Biodiversity Net Gain Feasibility Assessment

Sayers Common

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LIABILITIES:

Whilst every effort has been made to guarantee the accuracy of this report, it should be noted that living animals and plants are capable of migration/establishing and whilst such species may not have been located during the survey duration, their presence may be found on a site at a later date.

This report provides a snap shot of the species that were present at the time of the survey only and does not consider seasonal variation. Furthermore, where access is limited or the site supports habitats which are densely vegetated only dominant species maybe recorded.

The recommendations contained within this document are based on a reasonable timeframe between the completion of the survey and the commencement of any works. If there is any delay between the commencement of works that may conflict with timeframes laid out within this document, or have the potential to allow the ingress of protected species, a suitably qualified ecologist should be consulted.

It is the duty of care of the landowner/developer to act responsibly and comply with current environmental legislation if protected species are suspected or found prior to or during works.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Ecology Partnership was commissioned by Welbeck to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) feasibility assessment for the outline application for the development to Coombe Farm, London Road, Sayers Common, West Sussex, BN6 9HY, hereafter referred to as the 'site' (Figure 1).

1.2 The site is located to the east of London Road (B2118) at Coombe Farm which lies to the south of the village of Sayers Common, West Sussex (TQ 26862 17823). It covers approximately 13.38ha and consists of woodland and grassland fields with tree lines and hedgerows. The wider landscape comprises largely of arable land and low-density housing.

Figure 1: Site application boundary (red line).
Satellite imagery obtained from Google Satellite via QGIS on 24/04/2025

1.3 The assessment is based on the Illustrated Masterplan produced by Pegasus group (P24-2029_DE_002_E_05) (see Figure 2 below).

Figure 2: Illustrative Masterplan (Pegasus, 2025)

2.0 Statutory Biodiversity Metric

2.1 BNG principles are aimed to support both the aspired green infrastructural proposals set to define the created landscape and support biodiversity and habitat enhancement. BNG principles are set within the Environment Bill (2021).

3.1 In order to determine the on-site habitat baseline, habitats were mapped and subject to a condition assessment on 30th July 2024. The fields were each assessed using the 'condition assessments' as provided in the accompanying DEFRA Metric 4.0 (Ref Natural England Joint Publication JP039 SIBN 978-1-7393362-2-6 March 2023) and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Anne 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology February 2024. For example, all grassland habitats were reviewed in terms of species composition per m^2 and as a whole (across the whole of the field network).

2.2 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric is used to calculate biodiversity losses and gains for terrestrial habitats within the application area. This metric underpins the Environment Bill's provisions for mandatory biodiversity net-gain in England.

2.3 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric uses habitat as a proxy for wider biodiversity with different habitat types scoring different values according to their relative biodiversity value and dependent on the condition and location of the habitat, to calculate 'biodiversity units'.

On-Site Habitat Baseline

2.4 The habitats currently present on site have been identified and assessed. These are shown in Figures 3 and 4 and in Tables 1 and 2, overleaf. A full condition assessment is presented in Appendix 1.

2.5 The four areas of grassland were considered to be largely similar in species composition and structure. Previous surveys recorded the fields being grazed by cows and sheep. The management of the fields appears to have maintained their low biodiversity value.

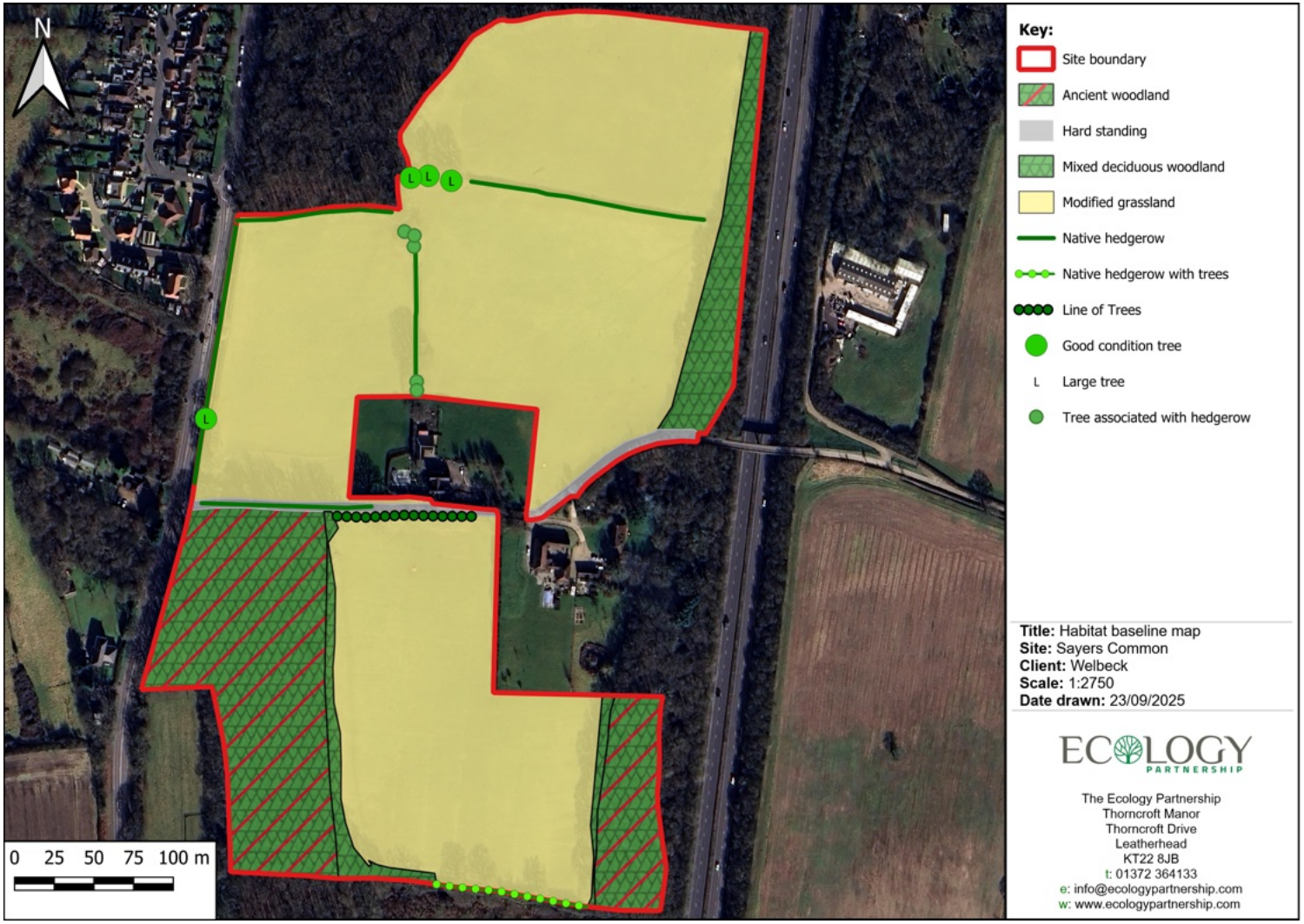

Figure 3: Baseline area habitats

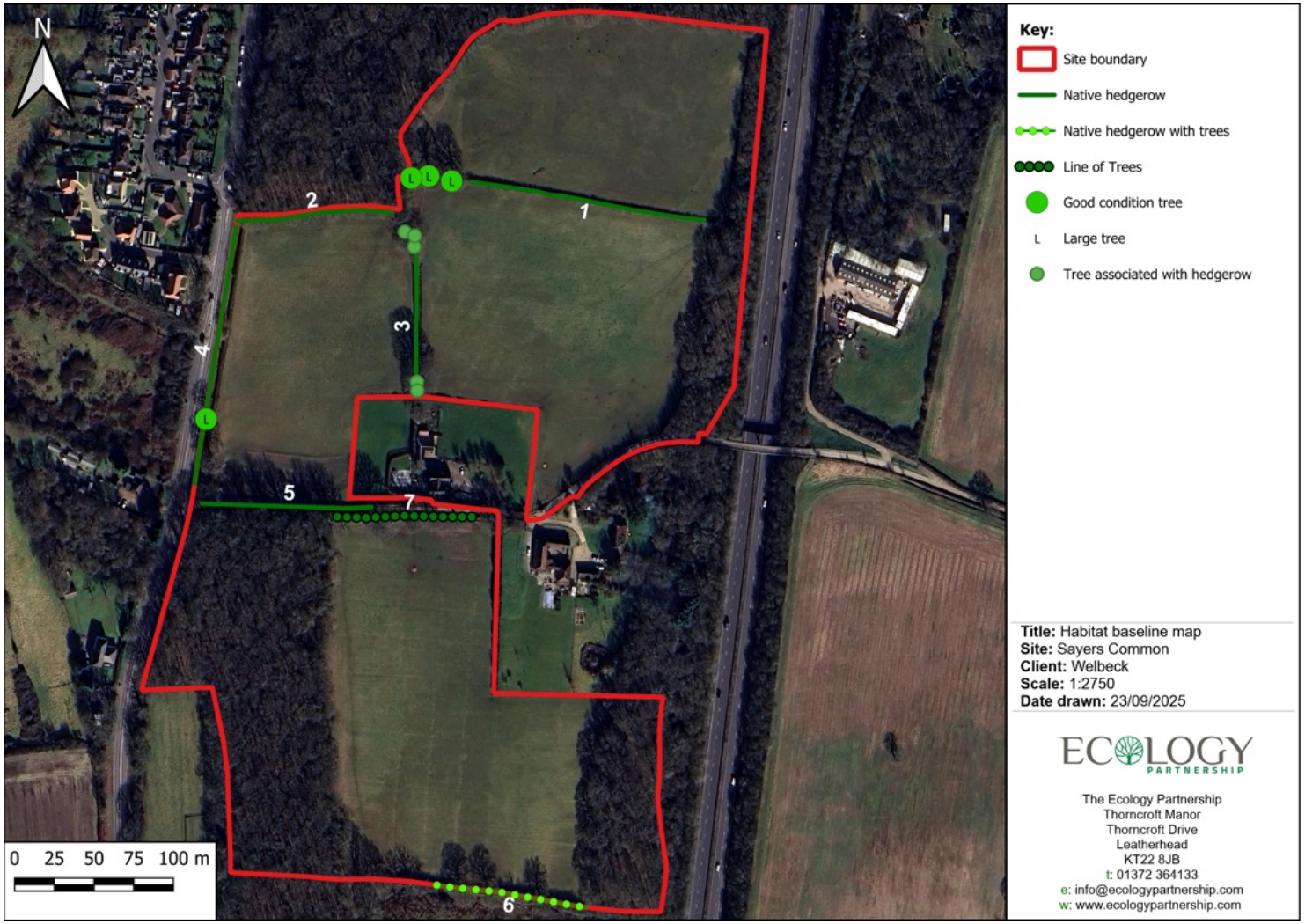

Figure 4: Baseline Linear habitats

Table 1. ***On-site habitat breakdown – Pre-Development***

Habitat	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Total habitat units	Area retained	Area enhanced	Units lost	Comments
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.766	High	Poor	Low	4.60	0.766	0.00	0.00	
Modified grassland	9.994	Low	Poor	Low	19.99	0.00	0.00	19.99	
Developed land; sealed surface	0.2	V.Low	N/A - Other	Low	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	1.914	High	Good	Moderate	0.00	1.914	0.00	0.00	Ancient woodland
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.507	High	Moderate	Moderate	0.00	0.507	0.00	0.00	Ancient woodland
Urban tree	0.183	Medium	Good	Low	2.20	0.1466	0.00	0.44	
Total area (excluding trees)	**13.38**			**Total units/area**	**26.78**	***3.33***	**0.00**	**20.42**	

Table 2. ***On-site hedgerow habitat breakdown – Pre-Development***

Habitat	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Total units	Length retained	Length enhanced	Units lost	Comments
Species-Rich Native hedgerow	0.149	Medium	Good	Low	1.79	0.12	0.00	0.35	H1
Species-Rich Native hedgerow	0.098	Medium	Good	Low	1.18	0.098	0.00	0.00	H2
Native hedgerow	0.102	Medium	Good	Low	0.61	0.071	0.00	0.19	H3
Species-Rich Native hedgerow	0.164	Medium	Good	Low	1.97	0.124	0.00	0.48	H4
Native hedgerow	0.107	Medium	Good	Low	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.64	H5
Species-Rich Native hedgerow with trees	0.096	Medium	Good	Low	1.73	0.096	0.00	0.00	H6
Ecologically Valuable Line of trees	0.088	Medium	Moderate	Low	0.70	0.077	0.00	0.09	H7
Total length	0.80	**Total units/length**			8.62	0.59	0.00	1.74	

On-Site Habitat Creation

2.6 The proposed development is largely centred within the grassland areas, whilst retaining/enhancing most of the boundary habitats, as well as all areas of woodland. The ancient woodland habitats are set within the red line boundary but are excluded from the metric.

2.7 The site boundaries will be enhanced with the creation of species-rich grassland, with scattered trees/scrub, and SUDS basins designed for wildlife. Extensive tree planting is proposed throughout the site and use of flowering lawns in areas which areas of grassland to be managed to a shorter sward.

2.8 The proposed habitat areas are detailed in Tables 3 and 4, and Figure 5 below for habitats and Figure 6 for the linear units.

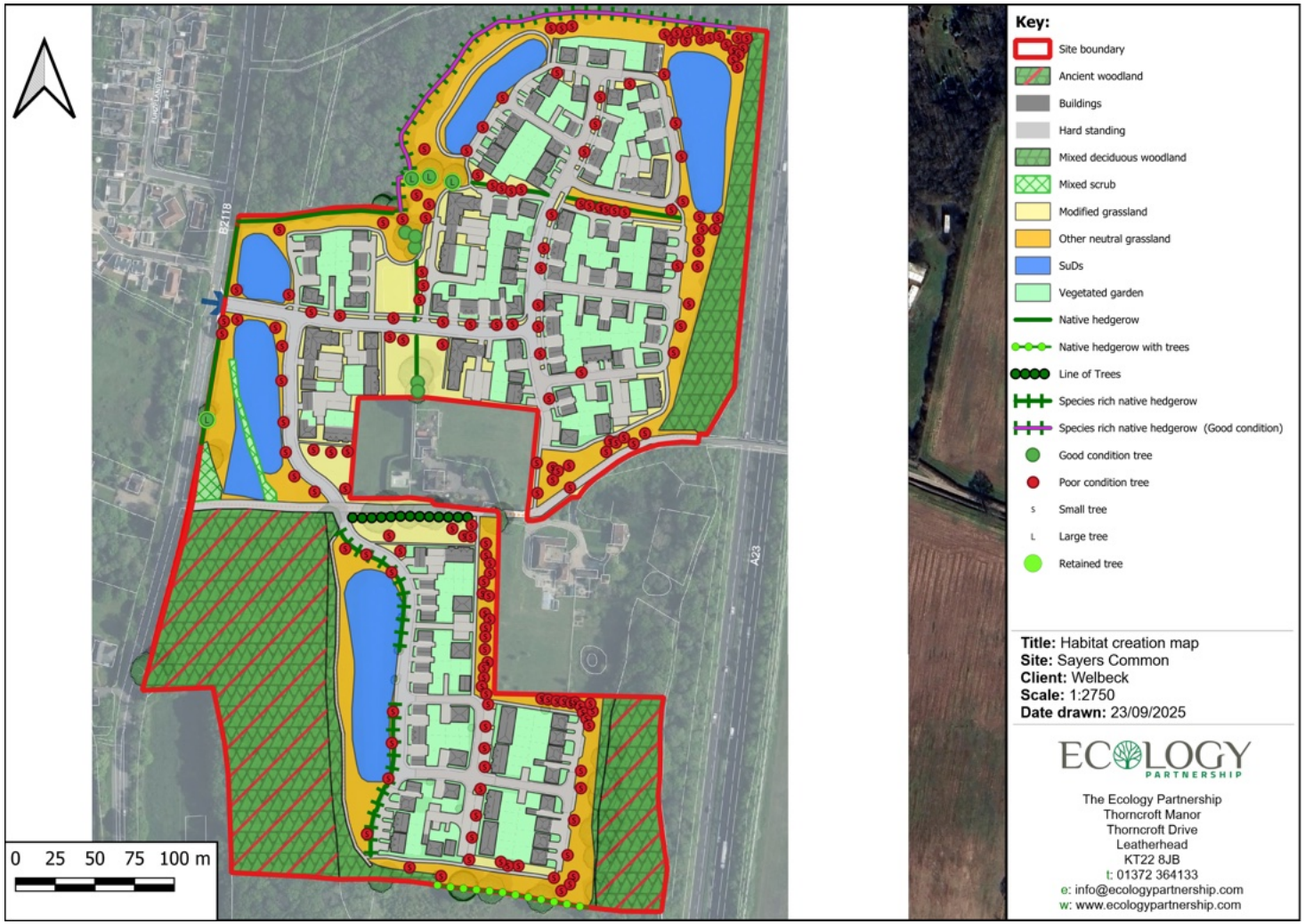

Figure 5. Proposed area habitats

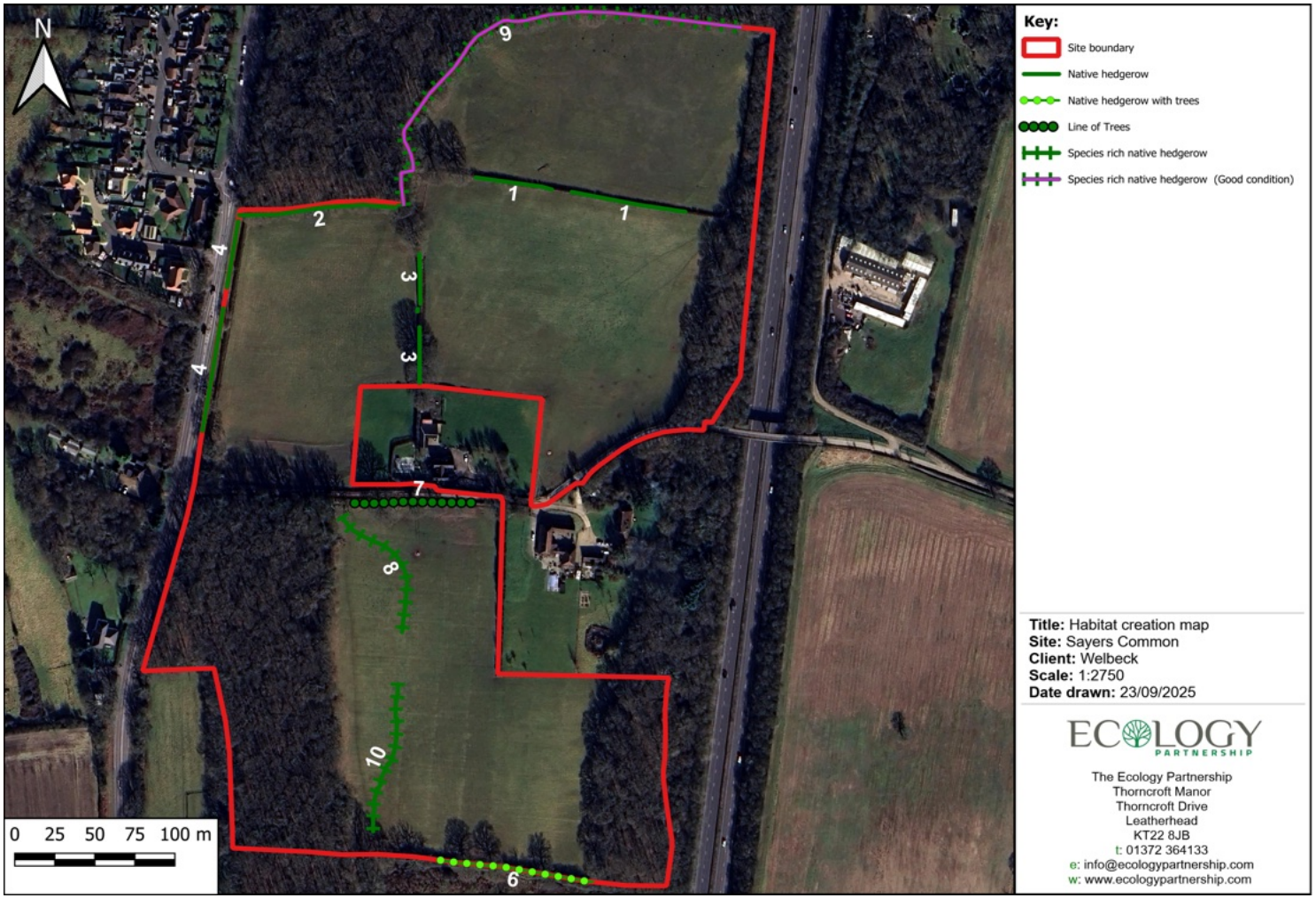

Figure 6. Proposed linear habitats

Table 3. ***On-site habitat breakdown – Post-Development Creation***

Habitat	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Target Condition	Strategic significance	Years to target condition	Difficulty	Total habitat units	Comments
Developed land; sealed surface	4.001	V.Low	N/A - Other	Low	0	Low	0.00	Buildings and Hardstanding
Modified grassland	0.904	Low	Moderate	Low	4	Low	3.14	Areas set within the main development area
Mixed scrub	0.079	Medium	Moderate	Low	5	Low	0.53	Native scrub planting
Other neutral grassland	2.247	Medium	Poor	Low	2	Low	8.37	Wildflower grassland
Other neutral grassland	1.192	Medium	Moderate	Low	5	Low	7.98	SUDS
Vegetated garden	1.77	Low	Condition Assessment N/A	Low	1	Low	3.42	Gardens
Urban tree	0.729	Medium	Poor	Low	10	Low	2.04	179 proposed trees
Total area	**10.92**	**Total units**					**25.47**	

Table 4. On-site hedgerow habitat breakdown – Post-Development Creation

Habitat	*Length (km)*	*Distinctiveness*	*Condition*	*Strategic significance*	*Years to target condition*	*Difficulty*	*Total habitat units*	*Comments*
Species-rich native hedgerow	0.3	Medium	Moderate	Low	5	Low	2.01	H9
Species-rich native hedgerow	0.094	Medium	Moderate	Low	5	Low	0.63	H8
Species-rich native hedgerow	0.101	Medium	Moderate	Low	5	Low	0.68	H10
Total length	***0.50***	***Total units***					***3.31***	

2.9 The final results are shown in table 5 below.

Table 5. Final results

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	5.05
	Hedgerow units	1.57
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Area habitat units*	18.85%
	Hedgerow units	18.22%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Area habitat units	10.00%	26.78	29.46	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	8.62	9.48	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 ✓

2.10 The calculations confirm that the development has the potential to result in a **+18.85% net gain** in habitat units and a **+18.22% net gain** in hedgerow units, based on the current proposal and all trading rules have been satisfied.

2.11 A detailed Habitat Management & Maintenance Plan will be developed at the detailed design stage to detail the long-term management of the proposed habitats to achieve the targeted habitat conditions, over a 30 year timespan.

3.0 Enhancements

Gardens

3.1 Initial planting of the vegetated garden areas can be carried out with wildlife in mind. Native trees and shrubs should be planted where possible and wildflower seed mixes can be sown to enhance the grassland.

Integrated bat features

3.2 It is recommended that integrated bat tubes be incorporated into the structure of the new buildings, to provide new roosting opportunities for crevice-dwelling species.

3.3 Examples of integrated roosts which can be incorporated into certain buildings such as a soffit bat box (Figure 7). This caters for crevice-dwelling species such as pipistrelles and certain *Myotis* species. This type of box makes use of an underutilised area of a building

and would require no maintenance as droppings would drop through the entrance hole. These should be located on buildings close to linear features and dark corridors and if installed on private buildings, the owners should be made aware of their purpose and legal protection.

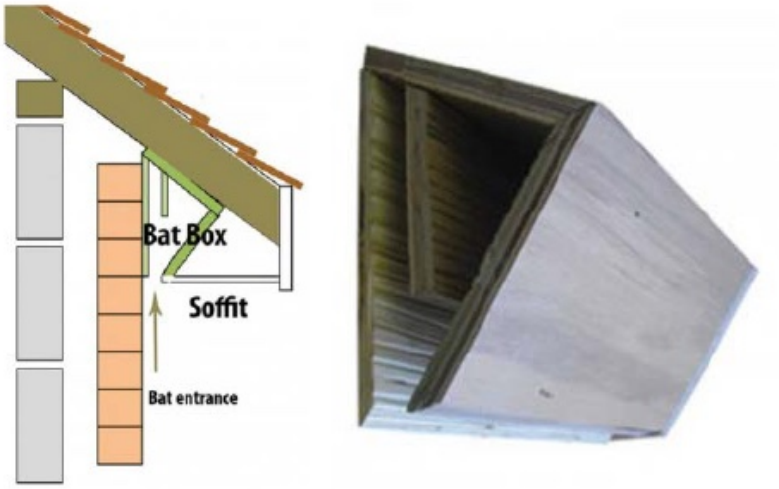

Figure 7: Soffit bat box (Wildcare)

Log Piles

3.4 Log piles should be created on Site, especially in the newly created wildflower meadow, in order to provide further habitats for a wide range of invertebrates, which in turn provides a food source for larger fauna, and hence increasing the biodiversity of the Site. Log piles should be made from native, broadleaved trees, and should be partially buried (Figure 8). They should be located within shady areas of the Site and along the SuDS.

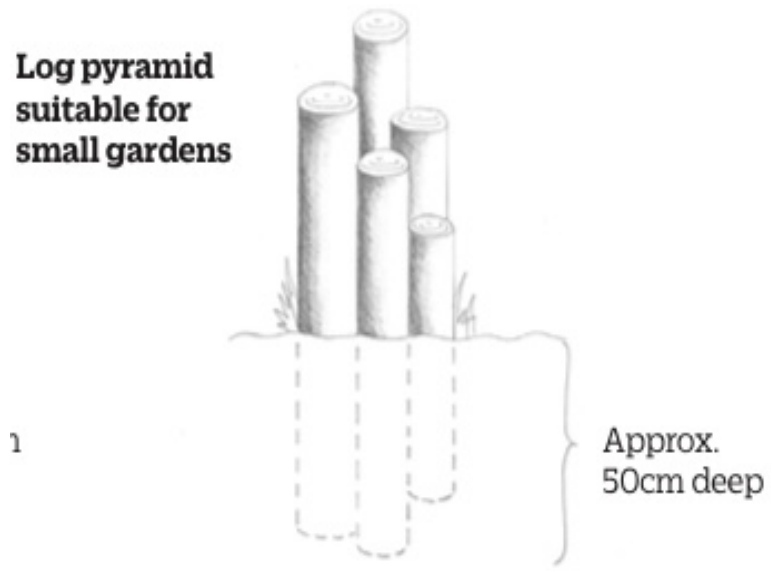

Figure 8: Example of a log pile to be built on Site

Bird Boxes

3.5 Additional nesting opportunities can be installed within existing trees on Site, or new buildings including garage areas. Again, hardwearing woodcrete boxes, or similar, are recommended. Figure 9 below gives examples of suitable bird boxes which could be installed onto the brickwork of the units or into the trees. The box should be positioned on a north or east facing aspect and at least 2m above the ground if possible. These would cater for species such as house sparrows and wagtails and the smaller garden birds.

Figure 9: Examples of suitable bird boxes which could be installed on site – Vivara Pro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box (left), Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Box (centre) and Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box (right)

Hedgehog Highways

3.6 All adjoining garden fences on Site will have a 13cm x 13cm hole at the bottom to provide a passageway for hedgehogs to travel between gardens and other habitats on site. Fences and walls are one of the main reasons why hedgehog numbers are declining as the amount of land available to them is reduced. To ensure that new residents do not block these 'highways', small signs can be erected above the hole, such as those produced by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), informing them of their purpose (Figure 10).

Figure 10: Hedgehog highway sign for fences (hedgehogstreet.org)

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 The baseline value of the site is **26.78 area units** and **8.62 hedgerow units**.

4.2 Post-development the proposed value of the site is currently predicted to be **31.83 area units and 10.19 hedgerow units**, equating to a change of **+18.85%** and **+18.22%** respectively.

4.3 All trading rules have been satisfied.

4.4 To achieve this net-gain the development will seek to retain/enhanced all existing areas of woodland and much of the existing treelines and hedgerow habitat and create new habitats including wildflower-rich grassland, species-rich hedgerows, SUDS ponds, and mixed native shrub and tree planting.

4.5 A Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan (HMMP) will also likely be required to detail the necessary management required to achieve the targeted net gain, over a 30 year timespan.

Appendix 1: Habitat Condition Assessments

-Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)					
UKHab Habitat Type(s): Grassland - Modified grassland					
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Grassland 1**	**Grassland 2**	**Grassland 3**	**Grassland 4**
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m present, including at least 2 forbs (this 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~ (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.	N	N	N	N
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	N	N	N	N
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.	Y	Y	N	N
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	N	Y	N	N
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens?).	N	N	N	N
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	N	Y	Y	Y
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species? (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA*).	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Condition	**Poor**	**Poor**	**Poor**	**Poor**
Condition Assessment Result					
Good	Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including essential criterion A				
Moderate	Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A				
Poor	Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR 4-6 of criteria but failing criterion A				

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 the 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)

Individual trees		
UKHab Habitat Type(s): Urban tree: Covers the following topographical formations most commonly found in urban areas[1]: **Individual Trees (urban or rural):** Young trees over 75mm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching. **Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only):** Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies must overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**T1, T2, T3 & T4**
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Pass
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).	Pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	Pass
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.	Fail
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Pass
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Fail
	Condition	**Moderate**
Condition Assessment Result		
Good	Passes 5 or 6 criteria	
Moderate	Passes 3 or 4 criteria	
Poor	Passes 2 or fewer criteria	

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criteria achieved?					
Hedgerows	**H1**	**H2**	**H3**	**H4**	**H5**	**H6**
Height >1.5 m average along length	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Width >1.5 m average along length	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gap – hedge base Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gap – hedge canopy continuity Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Undisturbed perennial vegetation >1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length (on one side of the hedge (at least))	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Undesirable species Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Invasive 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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Current Damage >90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	N	N	N	N	N	N
Tree Age (if hedgerow with trees) 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.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tree health (if hedgerow with trees) 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.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Criteria failed	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Condition (G = good; M = moderate; P = poor)	**G**	**G**	**G**	**G**	**G**	**G**

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Southern treeline**
1	More than 70% of trees are native species.	**Pass**
2	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	**Pass**
3	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.	**Pass**
4	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]	**Fail**
5	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.	**Pass**
	Condition	**Moderate**
Condition Assessment Result		
Good	Passes 5 of 5 criteria	
Moderate	Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria	
Poor	Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 5 criteria	

Footnote 2 -Veteran trees can be classified if they have four out of the five following features:

1. Rot sites associated with wounds which are decaying >400 cm^2;
2. Holes and water pockets in the trunk and mature crown >5 cm diameter;
3. Dead branches or stems >15 cm diameter;
4. Any hollowing in the trunk or major limbs;
5. Fruit bodies of fungi known to cause wood decay.

		Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type					
		UKHab Habitat Type(s): All woodlands (except wood pasture)					
		Condition Assessment Criteria					
Indicator		**Good (3 points)**	**Moderate (2 points)**	**Poor (1 point)**	**Score per indicator**		
					Southwest (ancient) woodland	**Southwest (ancient) woodland**	**Eastern woodland**
A	**Age distribution of trees Footnote 1**	**3**	Two age-classes[1] present	One age-class[1] present	**3**	**3**	**2**
B	**Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage Footnote 2**	**2**	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland[2]	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2]	**2**	**1**	**1**
C	**Invasive plant species Footnote 3**	**3**	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, other invasive species[3] < 10% cover	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] > 10% cover	**3**	**3**	**3**
D	**Number of native tree species Footnote 4**	**3**	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel	None to two native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel	**3**	**3**	**2**
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species Footnote 5**	**3**	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**	**3**	**3**
F	**Open space within woodland Footnote 6 and 7**	**3**	21- 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	**3**	**3**	**2**

G	**Woodland regeneration Footnote 8**	**3**	One or two classes only present in woodland[8]	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8]	**3**	**2**	**1**
H	**Tree health Footnote 9**	**2**	11% to 25% 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]	**2**	**2**	**1**
I	**Vegetation and ground flora Footnote 10**	**3**	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] present at ground layer present	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present	**3**	**2**	**2**
J	**Woodland vertical structure Footnote 11**	**2**	Two storeys across all survey plots[11]	One or less storey across all survey plots[11]	**2**	**2**	**2**
K	**Veteran trees Footnote 12**	**2**	One veteran tree[12] per hectare	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland	**2**	**2**	**2**
L	**Amount of deadwood Footnote 13**	**3**	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].	**3**	**3**	**2**
M	**Woodland disturbance Footnote 14**	**3**	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and/or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14]	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and/or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14]	**3**	**2**	**2**
				Total score (out of a possible 39)	**35**	**31**	**25**

	GOOD	MODERATE	POOR

	Condition Assessment Score
Good	Total score >32 (33 to 39)
Moderate	Total score 26 to 32
Poor	Total score <26 (13 to 25)

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment details: EWBG (No date). *Assessing your Woodland's Condition* [online]. Available from: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)

The woodland condition assessment survey methodology is outlined in the EWBG toolkit. However the criteria on this sheet are those specific to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and must be used when assessing woodland condition.

Footnote 1 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch *Betula* sp., cherry *Prunus* sp. or *Sorbus* sp.: 0 - 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or *Sorbus* species; 0 - 20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years =Intermediate; >60 years = Old. A recognisable age-class should be a consistent recognisable layer across the woodland or stand being assessed. Presence of a few saplings would not indicate that the woodland has an 'age-class' of young trees.

Footnote 2 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 2 for more information. Browsing pressure is considered to be significant where >20% of vegetation visible within each survey plot shows damage from any type of browsing pressure listed.

Footnote 3 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 3 for more information. Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly. Check for the presence of all plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), particularly the following invasive non-native species: American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*; Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*; Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*; cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*; shallon *Gaultheria shallon*; snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*; variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum*; rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*; and tree-of-heaven *Alianthus altissima*.

Footnote 4 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 4 and Table 2 for more information. The number of different native tree or shrub species including young trees and shrubs. A list of commonly found native tree and shrub species is provided in Table 2. Not all species listed are native to all parts of the UK. Note a list of commonly found non-native tree species are also included and should be recorded if present.

Footnote 5 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 5 and for more information. The abundance of native tree species in upper (>5 m) and understorey (up to 5 m) layers including young trees and shrubs.

Footnote 6 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 6 for more information. Open space within woodland in this context is temporary open space in which trees can be expected to regenerate (for example, glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not possible or desirable (for example, tarmac, buildings, rivers). Area is at least 10 m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees.

Footnote 7 – Given the increased ratio of edge habitat to woodland where the woodland is <10ha.

Footnote 8 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 8 for more information. This indicator measures regeneration potential of the woodland by considering three classes: seedlings; saplings; and young trees of 4-7 cm DBH. All three classes would fall in the 'young' category of the 'age distribution of trees' indicator, but the

regeneration indicator gathers additional information by considering regeneration potential - if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration processes are happening.

Footnote 9 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 9 for more information and Table 3 for a list of diseases and pests and their risk level.

Footnote 10 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 10 directing to NVC key for more information. The 'UKHab to NVC translation table' in the UK Habitat Classification resources may also be useful to assess this.

Footnote 11 – This criterion looks at structural diversity and is useful to understand in conjunction with the age of trees in a woodland. Vertical structure is defined as the number of canopy storeys present. Possible storey values are: 1) Upper; 2) Complex: recorded when the stand is composed of multiple tree heights that cannot easily be stratified into broad height bands (such as upper, middle or lower); 3) Middle; 4) Lower; and 5) Shrub layer. There might be no storeys where the woodland has been felled. See EWBG INDICATOR 11 for more information.

Footnote 12 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and:Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) EWBG INDICATOR 12 is the relevant indicator.

Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches on the forest floor and stumps (<1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and also deadwood on standing live trees. Diameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter of 20 cm.

Footnote 14 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery, animal poaching or litter.

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