Ecological Walkover Survey

Project Information & Site Context

Site Name & Location	Northern Arc Phase 1C, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 8RA	**Grid Reference**	TQ 30953 20791
Client Name	Hill Group and Homes England	**Report Number**	RT-MME-180829-01-Rev.B
Site Area (ha)	12.21	**Topography**	Incline from south to north.
Project Background	In August 2024, Hill Group and Homes England commissioned Middlemarch to undertake an ecological walkover survey of three parcels of land at the Northern Arc Development, Phase 1C in Burgess Hill, West Sussex. The site is 12.21 ha in size and is located to the east of the A273, a major road that runs north out of the urban settlement area of Burgess Hill. The Phase 1C application boundary includes three land parcels within the wider Northern Arc Development area. A large parcel spans the eastern boundary, running from south to north, whilst two smaller parcels are present in the north-west. The site has been subject to previous ecological surveys conducted by AECOM in 2018/2019 to support an outline planning application for the wider Northern Arc Development area. Zebra Ecology completed a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal in 2023 to update findings and support a reserved matters application in relation to the Northern Arc Phase 1C development.		
Summary of Proposals	Planning consent is being sought from Mid Sussex District Council for the development of 270 residential units, including a community hub, retail and extra care units.		

Methods

Field Survey	An ecological walkover survey of the site was undertaken on 12th September 2024 by Richard Sainsbury BSc (Hons) (Senior Ecological Consultant) during which the location and extent of all habitat types present within the site were noted. The presence, or likely presence, of protected species within the site was also recorded.			
Weather Conditions	**Temperature (°C)**	**Cloud Cover (%)**	**Wind Force (Beaufort)**	**Precipitation**
	7	10	F2	Dry
Constraints	No constraints were experienced at the time of the survey.			

Results

Overview of Habitats	On-site habitats include lowland deciduous woodland, a habitat of principle importance. This priority habitat extends into the site on the eastern boundary and forms a buffer between the development site and the River Adur. The site has been historically used for agricultural purposes. An unmanaged, established, species-rich hedgerow is present within Parcel A, running from east to west, separating an area of modified grassland. Grassland swards were species-poor across the whole application site. Parcel A's western boundary constitutes a hedgerow with many large trees. An established tree line and a number of scattered trees are also present within Parcel A and Parcel B respectively. Remaining habitats present on site include dense scrub and bare ground. The condition assessment for these habitats is included in Appendix A below.
Key Species Considerations	**Amphibians** *Great Crested Newt* No waterbodies are present within the application site. Twenty-five standing waterbodies have been identified within a 500m radius of the application site boundary. These waterbodies were

subject to further survey effort by AECOM in 2019 in support of the outline planning permission for the wider Northern Arc development; all returned negative results.

The application site provides suitable terrestrial habitat in the form of tussocky vegetation, scrub, log piles, fallen deadwood and hedgerow for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*.

Other Amphibians

There are no ponds providing suitable breeding opportunities for common amphibians on site; however, suitable terrestrial habitat and hibernation opportunities (log/rubble piles) are present.

Birds

The site provides sheltering, nesting and foraging for common and widespread species associated with lowland England. The woodland and riverine habitats offer resources for species that occupy these habitats. The species-rich hedgerows and large trees offer a good foraging and nesting resource for over-wintering and breeding birds alike.

Mammals

Badger

No evidence of badger *Meles meles* activity (such as latrines, snuffle holes, sett entrances) was recorded during the walkover assessment, however the habitats on-site are suitable for badger, particularly the woodland edges and hedgerows.

Bats

The site has been designated as holding 'moderate' suitability to support foraging and commuting bats. The site contains lowland deciduous woodland habitat and well-established lines of trees and species-rich hedgerows, enclosing large parcels of unmanaged grassland. The River Adur (and its associated riparian zone) to the east likely forms a suitable commuting route for local bat populations. The woodland is well connected to other foraging routes including hedgerow networks, and habitat parcels including ponds/lakes and grassland. The hedgerow networks and tree lines on site may serve as suitable dispersal routes, with the grassland swards adjacent to the woodland to the east likely forming a good foraging resource. Many trees inspected during the ground level tree assessment, undertaken by Zebra Ecology in 2023, and observed during the walkover survey contained opportunities for roosting bats, and the woodland habitats likely offering numerous roosting opportunities for many bat species.

Hazel Dormice

The woodland habitat to the east and hedgerows to the south provide suitable habitat for hazel dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius*. During the walkover survey, it was noted that the hedgerow and woodland edges had been surveyed for hazel dormice, as indicated by the presence of nest tubes within numerous trees. It is understood that surveys were undertaken to achieve outline planning permission for the scheme by AECOM. Subsequently, the presence of hazel dormouse was confirmed with Hedgerow H1 on site and c.100m north of the northern site boundary. AECOM recommended the acquisition of a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence, prior to development commencing.

Hedgehog

The woodland edges, hedgerows and scrub on-site may provide refuge and hibernation opportunities for hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*. There is potential for hedgehog to pass through the site on occasion.

Riparian Mammals

There is a small amount of riparian habitat within the application site boundary. The River Adur runs along the site's eastern boundary. The woodland habitat surrounding the river likely offers

	some opportunities for otter *Lutra lutra* holt creation and the banks may be suitable for water vole *Arvicola amphibius*, however it is understood that the River Adur and its riparian zone are to be unaffected by development proposals. **Invasive and Non-native Species** Snowberry *Symphoricarpos sp.* was the only non-native species encountered during the site visit. **Invertebrates** The application site offers some habitat of value for common and widespread invertebrate species. The scrub, grassland, woodland and bare ground habitats provide a suitable foraging, sheltering and basking opportunities for many species. Fallen deadwood was present in a number of locations across the site, which provides a primary resource for saproxylic species. **Reptiles** The application site provides suitable habitat for common reptile species with areas of scrub, tussocky grassland, fallen deadwood/tree stumps, and hedgerow present. Several of the trees within the woodland edge has exposed roots with sheltering opportunities present. AECOM undertook reptile presence/absence surveys of the site in 2019 and confirmed the presence of both slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* and grass snake *Natrix helvetica* within the southern grassland parcel and along the woodland edge within the application site. A translocation of these populations was recommended prior to development that would impact this habitat. Parcel B and the western edge of Parcel A were bound by a herpetofauna exclusion fence, which was presumably erected to prevent colonisation by reptiles within the current active development area of the site after AECOM 2019 surveys confirmed reptile presence on site.

Recommendations

The recommendations below are based on Middlemarch's current understanding of the project. If works are changed in any way these recommendations will need to be amended if appropriate.

R1	**Consultation with Statutory/Non-statutory Bodies:** The proposed development could potentially indirectly impact upon Bedelands Farm which is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The development proposals will likely increase footfall pressures on the local green space. As such, Natural England/Local Planning Authority should be consulted prior to any works commencing to determine how works may proceed without adversely impacting this site.
R2	**Scheme Design and Biodiversity Net Gain:** The proposed development should be designed in accordance with the ecological mitigation hierarchy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). In the first instance the proposals should be designed to avoid/minimise losses, and incorporate these habitats in the landscaping layout of the scheme accordingly. This will help to further avoid and minimise impacts to protected and notable species. Where losses or impacts are unavoidable, compensation should be provided. This could include the replacement of lost habitats and/or connectivity and the creation of new habitats of ecological value. Homes England has developed a detailed biodiversity strategy which outlines the aspirations for each development phase. This has been measured based on Biodiversity Metric 2.0; to provide an overarching assessment of what the wider site was capable of delivering. This has indicated that the parcels within Phase 1C should be aiming to achieve a 10% net gain based on the Biodiversity 2.0 Metric. The Biodiversity Metric 2.0 Calculation Tool should be used to help guide and quantify the baseline and proposed value of the scheme. A Biodiversity Statement and Metric Assessment should be produced to inform the reserved matters application.

R3	**Further Ecological Surveys:** It is recommended that the following species surveys/assessments are undertaken: • Great Crested Newt Environmental DNA Survey of Ponds P1, P2, P5, P6, P8 and P9; • Nighttime Bat Walkover and Automated Bat Surveys; • Ecological Review of Lighting Proposals; • Hazel Dormouse Survey; • Breeding Bird and Wintering Bird Surveys; • Reptile Survey; • River Condition Assessment; and, • Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA). All further ecological surveys should be undertaken in accordance with best practice methodologies, during the appropriate survey windows. The above surveys are to be carried out prior to commencement of the development. However, an agreement has been made with Place Services and Mid Sussex District Council that the survey requirement need not have been fulfilled prior to submission of the Reserved Matters Application.
R4	**Construction Ecological Management Plan (CEcMP):** A Construction Ecological Management Plan should be produced for the site setting out the safeguards and appropriate working practices that will be employed to minimise adverse effects on biodiversity and ensure compliance with UK Wildlife Legislation. The details of the CEcMP will be informed by the final site design and ongoing ecological survey works but should include as a minimum: • Development standoffs and safeguards for all retained habitats, • Construction timetables to avoid sensitive periods such as nesting bird season, • Vegetation management measures to minimise the risk to protected or notable species; and, • Compliance with any specific mitigation measures that will be required to acquire a Development Licence for works affecting protected species The CEcMP should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for Approval and implemented in full thereafter.
R5	**Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP):** A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) should be written and agreed with the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The plan will detail how the post-developed landscape will be managed and how the scheme will identify and pursue measurable net gains for biodiversity and ensure compliance with local and national Government policies (e.g., National Planning Policy Framework).

Quality Assurance

Date	Version	Author	Checked & Approved By
23/01/2024	Final	Richard Sainsbury BSc (Hons) (Senior Ecological Consultant)	Indre Barsketyte MSc (Principal Ecological Consultant)
18/06/2025	Rev. A	Penelope Rees BSc (Hons) ACIEEM (Principal Ecological Consultant)	Indre Barsketyte MSc (Principal Ecological Consultant)
27/06/2025	Rev. B	Patrick Bracelli MSc (Ecological Consultant)	Penelope Rees BSc (Hons) ACIEEM (Principal Ecological Consultant)

Photographs

Plate 1: Species-poor Improved Grassland (TN1)

Plate 2: Species-poor Improved Grassland (TN2)

Plate 3: Species-poor Improved Grassland (TN3)

Plate 4: Species-poor Improved Grassland (TN4)

Plate 5: Species-poor Improved Grassland (TN5)

Plate 6: Dense Scrub (TN6)

Photographs

Plate 7: Dense Scrub (TN7)

Plate 8: Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland (TN8)

Plate 9: Bare Ground (TN9)

Plate 10: Scattered Trees (TN10)

Plate 11: Line of Trees (TN11)

Plate 12: Species-poor Intact Hedgerow (H1a)

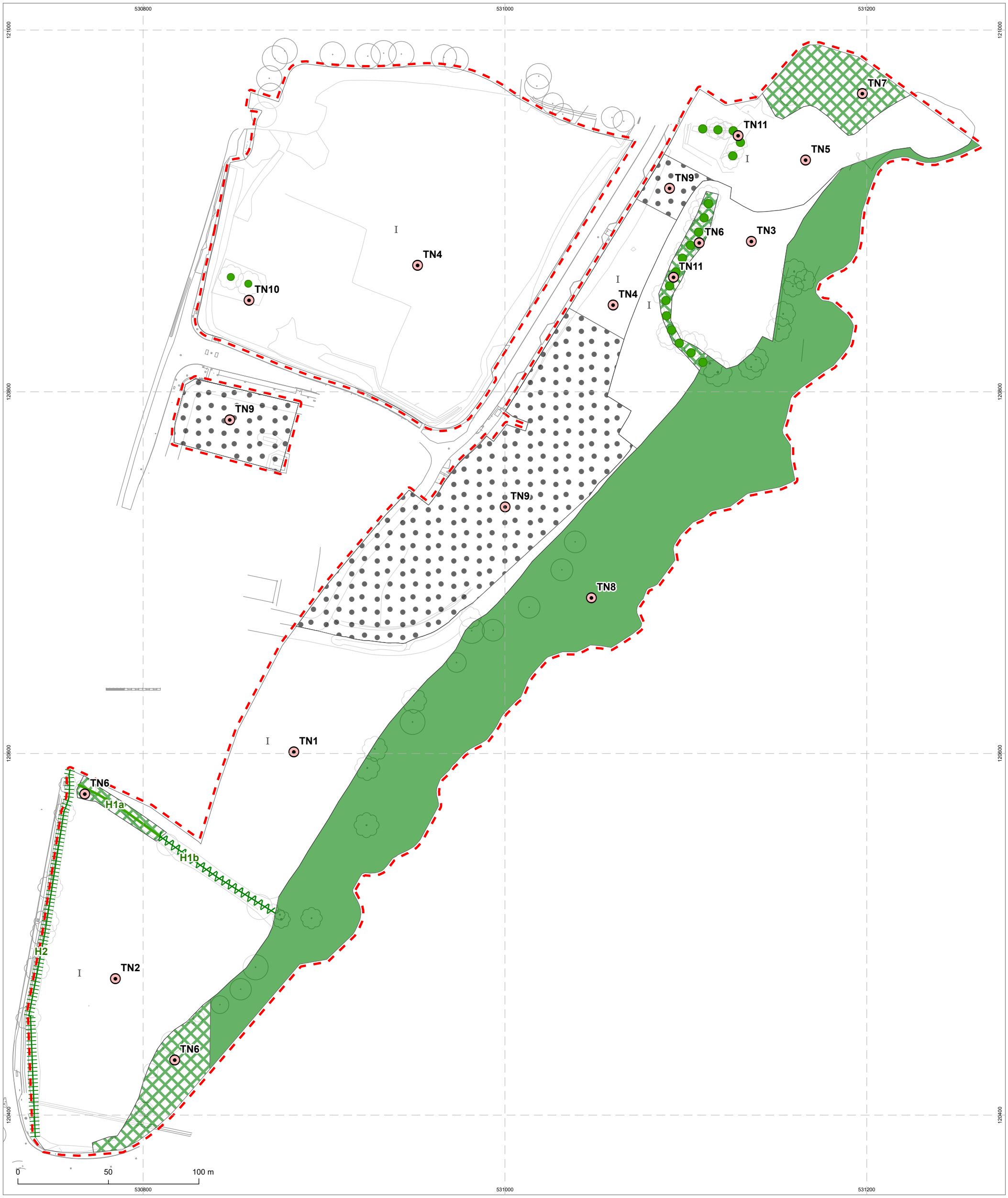
Photographs

Plate 13: Species-rich Intact Hedgerow (H1b)

Plate 14: Native Hedgerow with Trees (H2)

Appendix A - Drawings

Drawing C180829-01-01 – Phase 1 Habitat Map



Legend

- Site boundary
- Scattered broad-leaved tree
- Line of broad-leaved trees
- Species-poor hedgerow with trees
- Species-poor intact hedgerow
- Species-rich intact hedgerow
- Bare ground
- Dense scrub
- Improved grassland
- Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland
- Target note - habitat parcel

N

Project	Northern Arc Development Phase 1C
Drawing	Phase 1 Habitat Map
Client	Hill Holdings Ltd
Drawing Number	C180829-01-01
Revision	00
Scale @ A3	1:2,000
Date	May 2025
Approved By	RS
Drawn By	AW

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C180829-01-01

Appendix B – Habitat Condition Assessment

Grassland – TN1		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
The area is clearly and easily recognisable as a good example of this type of habitat and there is little difference between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site.		Yes
The appearance and composition of the vegetation on site should very closely match the characteristics for the specific Priority Habitat [i.e as described by either the Phase 1 Habitat Classification or the UK Habitat Classification], with species typical of the habitat representing a significant majority of the vegetation.		No
Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific Priority grassland habitat are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward and occur at high densities in high frequency. See relevant Habitat Classification for details of indicator species for specific habitat.		No
Undesirable species and physical damage is below 5% cover.		Yes
Cover of bare ground less than 10% (including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens).		Yes
Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub and bramble less than 5%.		Yes
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	• Species-rich Grassland of all Priority Habitat Types. Of high to moderate quality. • Wildflower and sedges above 30% excluding white clover *Trifolium repens*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and injurious weeds. • Meets all the condition criteria with only minor variation. • None of the indicators of poor condition are present (4, 5 & 6).	
Moderate (Score = 2)	• Semi-improved grassland occurs on a wide range of soils and may be derived from higher quality Priority Habitat grassland habitats in poor condition. Often as they deteriorate following nutrient inputs. Typical grasses include: cock's-foot, common bent, creeping bent, crested dog's-tail, false oat-grass, meadow fescue, meadow foxtail, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, Timothy, tufted hair-grass and Yorkshire-fog. • Total cover of wildflowers and sedges less than 30%, excluding white clover, creeping buttercup and injurious weeds. • Rye-grass cover is less than 25% including amenity grasslands. • OR clearly fails at least 1 of the condition criteria. • OR The grassland type has some differences between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site. It is a Lower Quality Priority Habitat, but clearly recognisable as such. • Potentially restorable to grassland Priority Habitat with improved management. • Cover of undesirable species at 5-15%.	✓
Poor (Score = 1)	• Agricultural grasslands are characterised by vegetation dominated by a few fast-growing grasses on fertile, neutral soils. It is frequently characterised by an abundance of rye-grass *Lolium* spp. (above 25% cover) and white clover *Trifolium repens*. These grasslands are typically either managed as pasture or mown regularly for silage production or in non-agricultural contexts for recreation and amenity purposes; they are often periodically re-sown and are maintained by fertiliser treatment and weed control. They may also be temporary and sown as part of the rotation of arable crops but they are only included in this broad habitat type if they are more than one year old. • Amenity and Road verge grasslands with similar species to description for agriculture grasslands. • OR Most of the condition criteria are being failed. • Cover of undesirable species above 15%, usually resulting in a dense scrub or tree cover, or high cover of exotic species.	

Notes
Undesirable species: • creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex otusifolius*, common ragwort *Senecio jacobea*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*. *Physical damage:* • excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.

Grassland – TN2		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
The area is clearly and easily recognisable as a good example of this type of habitat and there is little difference between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site.		Yes
The appearance and composition of the vegetation on site should very closely match the characteristics for the specific Priority Habitat [i.e as described by either the Phase 1 Habitat Classification or the UK Habitat Classification], with species typical of the habitat representing a significant majority of the vegetation.		No
Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific Priority grassland habitat are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward and occur at high densities in high frequency. See relevant Habitat Classification for details of indicator species for specific habitat.		No
Undesirable species and physical damage is below 5% cover.		No
Cover of bare ground less than 10% (including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens).		Yes
Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub and bramble less than 5%.		Yes
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	• Species-rich Grassland of all Priority Habitat Types. Of high to moderate quality. • Wildflower and sedges above 30% excluding white clover *Trifolium repens*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and injurious weeds. • Meets all the condition criteria with only minor variation. • None of the indicators of poor condition are present (4, 5 & 6).	
Moderate (Score = 2)	• Semi-improved grassland occurs on a wide range of soils and may be derived from higher quality Priority Habitat grassland habitats in poor condition. Often as they deteriorate following nutrient inputs. Typical grasses include: cock's-foot, common bent, creeping bent, crested dog's-tail, false oat-grass, meadow fescue, meadow foxtail, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, Timothy, tufted hair-grass and Yorkshire-fog. • Total cover of wildflowers and sedges less than 30%, excluding white clover, creeping buttercup and injurious weeds. • Rye-grass cover is less than 25% including amenity grasslands. • OR clearly fails at least 1 of the condition criteria. • OR The grassland type has some differences between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site. It is a Lower Quality Priority Habitat, but clearly recognisable as such. • Potentially restorable to grassland Priority Habitat with improved management. • Cover of undesirable species at 5-15%.	
Poor (Score = 1)	• Agricultural grasslands are characterised by vegetation dominated by a few fast-growing grasses on fertile, neutral soils. It is frequently characterised by an abundance of rye-grass *Lolium* spp. (above 25% cover) and white clover *Trifolium repens*. These grasslands are typically either managed as pasture or mown regularly for silage production or in non-agricultural contexts for recreation and amenity purposes; they are often periodically re-sown and are maintained by fertiliser treatment and weed control. They may also be temporary and sown as part of the rotation of arable crops but they are only included in this broad habitat type if they are more than one year old. • Amenity and Road verge grasslands with similar species to description for agriculture grasslands. • OR Most of the condition criteria are being failed. • Cover of undesirable species above 15%, usually resulting in a dense scrub or tree cover, or high cover of exotic species.	✓

Notes
Undesirable species: • creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex otusifolius*, common ragwort *Senecio jacobea*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*. *Physical damage:* • excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.

Grassland – TN3		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
The area is clearly and easily recognisable as a good example of this type of habitat and there is little difference between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site.		Yes
The appearance and composition of the vegetation on site should very closely match the characteristics for the specific Priority Habitat [i.e as described by either the Phase 1 Habitat Classification or the UK Habitat Classification], with species typical of the habitat representing a significant majority of the vegetation.		No
Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific Priority grassland habitat are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward and occur at high densities in high frequency. See relevant Habitat Classification for details of indicator species for specific habitat.		No
Undesirable species and physical damage is below 5% cover.		Yes
Cover of bare ground less than 10% (including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens).		Yes
Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub and bramble less than 5%.		Yes
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	• Species-rich Grassland of all Priority Habitat Types. Of high to moderate quality. • Wildflower and sedges above 30% excluding white clover *Trifolium repens*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and injurious weeds. • Meets all the condition criteria with only minor variation. • None of the indicators of poor condition are present (4, 5 & 6).	
Moderate (Score = 2)	• Semi-improved grassland occurs on a wide range of soils and may be derived from higher quality Priority Habitat grassland habitats in poor condition. Often as they deteriorate following nutrient inputs. Typical grasses include: cock's-foot, common bent, creeping bent, crested dog's-tail, false oat-grass, meadow fescue, meadow foxtail, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, Timothy, tufted hair-grass and Yorkshire-fog. • Total cover of wildflowers and sedges less than 30%, excluding white clover, creeping buttercup and injurious weeds. • Rye-grass cover is less than 25% including amenity grasslands. • OR clearly fails at least 1 of the condition criteria. • OR The grassland type has some differences between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site. It is a Lower Quality Priority Habitat, but clearly recognisable as such. • Potentially restorable to grassland Priority Habitat with improved management. • Cover of undesirable species at 5-15%.	✓
Poor (Score = 1)	• Agricultural grasslands are characterised by vegetation dominated by a few fast-growing grasses on fertile, neutral soils. It is frequently characterised by an abundance of rye-grass *Lolium* spp. (above 25% cover) and white clover *Trifolium repens*. These grasslands are typically either managed as pasture or mown regularly for silage production or in non-agricultural contexts for recreation and amenity purposes; they are often periodically re-sown and are maintained by fertiliser treatment and weed control. They may also be temporary and sown as part of the rotation of arable crops but they are only included in this broad habitat type if they are more than one year old. • Amenity and Road verge grasslands with similar species to description for agriculture grasslands. • OR Most of the condition criteria are being failed. • Cover of undesirable species above 15%, usually resulting in a dense scrub or tree cover, or high cover of exotic species.	

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Undesirable species: • creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex otusifolius*, common ragwort *Senecio jacobea*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*. *Physical damage:* • excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.

Grassland – TN4		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
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The appearance and composition of the vegetation on site should very closely match the characteristics for the specific Priority Habitat [i.e as described by either the Phase 1 Habitat Classification or the UK Habitat Classification], with species typical of the habitat representing a significant majority of the vegetation.		No
Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific Priority grassland habitat are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward and occur at high densities in high frequency. See relevant Habitat Classification for details of indicator species for specific habitat.		No
Undesirable species and physical damage is below 5% cover.		No
Cover of bare ground less than 10% (including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens).		No
Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub and bramble less than 5%.		Yes
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	• Species-rich Grassland of all Priority Habitat Types. Of high to moderate quality. • Wildflower and sedges above 30% excluding white clover *Trifolium repens*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and injurious weeds. • Meets all the condition criteria with only minor variation. • None of the indicators of poor condition are present (4, 5 & 6).	
Moderate (Score = 2)	• Semi-improved grassland occurs on a wide range of soils and may be derived from higher quality Priority Habitat grassland habitats in poor condition. Often as they deteriorate following nutrient inputs. Typical grasses include: cock's-foot, common bent, creeping bent, crested dog's-tail, false oat-grass, meadow fescue, meadow foxtail, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, Timothy, tufted hair-grass and Yorkshire-fog. • Total cover of wildflowers and sedges less than 30%, excluding white clover, creeping buttercup and injurious weeds. • Rye-grass cover is less than 25% including amenity grasslands. • OR clearly fails at least 1 of the condition criteria. • OR The grassland type has some differences between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site. It is a Lower Quality Priority Habitat, but clearly recognisable as such. • Potentially restorable to grassland Priority Habitat with improved management. • Cover of undesirable species at 5-15%.	
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Grassland – TN5		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
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Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific Priority grassland habitat are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward and occur at high densities in high frequency. See relevant Habitat Classification for details of indicator species for specific habitat.		No
Undesirable species and physical damage is below 5% cover.		No
Cover of bare ground less than 10% (including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens).		No
Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub and bramble less than 5%.		Yes
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
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Poor (Score = 1)	• Agricultural grasslands are characterised by vegetation dominated by a few fast-growing grasses on fertile, neutral soils. It is frequently characterised by an abundance of rye-grass *Lolium* spp. (above 25% cover) and white clover *Trifolium repens*. These grasslands are typically either managed as pasture or mown regularly for silage production or in non-agricultural contexts for recreation and amenity purposes; they are often periodically re-sown and are maintained by fertiliser treatment and weed control. They may also be temporary and sown as part of the rotation of arable crops but they are only included in this broad habitat type if they are more than one year old. • Amenity and Road verge grasslands with similar species to description for agriculture grasslands. • OR Most of the condition criteria are being failed. • Cover of undesirable species above 15%, usually resulting in a dense scrub or tree cover, or high cover of exotic species.	✓

Notes
Undesirable species: • creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex otusifolius*, common ragwort *Senecio jacobea*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and marsh ragwort *Senecio aquaticus*. *Physical damage:* • excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.

Scrub – Bramble Scrub		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
There are at least three woody species, with no one species comprising more than 75% of the cover (exempt common juniper, sea buckthorn or box, which can be 100% cover).		No
There is a good age range – a mixture of seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature shrubs.		No
Pernicious weeds and invasive species make us less than 5% of the ground cover.		No
The scrub has a well-developed edge with un-grazed tall herbs.		No
There are many clearings and glades within the scrub.		No
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	• Meets all of the 5 criteria with only minor variation. • Scrub type of high biodiversity value in good condition. • None of the indicators of poor condition are present.	
Moderate (Score = 2)	• The single woody species cover is greater than 75%. • The age range is missing some size classes. • Scrub type of high biodiversity value in poor condition. • The scrub type has minor differences between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site. • Cover of undesirable and invasive species at 5-20%.	
Poor (Score = 1)	• Single-age scrub present. • Potentially restorable to improved scrub habitat with improved management. • All of the condition criteria are being failed. • The scrub type has major differences between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site. • Cover of undesirable and invasive species above 20% (see below). • All Rhododendron stands will be in this condition.	✓
Notes		

Undesirable species:

- *Cirsium arvense*
- *Urtica dioica*
- Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandilifera*
- Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
- Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
- Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Factsheets of these invasive non-native plant species can be found on the GB non-native species secretariat website. http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm

Scrub – Mixed Scrub		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
There are at least three woody species, with no one species comprising more than 75% of the cover (exempt common juniper, sea buckthorn or box, which can be 100% cover).		Yes
There is a good age range – a mixture of seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature shrubs.		No
Pernicious weeds and invasive species make us less than 5% of the ground cover.		No
The scrub has a well-developed edge with un-grazed tall herbs.		Yes
There are many clearings and glades within the scrub.		No
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	• Meets all of the 5 criteria with only minor variation. • Scrub type of high biodiversity value in good condition. • None of the indicators of poor condition are present.	
Moderate (Score = 2)	• The single woody species cover is greater than 75%. • The age range is missing some size classes. • Scrub type of high biodiversity value in poor condition. • The scrub type has minor differences between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site. • Cover of undesirable and invasive species at 5-20%.	✓
Poor (Score = 1)	• Single-age scrub present. • Potentially restorable to improved scrub habitat with improved management. • All of the condition criteria are being failed. • The scrub type has major differences between what is described in the relevant habitat classifications and what is visible on site. • Cover of undesirable and invasive species above 20% (see below). • All Rhododendron stands will be in this condition.	
Notes		

Undesirable species:

- *Cirsium arvense*
- *Urtica dioica*
- Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandilifera*
- Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica*
- Cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*
- Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*

Factsheets of these invasive non-native plant species can be found on the GB non-native species secretariat website. http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm

Woodland (Excluding irreplaceable habitat, i.e. ancient woodland)		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
This should be an area of trees with complete canopy cover.		Yes
Native species are dominant. Non-native and invasive species account for less than 10% of the vegetation cover.		Yes
A diverse age and height structure of the trees.		Yes – varied canopy structure, with at least three levels present
Free from damage [Bark stripping; Browse line; Damage shoot tips] (in the last five years) from stock or wild mammals with less than 20% of vegetation being browsed.		Yes – no evidence of damage by herbivores
There should be evidence of successful (i.e. not browsed off before it gets well established) tree regeneration such as seedlings, saplings and young trees.		Yes – saplings, young, semi-mature and mature trees were all present within the habitat block.
Standing and fallen dead wood of over 20 cm diameter are present including fallen large dead branches/stems and stumps.		Yes
Wetland habitat if they exist within the wood has little sign of drainage or channel straightening.		Yes – River Adur with associated riparian zone present.
The area is protected from damage by agricultural and other adjacent operations.		Yes
There should be no evidence of inappropriate management (e.g. deep ruts, animal poaching or compaction).		Yes
Invasive non-native plants are below 5% (see list below).		Yes – no invasive species recorded within the woodland block
No signs of significant nutrient enrichment present.		Yes
More than 3 different native trees and 3 shrub species in an average 10 m radius.		Yes
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	• Meets at least 10 of the criteria with only minor variation. • No more than 1 of the indicators of poor condition are present. • Stands of native trees that do not obviously originate from planting should be classified as native semi-natural woodland.	✓
Moderate (Score = 2)	• Clearly fails at least 2 of the criteria above. • OR invasive non-native plants are 5-20%. • OR where non-native species comprise more than 20% of the canopy, the woodland should be recorded as either non-native plantation or mixed woodland. • A mixed woodland is woodland with native and non-native species. (This includes woodlands established by planting and by natural regeneration.) • Trees of similar age and height structure throughout the woodland. • Little standing or fallen deadwood present.	

Poor (Score = 1)	The following characteristics can help to identify plantations: (note: BAP woodlands can be plantation woodlands) • Non-native trees often of a single species or the same age are the dominant component; • OR invasive non-native plants are greater than 20%. • Mixed species show a consistent planting pattern across the site. • Original planting lines, or remains of planting lines, can be seen. • Drainage features and channel straightening of watercourses.	
Notes		
Undesirable species: • American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus* • Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* • Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* • Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* • Shallon *Gaultheria shallon* • Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus* • Variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum* • Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*		

Bare Ground – TN9		
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Yes/No**
Known history of disturbance at the site or evidence that soil has been removed or severely modified by previous use(s) of the site. Extraneous materials/substrates such as industrial spoil may have been added which in turn has led to a low nutrient environment.		Yes
The site contains some vegetation. This will comprise of early successional communities consisting mainly of stress-tolerant species (e.g. indicative of low nutrient status or drought). Early successional communities are composed of (a) annuals, or (b) mosses/liverworts, or (c) lichens, or (d) ruderals, or (e) inundation species, or (f) open grassland, or (g) flower-rich grassland, or (h) heathland.		Yes
The site contains unvegetated, loose bare substrate and pools may be present and desirable.		No
The site shows spatial variation, forming a mosaic of one or more of the early successional communities (a)–(h) above plus bare substrate or pools.		Yes
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	• Vegetation provides multiple opportunities for a high number of species to live and breed (complete their life cycles). • Bare open ground is common throughout the area. • Plant species are flowering extensively and so providing ready nectar sources for insects. • Insects and butterflies are common and using the site extensively. • None of the indicators of poor condition are present. • The invasive none-native species are low or absent from the site, or in the process of being eradicated if beneficial to wildlife to do so.	
Moderate (Score = 2)	• • Cover of undesirable and invasive species at 10-20%. • OR Some of the condition criteria are being failed. • The areas of bare ground with little species colonisation are large, with a high potential for improvement with better wildlife management.	✓
Poor (Score = 1)	• Most of the condition criteria are being failed. • Cover of undesirable species high above 20%	
Notes		
Undesirable species: • American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus* • Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* • Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* • Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* • Shallon *Gaultheria shallon* • Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus* • Variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. Argentatum* • Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*		

		Criteria Score										
Hedgerow		**A1**	**A2**	**B1**	**B2**	**C1**	**C2**	**D1**	**D2**	**E1***	**E2***	**Condition Assessment**
H1a	**Native Hedgerow**	P	P	P	P	P	F	P	P	-	-	Good (3)
H1b	**Species Rich Native Hedgerow**	P	P	P	P	P	F	F	P	-	-	Good (3)
H2	**Native Hedgerow with Trees**	P	P	P	F	P	F	P	P	F	P	Moderate (2)
Key: *Applicable to hedgerows with trees only												

Lines of Trees		
Condition	**Assessment Criteria**	**Condition Selection**
Good (Score = 3)	Mature trees with continuous canopy. Definition: • a 'mature tree' in this context is one that is at least 1/3 expected fully mature height • gaps make up <10% of total length and there are no canopy gaps >5 m	
Moderate (Score = 2)	Continuous canopy. Definition: • trees < 1/3 expected fully mature height • gaps make up <10% of total length and there are no canopy gaps >5 m	✓
Poor (Score = 1)	Broken canopy. Definition: • gaps make up >10% and / or gaps are >5 m in length.	