



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT

Gatehouse Hub, Neaves Park, Goddards Green

On behalf of: Gatehouse Hub Ltd.

Client:	Gatehouse Hub Ltd.			
Project:	Gatehouse Hub, Neaves Park, Goddards Green			
Reference:	LLD3327-ECO-REP-002-00-BNG			
Revision:	Date:	Author	Proof	Approved
00	26/09/2024	Fleur Booth BSc (Hons), MSc	Will Mills ACIEEM MSci (Hons)	Will Mills ACIEEM MSci (Hons)

Disclaimer:

The information provided within this report has been prepared and provided in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (CIEEM) Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions.

This report is intended for the sole use of the Client and their agents in accordance with the agreement under which our services were performed. Unauthorised communication, reproduction or usage of this report by any party other than the aforementioned is prohibited. No liability is accepted by Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology for any use of this report, other than for the purposes for which it was originally prepared and provided. This report does not constitute legal advice. No warranty, express or implied, is made as to the advice in this report or any other service provided by us.

Validity:

This report is valid for 18 months from the date of the site visit. If works have not commenced by this date, an updated site visit should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist to assess any changes in the habitats present on site, and to inform a review of the conclusions and recommendations made.

Contents

	Page No.
SUMMARY	02
1.0 Introduction	03
2.0 Methodology	05
3.0 Results & Discussion	08
4.0 Conclusions	13
5.0 References	14

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Habitat Condition Assessment

FIGURES

Figure No. 01 – Pre-Development Site Habitat Plan

Figure No. 02 – Post-Development Site Habitat Plan

SUMMARY

Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned by Gatehouse Hub Ltd. to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for the development proposed at Gatehouse Hub, Neaves Park, Goddards Green (located around central grid reference: *TQ 28887 19903*– hereafter referred to as ‘the site’). This report represents the results of a Biodiversity Net Gain assessment undertaken using the DEFRA *Statutory Biodiversity Metric* to determine whether proposals would be compliant with the +10% mandate under the Environment Act (2021).

A preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) of the site was undertaken in accordance with the UK Habitats Classification Manual (UKHabs Ltd., 2023) on the 6th of September 2024 which identified baseline habitats on site. The habitat types and conditions were inputted into the current *Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Metric V1.0.3* (DEFRA, 2024). The site visit and Biodiversity Net Gain assessment has shown that, based on the existing assemblage, distribution, and condition of the habitats on site, the on-site habitat baseline has a score of 1.65 Habitat Units and 0.57 Hedgerow Units.

Proposals are for the partial removal of areas of semi-natural habitat, including grassland, and scrub for the subsequent construction of a wellness building and 19no. commercial units. However, proposals include soft landscaping elements including the provision of grassland, trees and shrub planting. In addition, new native species hedgerows are to be planted to provide natural barriers between soft and hard landscaping elements. This will result in the provision of a total of 1.87 Habitat Units and 0.68 Hedgerow Units.

Overall, proposals would result in the delivery of a net gain of +0.22 Habitat Units, which would equate to a net gain of +13.40% Habitat Units. Proposals would also result in the delivery of a net gain of +0.11in Hedgerow Units, which would equate to a net gain of +18.96% Hedgerow Units. Therefore, the scheme would be compliant with current legislation under the Environment Act (2021). To ensure that the proposed habitats are created and managed to achieve at least their target condition and managed in perpetuity, a habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP) would be required, which could be secured through an appropriately worded planning condition.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned by Gatehouse Hub Ltd. to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of development proposed at Gatehouse Hub, Neaves Park, Goddards Green (located around central grid reference: *TQ 28887 19903* – hereafter referred to as ‘the site’).
- 1.2 A preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) was conducted in line with the UK Habitats Classification Manual (UKHabs Ltd., 2023), to appraise the existing ecological baseline of the site and the surrounding area, and to identify and map existing habitats. A BNG site walkover was conducted by Lizard Landscape Design & Ecology (LLDE) on the 6th of September 2024 to confirm the condition and distinctiveness of the habitats on-site. The results were then used to assess the existing habitats against the proposed soft landscaping design, to deliver a strategy on how to achieve at least +10% Biodiversity Net Gain.
- 1.3 The Biodiversity Net Gain calculations contained in this report were undertaken using the DEFRA *Statutory Biodiversity Metric* to provide a quantitative analysis of the biodiversity value of proposals in regard to policy within the Environment Act (2021).

Site Information

- 1.4 The site is located to the east of Burgess Hill. It measures c.1.00 hectares (Ha) and is square in shape. To the south of the site is the construction site of the previously approved development, in conjunction with this application. To the north is residential and commercial buildings and arable land binds the site to the east and west. The site consists of a disused donkey paddock, with bordering hedgerows on the western, eastern and northern boundaries. An access road runs along the west of the site.

Development Proposals

- 1.5 The development proposals include the construction of 19no. commercial units and the relocation of the previously approved wellness centre to the north of the site, as well as associated hard and soft landscaping.

Scope

- 1.6 The aim of the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment report is to provide a qualitative discussion of the quantitative analysis completed in the accompanying Statutory Biodiversity Metric (DEFRA, 2024).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study

- 2.1.1 The Local Planning Authority website was consulted to inform of relevant information relating to the strategic significance of the site, including the location of areas of strategic significance for biodiversity, such as Nature Improvement Areas and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas etc.

2.2 Field Visit

- 2.2.1 A baseline habitat survey was undertaken in line with the UK Habitats Classification Manual (UKHabs Ltd., 2023) by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (Fleur Booth, 2 year's professional experience).
- 2.2.2 The surveyor gathered condition assessment criteria in line with *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology* (DEFRA, 2024), which identified the distribution and extent of habitats across the site.

2.3 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

- 2.3.1 A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment was conducted to calculate the existing baseline biodiversity unit score of habitats across the site, to then determine the extent to which improvements could benefit / detriment biodiversity interests.
- 2.3.2 The calculation was based upon the existing extent, distinctiveness, and condition of the habitats on site, compared with the extent, distinctiveness, and condition of proposed habitats on site. The BNG assessment uses the latest DEFRA *Statutory Biodiversity Metric* (DEFRA, 2024) in accordance with the *Statutory Biodiversity Metric – User Guide* (DEFRA, 2024).

Existing Habitats

- 2.3.3 The extent of existing habitats was calculated using GIS software alongside measurements taken in the field and satellite imagery. The distinctiveness of the existing habitats was assessed using the *UK Habitat Classification system* (UKHabs Ltd., 2023) and the condition of existing habitats was assessed in accordance with *Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology* (DEFRA, 2024).

Proposed Habitats

- 2.3.4 The extent and distribution of the proposed habitats were extrapolated from the *Proposed Ground Floor Site Plan (2404-P 003 Proposed Site Plan)*. The condition of the proposed habitats was based upon what could reasonably be expected to be achieved through the provision of an appropriate Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP).

Principles of Biodiversity Net Gain

- 2.3.5 In order to achieve a BNG a project must be able to demonstrate that it has followed all 10 of the Principles of Biodiversity Net Gain (CIEEM, CIRIA & IEMA, 2016) which are to:

1. Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy (BSI, 2013);
2. Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere;
3. Be inclusive and equitable;
4. Address risks;
5. Make a measurable Net Gain contribution;
6. Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity;
7. Be additional;
8. Create a Net Gain legacy;
9. Optimise sustainability; and
10. Be transparent.

- 2.3.6 Maps to illustrate the extent of the existing and proposed habitats on site are provided in *Figure No. 01 – Pre-Development Site Habitat Plan* and *Figure No. 02 – Post-Development Site Habitat Plan*. Details of the existing condition of the habitats on site are provided in *Appendix A – Habitat Condition Assessment*.

2.4 Evaluation and Assessment

- 2.4.1 This report has been written with due regard to best practice *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing* (CIEEM, 2017) and the *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development* (CIEEM, 2019).

2.5 Survey Constraints / Considerations

- 2.5.1 Given that the conditions of some habitats on-site are subject to seasonal variation, the BNG score has the potential to be affected, and so extent of habitat areas and conditions have been assessed using a precautionary approach. i.e., where the existing habitat conditions were subject to potential seasonal variations, as a precaution they were scored higher to account for a reasonable worst-case scenario.
- 2.5.2 The minimum mapping unit has been classified as 0.0005 Hectares or 0.001 km for the purposes of this assessment, for the sake of simplicity as accuracy below this level is not realistically attainable or likely to result in a significant outcome and given the relative quantum of development proposed. Due care and attention were paid to ensure that the accuracy of the assessment is not misleading and is appropriate for the scale of development proposed.
- 2.5.3 The Biodiversity Net Gain calculation does not take into account the provision of wildlife boxes, such as bat, bird and insect boxes, or log piles, which can provide unquantified betterments for wildlife.

3.0 RESULTS & DISCUSSION

3.1 Existing Habitat Assessment

Site Habitat Baseline

3.1.1 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment concluded that the baseline biodiversity score for the site was 1.65 Habitat units, consisting of:

- 0.0622ha of 'Developed Land; Sealed Surface', for which a condition assessment is not applicable;
- 0.267ha of 'Artificial Unvegetated, Unsealed Surface', for which a condition assessment is not applicable;
- 0.0163ha of 'Bare Ground', currently assessed as '**poor**' condition.
- 0.6079ha of 'Modified Grassland' currently assessed as '**poor**' condition;
- 0.0675ha of 'Mixed Scrub', currently assessed as '**poor**' condition.
- 0.0163ha of 'Rural Trees', currently assessed as '**moderate**' condition.

Developed Land; Sealed Surface

3.1.2 The access road, pavement and vehicular turning space comprises the developed land on-site and is of no ecological value.

Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface

3.1.3 There is a small area of gravel along the west of the access road, as well as two large piles of rubble and gravel within the paddock, finally to the south of the site is a construction zone undergoing development. These areas are of no ecological value.

Bare Ground

3.1.4 Beneath the western bordering hedgerow is a very small section of bare ground with minimal vegetation. This area is of little ecological significance and was assessed as being of 'poor' condition as it failed both A and B but passed criteria C of the Condition Assessment.

Modified Grassland

- 3.1.5 The majority of the site is dominated by a former donkey paddock which is now used to store construction materials. This habitat was assessed as being of 'poor' condition as it failed criteria A, B, D, E, G and only passed C, and F of the Habitat Condition Assessment.

Mixed Scrub

- 3.1.6 To the north of the site is an area of mixed scrub, adjacent to the line of trees. This habitat is dominated by dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). This habitat was assessed as being of 'poor' condition as it failed all the criteria of the Habitat Condition Assessment.

Individual Trees

- 3.1.7 To the north-west of the site is a single willow (*Salix sp.*) tree. This habitat was assessed as being of 'moderate' condition as it passed criteria A, B and F of the Habitat Condition Assessment but failed criteria C, D and E.

Site Hedge Baseline

- 3.1.8 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment concluded that the baseline biodiversity score for the site was 0.57 Hedgerow units, consisting of:
- 0.0069km of 'Native Hedgerow', currently assessed as '**good**' condition.
 - 0.039km of 'Line of Trees' currently assessed as '**moderate**' condition;

Native Hedgerow

- 3.1.9 To the north-west of the site is a native hedgerow consisting of mainly hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble and dogwood. This habitat was assessed as being of 'good' condition as it passed criteria A1, A2, B1, B2, C2, and D1 of the Habitat Condition Assessment but failed criteria C1 and D2.

Line of Trees

- 3.1.10 To the north of the site is a line of trees consisting of mainly mature oaks (*Quercus robur*). This habitat was assessed as being of 'moderate' condition as it passed criteria A, B, C, and E of the Habitat Condition Assessment but failed criteria D.

- 3.1.11 The condition assessment criteria for the existing habitats and hedgerows are laid out in *Appendix A – Habitat Condition Assessments*.

3.2 Proposed Habitat Assessment

Proposed Habitat Retention and Loss

- 3.2.1 All of the habitats on-site are to be removed, to allow for the construction of the proposed development. However, all hedgerows and the line of trees are to be retained, protected and will be unaffected by the development.
- 3.2.2 Existing areas of 'Developed Land; Sealed Surface' and 'Artificial Unvegetated, Unsealed Surface' are proposed to be used for access requirements.

Proposed Habitat Creation

- 3.2.3 Proposals are for the provision of 0.8136ha of 'Developed Land; Sealed Surface', which will comprise the proposed new buildings, access, and parking. Alongside, 0.0085ha of 'Introduced Shrub'. No condition assessment is applicable for these habitat types since BNG guidelines assumes these to be of negligible ecological value, and therefore it will not result in the provision of any habitat units.

Proposed Other Neutral Grassland

- 3.2.4 An area of 0.1318ha '**moderate**' condition 'Other Neutral Grassland' is proposed on the northeastern area of the site to provide opportunities for wildlife and offset the loss of baseline grassland habitats. This can be achieved through an appropriate HMMP, which ensures that the grassland habitat meets at least 3 of the criteria (A, D and E) outlined for grassland habitats including essential criteria A in *Habitat Condition Assessment Criteria*. This will result in a total of 0.88 Habitat Units.

Proposed Urban Trees

- 3.2.5 Proposals are for the provision of 50no. individual 'Urban Trees' totalling an area of 0.2036ha along the perimeter of the developed site, which will be entirely comprised of native species, and subject to an appropriate management plan. The trees are unlikely to reach any higher than '**poor**' condition due to the urban nature of the proposed development. This will result in the provision of a total of 0.57 Habitat Units.

Proposed Mixed Scrub

- 3.2.6 There will be areas of mixed scrub to the north and east of the development totalling 0.07 Ha. For the purposes of BNG, it is not necessary for this habitat to achieve anything greater than '**poor**' condition. However, management recommendations to maximise the ecological value of the habitat would be included as part of the HMMP regardless. This will result in the provision of a total of 0.27 Habitat Units.

Proposed Hedge Creation

- 3.2.7 Hedgerows are proposed to the central eastern area of the site. The aforementioned hedgerows would comprise native species, totalling a length of 0.056km. The proposed hedgerow will achieve a condition score of '**poor**' in line with the criteria outlined in the Habitat Condition Assessment Criteria. Management and planting recommendations to maximise the ecological value of the hedgerows would be included as part of the HMMP. This will provide a minimum of 0.11 Hedgerow units.

3.3 Biodiversity Net Gain Metric Results

- 3.3.1 Overall, proposals would result in the delivery of a net +0.22 Habitat Units, which would equate to a net gain of +13.40% Habitat Units. In addition, hedgerow planting would deliver a minimum of +0.11 Hedgerow Units, which would equate to a net gain of +18.96%. All trading rules are met, and no habitat provision was in place which would necessitate further consideration of the additionality principle. Therefore, proposals would be compliant with the current legislation detailed in the Environment Act (2021).
- 3.3.2 Moreover, to ensure that the proposed habitats and hedgerows are managed to achieve at least their target condition and retained in perpetuity, a HMMP would be required, which could be secured through an appropriately worded planning condition.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 A preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) of the site was undertaken in accordance with the UK Habitats Classification Manual (UKHabs Ltd., 2023) which identified that the site comprised: 'Developed Land; Sealed Surface', 'Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface', 'Modified Grassland', 'Mixed Scrub', and 'Individual Trees'. As well as 'Line of Trees' and 'Native Hedgerow'. The habitat types and conditions were inputted into the current *Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Metric* (DEFRA, 2024). The site visit and Biodiversity Net Gain assessment has shown that, based on the existing assemblage, distribution, and condition of the habitats on site, the on-site habitat baseline has a score of 1.65 Habitat Units and 0.57 Hedgerow Units.
- 4.2 Proposals are for the removal of the scrub, grassland and artificial unvegetated, unsealed areas for the subsequent construction of the proposed buildings. Proposals include soft landscaping elements including the provision of wildflower grassland areas, native tree planting, and mixed scrub and introduced shrub. In addition, new native species hedgerows are to be planted to compensate for the loss of the hedgerows and provide natural barriers between soft and hard landscaping elements. This will result in the provision of a total of 1.87 Habitat Units and 0.68 Hedgerow Units.
- 4.3 Overall, proposals would result in the delivery of a net gain of +0.22 Habitat Units, which would equate to a net gain of +13.40% Habitat Units. A net gain of +0.11 in Hedgerow Units would also be delivered, equating to a net gain of +18.96% of Hedgerow Units. Therefore, the scheme would be compliant with current legislation under the Environment Act (2021). To ensure that the proposed habitats are created and managed to achieve at least their target condition and managed in perpetuity, a habitat management and monitoring plan (HMMP) would be required, which could be secured through an appropriately worded planning condition.

5.0 REFERENCES

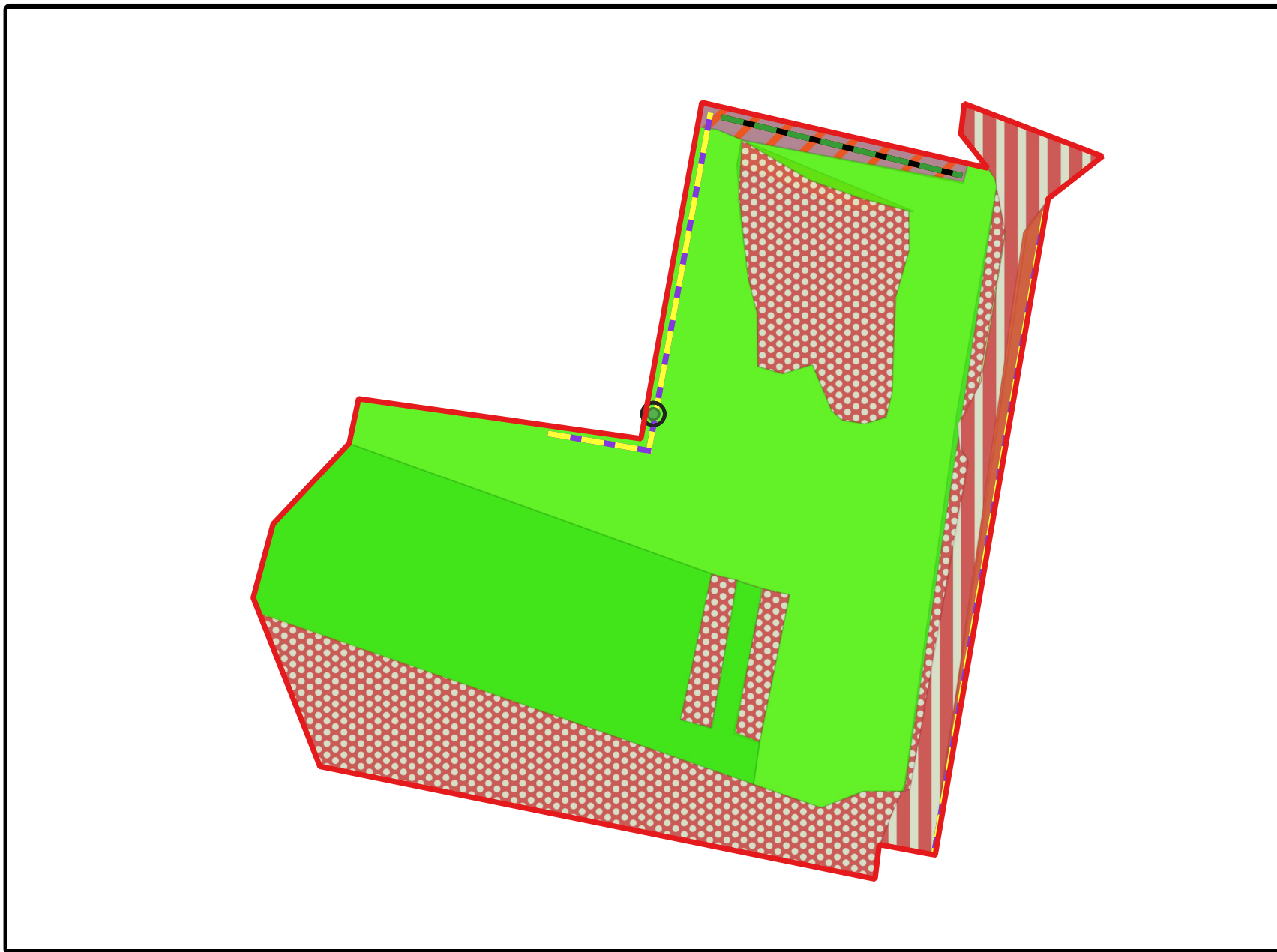
CIEEM. (2017). *Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

CIEEM. (2019). *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester

DEFRA (2024). *Statutory Biodiversity Metric (JP039)*. Published by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on July 24th 2024 (as amended). Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Calculation Tool. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides> [last accessed 1/10/2024]

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. (2023). *National Planning Policy Framework*. Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London. This publication is available [online] at www.gov.uk/government/publications [last accessed 20/03/2024]

UKHabs Ltd. (2023). *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* at <http://ukhab.org> [last accessed 20/03/2024]



- Legend
- Red Line Boundary
 - Existing Tree
 - Line of trees
 - Native hedgerow
 - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
 - Developed land; sealed surface
 - Mixed scrub
 - Modified grassland
 - Bare ground



The Old Bank, 34 South Street, Tarring, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7JH
T: 01903 216033 E: office@lizardlandscape.co.uk W: lizardlandscape.co.uk

Client

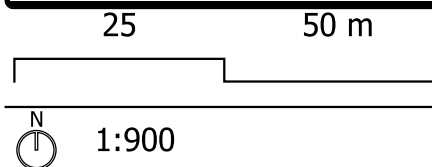
Gatehouse Hub Ltd.

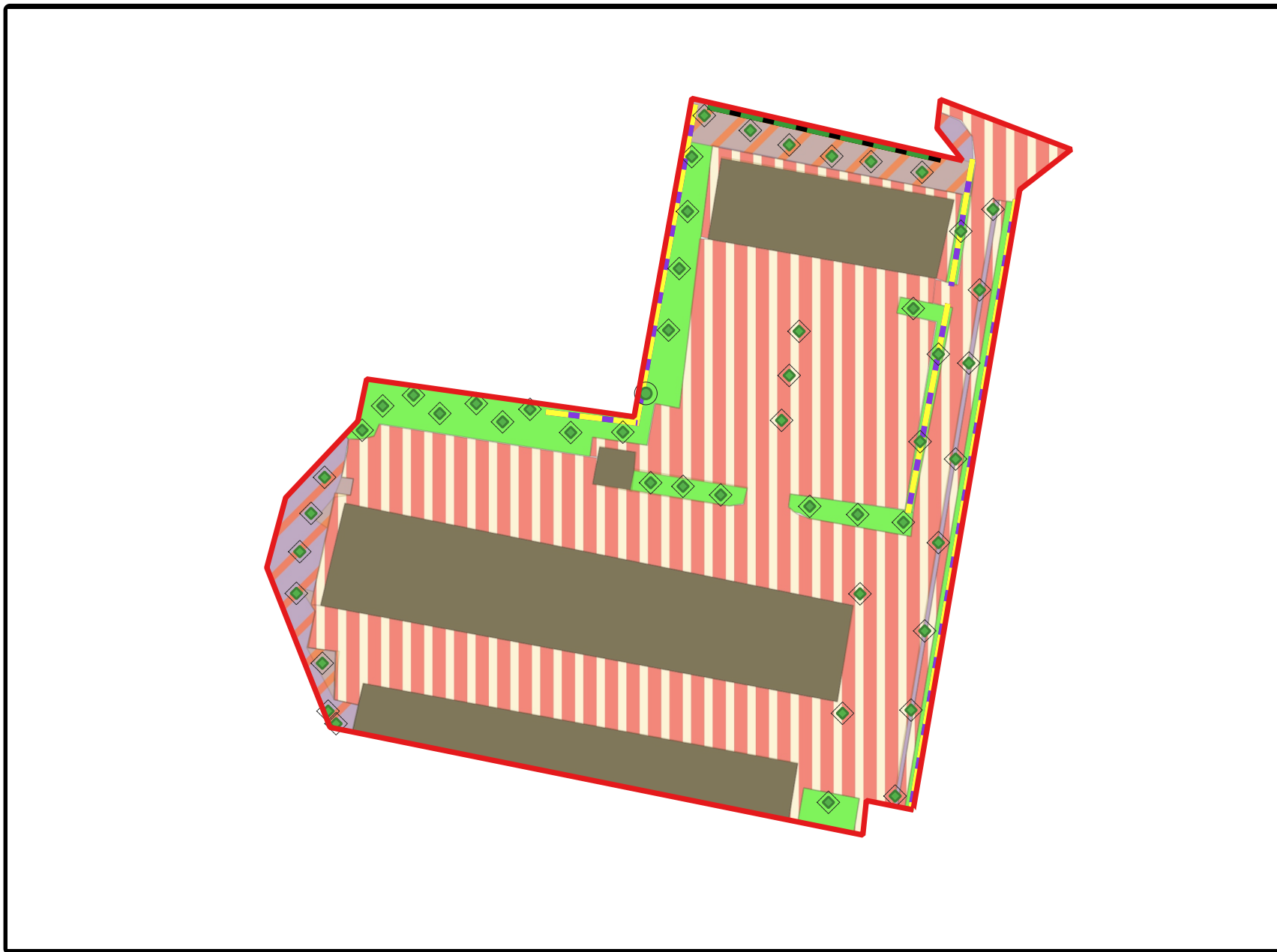
Project Title & Location

Gatehouse Hub, Neaves Park, Goddards Green

Drawn by	Approved by	Rev	Date
FB	WM	00	08/10/2024

Figure No. 01 - Pre-Development Site Habitat Plan





Legend

- Red Line Boundary
- Existing Tree
- Proposed Tree
- Line of trees
- Native hedgerow
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Introduced shrub
- Mixed scrub
- Modified grassland
- Proposed Buildings



The Old Bank, 34 South Street, Tarring, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7LH
T: 01903 216033 E: office@lizardlandscape.co.uk W: lizardlandscape.co.uk

Client

Gatehouse Hub Ltd.

Project Title & Location

Gatehouse Hub, Neaves Park, Goddards Green

Drawn by	Approved by	Rev	Date
FB	WM	00	08/10/2024

Figure No. 02 - Post-Development Site Habitat Plan

25 50 m

N 1:950

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral			
Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs			
Urban - Allotments			
Urban - Biodiverse green roof			
Urban - Bioswale			
Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards			
Urban - Facade-bound green wall			
Urban - Ground based green wall			
Urban - Intensive green roof			
Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land			
Urban - Rain garden			
Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)			
Urban - Vacant or derelict land			
Urban - Bare ground			
Habitat Description			
Bare ground under and adjacent to eastern hedgerow			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats:			UKHab - UK Habitat Classification
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site; Goddards Green	Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types:			
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	No	Bare ground habitat for 100%
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	No	None present
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of (WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ . Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Yes	None observed
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land only:			
D	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: - At least four early successional communities (a) to (i); Communities: (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland, (i) pools.	N/A	
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for Bioswale and SuDS habitat types only:			
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife. ⁴	N/A	
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.	N/A	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Intensive green roofs only:			
F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).	N/A	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Biodiverse green roofs only:			
G	The roof has a varied depth of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers. Note – to achieve Good condition some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc. are present.	N/A	
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)			Yes
Number of criteria passed			1
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):			
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Good (3)		
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)		
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.	Poor (1)	X	
Results for Green roofs and Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (requiring assessment of 4 criteria only - core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type):			
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (D, F or G).	Good (3)		
• Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR • Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)		
• Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.	Poor (1)		
Results for Bioswale or SuDS (requiring assessment of 5 criteria - core criteria plus additional criteria specified for habitat type):			
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group E)	Good (3)		
• Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR • Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)		
• Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnotes			

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type			
Grassland - Modified grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site; Goddards Green, Hassocks	Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024; Fleur Booth
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Habitat Description			
Baseline area of grassland			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	N	Less than 6 species present
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	Variations in sward height account for less than 20%
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	Scrub is less than 20%
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	Areas of erosion
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	N	No bare ground
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	None present
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	N	Buddleia present
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		N	
Number of criteria passed		2	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	X	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnotes			
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .			
Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.			
Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.			
Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types				
Habitat Type				
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch				
Habitat Description				
Existing native hedgerow				
shrub - UK Habitat Classification				
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site: Goddards Green, Hassocks		Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024, Fleur Booth
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903		Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Details				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.				
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook* and Favourable Conservation Status document*. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.				
Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.				
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes	2.0m average
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 <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes	1.5m average
B1. Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy >0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Yes	Minimal gap observed
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).	Yes	No gaps observed
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.	No	Undisturbed ground not present
C2. Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Yes	Less than 20%
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*) 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*, as well as the BSBI website* where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' 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*.	Yes	Buddleia present but less than 10%
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, signs of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	No	Pruned and subject to management
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only				
E1. Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient)*, and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N/A	
E2. Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	N/A	
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.				
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees				
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3		
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1		
Score achieved:		3		
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees				
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3		
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1		
Score achieved:		N/A		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score				

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type				
Habitat Types				
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.				
Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of rural trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in rural locations.				
Habitat Description				
1no. Existing tree				
Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment): Young trees over 7.5 cm 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 should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.				
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Goddards Green, Hassocks; On-site	Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024; Fleur Booth
Limitations (if applicable)		N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference		TQ 28887 19903	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
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).		Yes	Willow sp.
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).		Yes	Automatic pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .		No	Semi-mature
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.		No	Tree is managed, and pruned
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.		No	Trees is too young
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.		Yes	Planted in vegetated areas
Number of criteria passed			3	
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				

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Line of trees Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch Ecologically valuable line of trees Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch			
Please see the separate Individual trees condition sheet for linear blocks and groups of trees in an <u>urban</u> setting. You should only use this Line of trees condition assessment and record this habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.			
Habitat Description			
Exisiting line of trees			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ . For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook. Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site; Goddards Green, Hassocks	Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024; Fleur Booth
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	Majority are native
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Yes	No gaps between trees
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.	Yes	Ivy, loose bark, deadwood all observed
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	No	Less than 6m
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Yes	No adverse impact observed
Number of criteria passed			4
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			
Footnotes			

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub			
Habitat Description			
Areas of mixed scrub			
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:	Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)		
For other scrub types see:	ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site; Goddards Green, Hassocks	Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024; Fleur Booth
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	No	Dominated by dogwood
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	Majority young shrubs
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	No	Buddleia present
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	No	Not present
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	None observed
Number of criteria passed			0
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)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	X	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types			
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland			
Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland			
Grassland - Lowland meadows			
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland			
Grassland - Other neutral grassland			
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.]			
Grassland - Upland acid grassland			
Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland			
Grassland - Upland hay meadows			
Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site: Goddards Green, Hassocks	Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024; Fleur Booth
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Habitat Description			
Areas of grassland to be planted with wildflowers forming 'Other neutral grassland'			
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.	Yes	Will be seeded with indicator species
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No	Managed to maintain uniform sward height
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	No bare ground
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	No bracken
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.	Yes	Managed to maintain condition
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.	N/A	
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N/A	
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved %/✓	
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	X	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Notes			
Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description.			
Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.			
Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.			
Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.			
Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types					
Habitat Type					
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch					
Habitat Description					
Proposed native hedgerow					
shhab – UK Habitat Classification					
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site: Goddards Green, Hassocks		Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024, Fleur Booth	
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A	
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903		Habitat parcel reference	N/A	
Condition Assessment Details					
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.					
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook* and Favourable Conservation Status document*. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.					
Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.					
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	No	Newly planted
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn Prunus spinosa suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes	1.5m average
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy >0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Yes	Minimal gap observed
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).	Yes	No gaps observed
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.	No	Undisturbed ground not present
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles Urtica spp., cleavers Galium aparine and docks Rumex spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Yes	Less than 20%
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*) 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*, as well as the BSBI website* where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' 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*.	Yes	Buddleia present but less than 10%
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, signs of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	No	Pruned and subject to management
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient)*, and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N/A	
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	N/A	
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.					
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees					
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score			
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3			
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2			
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1			
Score achieved:		3			
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees					
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score			
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3			
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2			
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1			
Score achieved:		N/A			
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score					

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.			
<i>Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of <u>rural</u> trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</i>			
Habitat Description			
68no. Proposed small trees			
Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment): Young trees over 7.5 cm 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 should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Goddards Green, Hassocks; On-site	Survey date and Surveyor name	N/A; Fleur Booth
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
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).	Yes	Yes
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).	Yes	Automatic pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	Newly planted young trees
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.	No	Tree is managed, and pruned
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Trees too young
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	No	Planted in vegetated and urban areas
Number of criteria passed		2	
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			

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub			
Habitat Description			
Proposed areas of mixed scrub			
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:	Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)		
For other scrub types see:	ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site; Goddards Green, Hassocks	Survey date and Surveyor name	06/09/2024; Fleur Booth
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	TQ 28887 19903	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	Planted with woody species
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	Majority young shrubs
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	None present
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	No	Not present
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	None observed
Number of criteria passed			2
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)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	X	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			