N/A

5.3 Has a compensation plan been submitted?

N/A

6. On-Site Baseline Habitats

6.1 Survey Date

02/05/2024

6.2 Survey Constraints (access issues, weather etc.)

None.

6.3 Total pre-development biodiversity value

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

3.55

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

0.95

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

0

6.4 On-site habitat images and descriptions

View of modified grassland on site, as well as one of the small trees to be removed. (Leigh Ecology, 2024)

6.5 Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitat

Modified Grassland

Score

2

Condition

Poor

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)													
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.												
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.												
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.	x											
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.												
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[3].												
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	x											
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[2] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	x											
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)												
	Number of criteria passed												
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved =/✓											

Grassland Habitat passes 3 of 6 classification criteria, resulting in poor condition.

6.6 Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitat

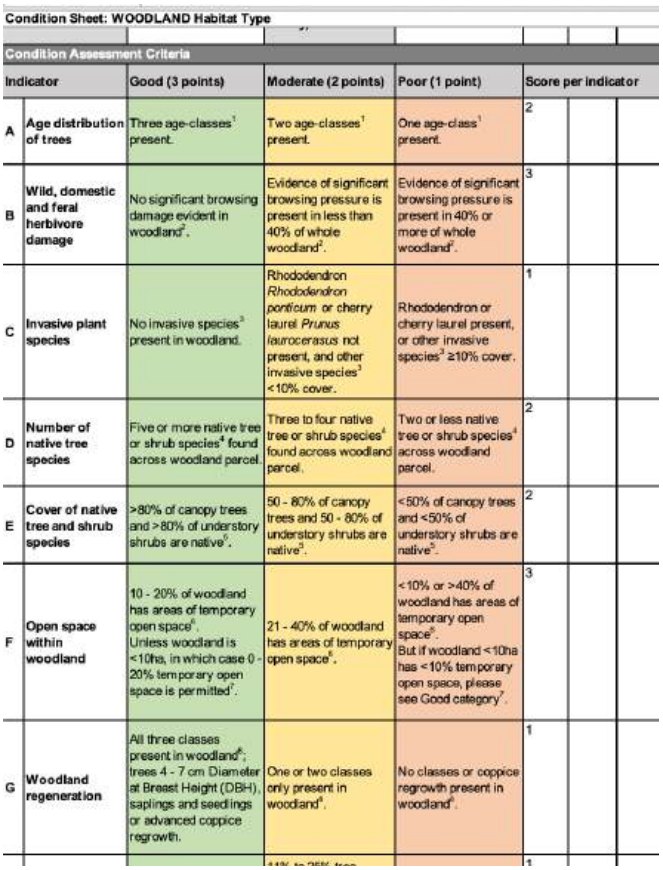
Other woodland- broadleaved

Score

23

Condition

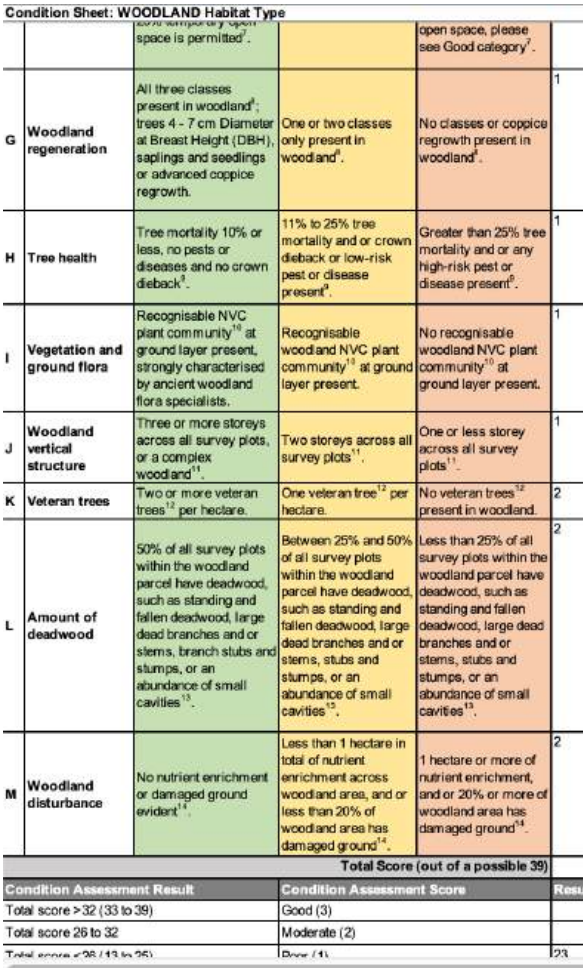
Poor



Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

Condition Assessment Criteria

	Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator		
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	2		
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	3		
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, and other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] ≥10% cover.	1		
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	2		
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	2		
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	3		
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	1		



Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

		space is permitted[7].		open space, please see Good category[7].	
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	1
H	Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	1
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	1
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	1
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	2
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	2
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	2
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)	

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Resu
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	
Total score ≤26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)	23

6.7 Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitat

Individual Trees (Small)

Score

2

Condition

Poor

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type			
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 tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	x	
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).	x	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].		
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.		
		Number of criteria passed	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	x
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score[2]		

6.8 Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitat

Individual Trees (Medium and Large)

Score

4

Condition

Moderate

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type			
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 tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	x	
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).	x	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	x	
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.	x	
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.		
	Number of criteria passed		

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score[2]		

6.9 Hedgerow Condition Assessment

Habitat

Line of Trees

Score

4

Condition

Moderate

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type												
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	x										
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.	x										
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.	x										
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[3].											
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.	x										
	Number of criteria passed											

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓									
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											

6.10 Description of proposed habitat creation/enhancements

The site will see the replanting of 0.1488 Ha. of broadleaved woodland, to replace the removed section of woodland. The aim of the replanting is to create a better-quality woodland habitat, with a more prominent and diverse flora understorey. The planting of trees which will be less likely to be victim of disease. The planting will be undertaken strategically to improve the canopy cover and ecological niches. The planting of 23 already semi-mature trees will also be undertaken on site, as well as the further planting of 59 native whips, not including tree planting to replenish the woodland habitat.
The site will also see the planting of a poor quality, modified grassland lawn and a wildflower grassy 'other neutral grassland' habitat, which will feature a range of grass species and some wildflowers to increase suitability for invertebrate species.
Bulb planting and introduced shrub species planting will also be undertaken surrounding the hard standing.

6.11 Proposed Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitat

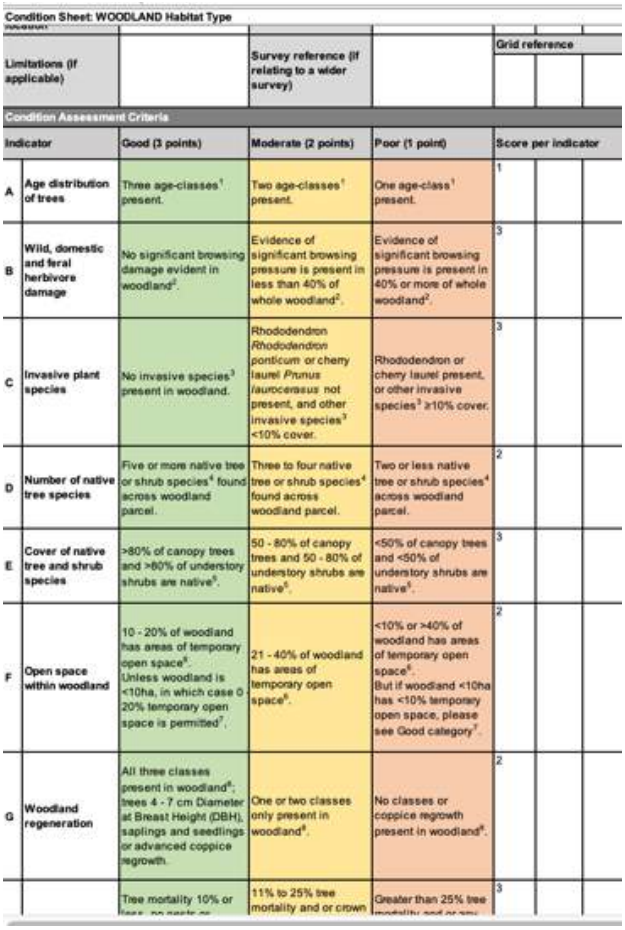
Other woodland, broadleaved

Score

29

Condition

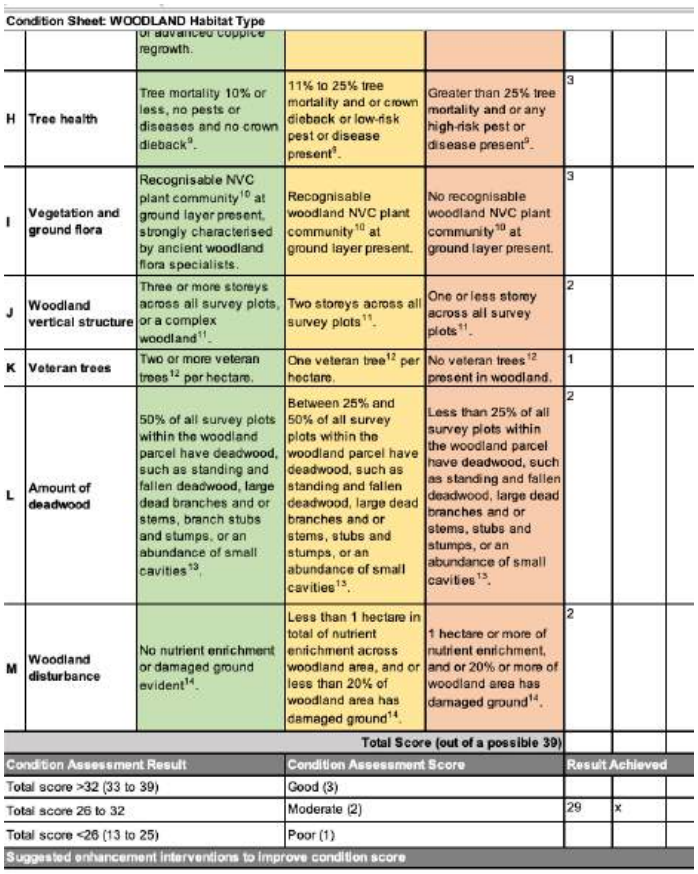
Moderate



Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		Grid reference		

Condition Assessment Criteria							
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator		
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	1		
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	3		
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, and other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] ≥10% cover.	3		
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	2		
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	3		
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	2		
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	2		
		Tree mortality 10% or	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown	Greater than 25% tree	3		



Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

		or advanced coppice regrowth.					
H	Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	3		
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	3		
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	2		
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	1		
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	2		
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	2		
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)			

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Result Achieved		
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)			
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	29	x	
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)			
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score				

6.12 Proposed Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitat

Modified Grassland

Score

2

Condition

Poor

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)												
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.											
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.											
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.	x										
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.											
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[3].											
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	x										
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[2] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	x										
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)											
	Number of criteria passed											
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved w/ ✓										

6.13 Proposed Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitat

Individual Trees (On Site)

Score

3

Condition

Moderate

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	x	
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).	x	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].		
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.	x	
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 overstilling vegetation beneath.		
	Number of criteria passed		

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

Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score[2]

6.14 Proposed Habitat Condition Assessment

Habitat

Other Neutral Grassland

Score

4

Condition

Moderate

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	**Notes (such as justification)**
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description).[1] **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	x	
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	x	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[2].		
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	x	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition[3] and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species[4] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[5]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	x	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m^2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**		
	Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		
	Number of criteria passed		

Condition Assessment Result	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved** x/✓
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)		
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)		

6.15 Proposed Hedgerow Condition Assessment

Habitat

Native Hedgerow

Score

3

Condition

Poor

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Habitat parcel reference / Grid reference										
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)
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).											
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 this 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).											
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 85 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	x										
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).	x										

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types															
B2.	canopy continuity	length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	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).	x											
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.												
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <25% 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 25% cover threshold.												
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[7]) 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[8], as well as the BSBI website[9] where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'[10] 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[11].	x											
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).												

6.16 Total post-development on-site biodiversity value

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

4.04

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

1.21

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

0

6.17 Total net change in on-site biodiversity units

Number of area habitat biodiversity units

0.49

Number of hedgerow biodiversity units

0.25

Number of watercourse biodiversity units

0

7. Trading Summary

7.1 Have the trading rules been satisfied?

Yes

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	0.49
	Hedgerow units	0.25
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	13.74%
	Hedgerow units	26.76%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?		Yes ✓

8. Statutory Biodiversity Credits

8.1 Does the development require statutory biodiversity credits?

No

8.2 How many statutory biodiversity credits are required?

Area habitat biodiversity units

N/A

Hedgerow biodiversity units

N/A

Watercourse biodiversity units

N/A

9. References

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