LIZARD
Landscape Design and Ecology

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN STATEMENT

Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common

On behalf of: Antler Homes

Client:	Antler Homes			
Project:	Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common			
Reference:	LLD2818-ECO-REP-009-00-BNG Statement			
Revision:	**Date:**	**Author**	**Proof**	**Approved**
00	30/04/2025	Max Day MSci (Hons)	Sam Hall MSc, BSc (Hons)	Catherine O'Reilly MCIEEM

Disclaimer:

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Validity:

This report is valid for 18 months from the date of the final survey 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, to inform whether surveys should be updated.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to provide a Biodiversity Net Gain Statement for Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common. This report has been written with due regard to best practice guidance for ecological report writing (CIEEM, 2017) and the Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development (CIEEM, 2019) and the Biodiversity Net Gain User Guide (DEFRA, 2023).

1.2 The development does not appear to qualify under any exemption and will therefore be subject to the standard Biodiversity Gain condition.

Site Overview

1.3 The survey area covers c. 1.67 hectares (ha) of grassland fields located towards the south-western edge of Sayers Common. The site is enclosed by mature, mixed-species hedge and treelines and is bordered by Reeds Lane to the north, residential properties to the east and west and farmland to the south.

Surrounding Landscape

1.4 The surrounding landscape is rural, with the nearest large settlement of Burgess Hill located 3.1 kilometres (km) to the east, whilst the residential edge of Hurstpierpoint is located c. 1.5km south-east. Surrounding land is dominated by arable fields and grazing land interspersed with small woodland shaws and mature tree / hedge lines.

Development Proposals

1.5 It is understood that the development proposals include the construction of new residential dwellings with associated access, gardens and parking. This would necessitate the loss of grassland, hedgerows, and trees.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study - Assigning Strategic Significance

2.1.1 Due to the lack of Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) within Sussex, strategic significance has been assessed as per table 8 of the User Guide (DEFRA, 2023). This included assessing whether the site was located within a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), as well as examining the local plan for any specific targets regarding creation or retention of certain habitat types.

2.1.2 Where sites were found to be located within any designated area, such as an AONB, policy statement and management plans for the relevant area were examined. High strategic significance was then assigned to any habitat identified as a priority within these documents.

2.1.3 For any sites not located within a designated area, habitats were generally assigned low strategic significance, unless they were considered to provide important ecological linkages in which case they were assigned medium strategic significance.

2.2 Desk Study – Statutory Designated Sites and Irreplaceable Habitat

2.2.1 To identify any designated sites for nature conservation, irreplaceable habitat and/or priority habitats (the presence of which may influence the feasibility of delivering BNG) within or adjacent to the Site, the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and The Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory were reviewed.

2.3 Baseline Habitat Assessment

2.3.1 A baseline habitat assessment in accordance with the UK Habitats Classification Manual (UKHabs Ltd., 2023) was undertaken on the 7th of March 2025 by Max Day MSci (Hons). No habitat degradation had taken place prior to the survey and the baseline data is considered to be an accurate reflection of the ecological value of the site. Full details of the habitats present are contained within the Ecological Impact Assessment (LLD2818-ECO-REP-007-01-EcIA) and summarised herein.

2.3.2 All area based and linear habitats were mapped on site with the aid of aerial imagery and topographical survey where available. The condition of habitats was assessed in accordance with *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology* (DEFRA, 2023).

2.3.3 The habitats, their condition and strategic importance were input into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (DEFRA, 2023). The area of habitats which would be retained or enhanced based upon the current proposals was also added to the calculator. This allowed the existing baseline value and loss of biodiversity units to be established.

2.4 Post-Development Habitats

2.4.1 The Proposed Landscape Plan (Pegasus Group, 2025) has been used to inform the post-development scenario. This plan was converted from a PDF to a GIS environment where it was overlaid on the baseline habitat data. Areas of proposed post development intervention (habitat creation and/or habitat retention / enhancement), including the built development, were calculated using QGIS.

2.4.2 The proposed habitats and strategic importance were input into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (DEFRA, 2023). Target condition scores were assigned based upon what could realistically be achieved on site. The area of habitats which would be retained or enhanced based upon the current proposals was also added to the calculator.

2.4.3 The Metric takes into account whether habitat creation or enhancement is delivered in advance of any impact, or whether there will be any significant delay in an intervention relative to the impact. Where delays in habitat creation are anticipated, or habitat creation is to be undertaken in advance, this has been included within the metric and fully explained within section 3 of this report. Where no delays or advance creation shall occur, a standard temporal multiplier has been applied to created habitats.

2.4.4 Once all measures have been input into The Biodiversity Metric Calculation, the overall change in value of the site could then be determined.

2.5 Mitigation Hierarchy

2.5.1 Biodiversity net gain planning practice guidance and Articles 37A and 37D of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, sets out a list of priority actions to ensure adherence to the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy:

- First, in relation to onsite habitats which have a medium, high and very high distinctiveness (a score of four or more according to the statutory biodiversity metric), the avoidance of adverse effects from the development and, if they cannot be avoided, the mitigation of those effects; and
- Then, in relation to all onsite habitats which are adversely affected by the development, the adverse effect should be compensated by prioritising in order, where possible, the enhancement of existing onsite habitats, creation of new onsite habitats, allocation of registered offsite gains and finally the purchase of biodiversity credits.

2.6 Survey Constraints / Considerations

2.6.1 Areas and linear lengths have been rounded to the nearest $10m^2$ and $1m^2$ respectively; measurements were input to the metric using three decimal places. Due to the output of the Metric being displayed to two decimal places, slight imprecision in output may occur.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Strategic Significance, Irreplaceable Habitat and Designated Sites.

3.1.1 The site is not located within or adjacent to any statutory site or ecological designation such as a *Biodiversity Opportunity Area* or *Nature Improvement Area*. No habitats on site are directly referenced in any local plan or other such document.

3.1.2 The lines of trees across the boundaries of the site and ditch have been assessed as medium strategic significance given their significance to the local area. All other habitats were considered to be of low strategic importance.

3.1.3 A semi-mature white willow (T17) was identified within TL01 adjacent to the stream which was described on the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory as a veteran. This tree was a multi-stemmed specimen with significant hollowing cavity on the southern aspect. This tree was considered to qualify as a veteran under the definition provided within Schedule 1 of the *Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024*; however, it would not qualify under the definitions provided within *BS5837:2012* and the NPPF (as amended). As such the tree was not considered to be a veteran within the EcIA and Arboricultural package, but for the purposes of this BNG assessment is has been included as irreplaceable habitat, given the specific legislation set out above.

3.2 Baseline Habitat Value

Habitat Degradation

3.2.1 No site clearance or habitat degradation was evident, and the baseline information gathered is considered to be a true presentation of the on-site habitats at the time of the survey.

Existing On-Site Habitats

3.2.2 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment concluded that the existing baseline biodiversity value of the site is **6.81** Habitat Units, consisting of:

- 0.032ha of Modified Grassland (GR01) in Moderate condition which provides 0.13 habitat units.

- 0.044ha of Modified Grassland (GR02) in Moderate condition which provides 0.18 habitat units.
- 0.013ha of Modified Grassland (GR03) in Poor condition which provides 0.03 habitat units.
- 0.198ha of Modified Grassland (GR03) in Poor condition which provides 0.40 habitat units. This has been split to account for areas which are proposed for different enhancements.
- 0.024 of Modified Grassland (GR04) in Poor condition which provides 0.05 habitat units.
- 0.271ha of Modified Grassland (GR04) in Poor condition which provides 0.54 habitat units.
- 0.028ha of Modified Grassland (GR05) in Poor condition which provides 0.06 habitat units.
- 0.563ha of Modified Grassland (GR05) in Poor condition which provides 1.13 habitat units. This has been split to account for areas which are proposed for different enhancements.
- 0.024ha of Modified Grassland (GR06) in Moderate condition which provides 0.10 habitat units.
- 0.113ha of Modified Grassland (GR06) in Moderate condition which provides 0.45 habitat units. This has been split to account for areas which are proposed for different enhancements.
- Developed land; sealed surface (U01 and B1-B4) totalling 0.126ha which provides 0.0 units.
- Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface (U02) totalling 0.054ha which provides 0.0 units.
- 0.011ha of Ruderal/Ephemeral in Good condition which provides 0.07 habitat units.
- 0.160ha of Blackthorn Scrub (SC01) in Moderate condition which provides 1.28 habitat units.
- 0.009ha of Bramble Scrub (SC02) (condition assessment N/A) which provides 0.04 habitat units.
- 1no. medium sized native Urban Tree (T1) equating to 0.0163ha in Good condition which provides 0.20 habitat units.
- 1no. medium sized non-native Urban Tree (T2) equating to 0.0163ha in Good condition which provides 0.20 habitat units.

- 1no. medium sized native Urban Tree (T4) within a non-native and ornamental hedgerow (H04). This tree is proposed to be lost and so equates to 0.0163ha of Urban Trees in Good condition which provides 0.20 habitat units.
- 1no. medium sized multi-stem native Veteran Rural Tree (T17) equating to 0.0163ha in Good condition which provides 0.0 habitat units as it is considered an irreplaceable habitat.
- 1no. large sized native Urban Tree (T28) within a native hedgerow with trees (H02). This tree is proposed to be lost and so equates to 0.0366ha of Urban Trees in Good condition which provides 0.44 habitat units.
- 1no. very-large sized non-native Urban Tree (T42) within a native hedgerow with trees (H01). This tree is proposed to be lost and so equates to 0.0765ha of Urban Trees in Good condition which provides 0.92 habitat units.
- 1no. large sized non-native Urban Tree (T43) within a native hedgerow with trees (H01). This tree is proposed to be lost and so equates to 0.0366ha of Urban Trees in Good condition which provides 0.44 habitat units.

3.2.3 A full condition assessment for each existing habitat type is detailed in Appendix A.

Habitat Retention

3.2.4 Some of the existing habitat on site is to be retained in its current condition, meaning the retention of 0.11 habitat units comprising:

- 0.012ha of Developed Land; Sealed Surface.
- 0.003ha of Bramble Scrub (SC02).
- 0.024ha of Modified Grassland in moderate condition (GR06).
- 0.0163ha of Rural Tree comprising the retention of the Veteran tree (T17).

3.3 Baseline Hedgerow Value

Hedgerow Degradation

3.3.1 No site clearance or hedgerow degradation was evident, and the baseline information gathered is considered to be a true presentation of the on-site

hedgerows at the time of the survey.

Existing On-Site Hedgerows

3.3.2 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment concluded that the existing baseline biodiversity value of the site is **4.71** Hedgerow Units, consisting of:

- 0.079km of Native Hedgerow with Trees (H01) in Good condition providing 0.95 hedgerow units.
- 0.129km of Native Hedgerow (H02) in Good condition providing 0.77 hedgerow units.
- 0.055km of Native Hedgerow with Trees (H03) in Good condition providing 0.66 hedgerow units.
- 0.133km of Non-Native and Ornamental Hedgerow (H04) in Poor condition (condition assessment N/A) providing 0.13 hedgerow units.
- 0.087km of Ecologically Valuable Line of Trees (TL01) in Good condition providing 1.15 hedgerow units.
- 0.163km of Line of Trees (TL02) in Moderate condition providing 0.72 hedgerow units.
- 0.075km of Line of Trees (TL03) in Moderate condition providing 0.33 hedgerow units.

3.3.3 A full condition assessment for each existing hedgerow is detailed in Appendix A.

Hedgerow Retention

3.3.4 Some of the existing hedgerows on site are to be retained in their current condition, meaning the retention of 2.96 hedgerow units comprising:

- 0.052km of Native Hedgerow with Trees (H01).
- 0.040km of Native Hedgerow with Trees (H03).
- 0.073km of Non-Native and Ornamental Hedgerow (H04).
- 0.056km of Ecologically Valuable Line of Trees (TL01).
- The entirety of the remaining Lines of Trees (TL02 and TL03).

3.4 Baseline Watercourse Value

Watercourse Degradation

3.4.1 No site clearance of the riparian zone or watercourse degradation was evident, and the baseline information gathered is considered to be a true

presentation of the on-site watercourse at the time of the survey.

Existing On-Site Watercourse

3.4.2 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment concluded that the existing baseline biodiversity value of the site is **0.40** Watercourse Units, comprising:

- 0.090km of Ditches in Poor condition, with no watercourse encroachment and no riparian encroachment on either bank. This provided 0.40 watercourse units.

3.4.3 A full condition assessment for this watercourse is detailed in Appendix A.

Watercourse Retention

3.4.4 Some of the existing watercourse on site is to be retained in its current condition, meaning the retention of 0.28 watercourse units comprising:

- 0.063km of Ditch in poor condition, with no impact to the watercourse and no riparian or bank encroachment.

3.5 Proposed Habitat Creation

3.5.1 Proposals are to result in the creation of new habitats on site totalling **1.25** habitat units, including:

- 0.661ha of Developed Land; Sealed Surface (condition assessment N/A) which includes the proposed dwellings, with associated access, and parking alongside a foul water pumping station. This will provide 0.0 habitat units.
- 0.038ha of Artificial Unvegetated; Unsealed Surface (condition assessment N/A) to include access pathways to the south of the site. This will provide 0.0 habitat units.
- 0.320ha of Vegetated Garden (condition assessment N/A) which includes the area of gardens within the curtilage of proposed dwellings. This also includes areas of ornamental hedgerow and shrub planting within front gardens. This will provide 0.62 habitat units.
- 0.059ha of Introduced Shrub (condition assessment N/A) to include areas of ornamental shrub planting within publicly accessible communal areas. This will provide 0.11 habitat units.
- 0.021ha of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in good condition, to comprise a detention basin to be planted to maximise value to

wildlife. This will provide 0.07 habitat units.

- 0.012ha of Modified Grassland in good condition, to replace the footprint of existing hardstanding. This will provide 0.06 habitat units.
- 0.003ha of Other Neutral Grassland in moderate condition, to replace areas of lost scrub within the south of the site. This will provide 0.02 habitat units.
- 0.031ha of Mixed Scrub in moderate condition, to comprise native shrub planting around the southeast of the site. This will provide 0.21 habitat units.
- 0.0529ha of Urban Trees accounting for the proposed planting of 13no. small-sized trees in moderate condition. This will comprise the planting of a mixture of native and non-native trees of known value to wildlife, to be planted in communal and publicly accessible areas. This will provide 0.16 habitat units.

3.5.2 A standard condition has been applied to urban habitats such as Vegetated Garden and Introduced shrub given that no condition is applicable for these habitat types.

3.5.3 The condition for the remaining proposed habitats has been assigned based on what was considered to be achievable within the context of the site. The proposed SuDS is proposed to meet 'good' condition as it has been designed to maximise wildlife with native species of known value to wildlife. Areas of Modified Grassland are proposed to meet criteria for 'good' which will be achieved by seeded with a flowering lawn mixture and implementation of appropriate management. Other Neutral Grassland areas have been assigned a condition of 'moderate' to align with adjacent enhanced grassland areas. Mixed Scrub and Urban Trees are to be planted within semi-natural habitats and comprise species of known value to wildlife so have been assigned a condition of 'moderate'.

3.5.4 A full target condition assessment for each proposed habitat creation type is detailed in Appendix B.

3.6 Proposed Hedgerow Creation

3.6.1 Proposals are to result in the creation of new hedgerows on site totalling **0.67** hedgerow units, including:

- 0.028km of Species-rich Native Hedgerow (pH05) of good condition, to extend the length of Native Hedgerow H01 to the west, providing screening to adjacent gardens to the north. This will provide 0.22 hedgerow units.
- 0.022km of Species-rich Native Hedgerow (pH06) of good condition. To comprise planting along the east site boundary along the proposed access route into the site. This will provide 0.17 hedgerow units.
- 0.035km of Species-rich Native Hedgerow (pH07) of good condition along the west site boundary to replace losses and screening in place of the reduced Leylandii hedgerow (H04). This will provide 0.27 hedgerow units.

3.6.2 Condition assessment of all proposed hedgerows is to meet the criteria for 'good' condition. This is considered to be achievable through appropriate planting, pruning, and general management within the context of the site.

3.6.3 A full target condition assessment for each proposed hedgerow creation type is detailed in Appendix B.

3.7 Proposed Habitat Enhancements

3.7.1 Proposals are to enhance 2.13 habitat units from the baseline, resulting in the delivery of **3.75** habitat units, a net increase of 1.62 habitat units. The proposed enhancements are to include the following:

- Enhancement of 0.018ha of Modified Grassland (GR01) from moderate to good condition. This will deliver 0.10 habitat units.
- Enhancement of 0.013ha of Modified Grassland (GR02) from moderate to good condition. This will deliver 0.07 habitat units.
- Enhancement of 0.013ha of Modified Grassland (GR03) from poor to good condition. This will deliver 0.06 habitat units.
- Enhancement of 0.029ha of Modified Grassland (GR03) to Other Neutral Grassland of moderate condition. This will deliver 0.18 habitat units.

- Enhancement of 0.024ha of Modified Grassland (GR04) from poor to good condition. This will deliver 0.10 habitat units.
- Enhancement of 0.092ha of Modified Grassland (GR04) to Other Neutral Grassland of moderate condition. This will deliver 0.57 habitat units.
- Enhancement of 0.028ha of Modified Grassland (GR05) from poor to good condition. This will deliver 0.12 habitat units.
- Enhancement of 0.027ha of Modified Grassland (GR05) to Other Neutral Grassland of moderate condition. This will deliver 0.17 habitat units.
- Enhancement of 0.093ha of Modified Grassland (GR06) to Other Neutral Grassland of moderate condition. This will deliver 0.63 habitat units.
- Enhancement of 0.151ha of Blackthorn Scrub (SC01) from moderate to good condition. This will deliver 1.75 habitat units.

3.7.2 Modified grassland within the site shall be enhanced from poor condition to good condition through scarification and seeding with a flowering lawn mix or similar, to increase the average sward diversity to >5 species per meter square.

3.7.3 Areas of Modified Grassland are to be enhanced to Other Neutral Grassland through the re-seeding of these areas and careful on-going management to maximise floral abundance. Appropriate wildflower mixtures will be used including *Emorsgate EM10 Tussock Meadow Mixture*, *EM8 Meadow Mixture for Wetlands*, and *EP1 Pond Edge Mixture*, or similar.

3.7.4 Enhancement of the Blackthorn Scrub from moderate to good condition is proposed through cutting rides and glades within the shrub layer. In addition, shrub diversity will be improved through planting of other native scrub species of known value to wildlife. Additional opportunities for wildlife will also be provided by seeding these glades and rides with a shade-tolerant wildflower mix, such as Emorsgate EH1 Hedgerow Mixture, or similar.

3.7.5 A full target condition assessment for each enhanced habitat type is detailed in Appendix B.

3.8 Proposed Watercourse Enhancements

3.8.1 A total of 0.027km of Ditches along the eastern section shall be enhanced from poor condition to moderate condition. There will be no watercourse encroachment, but there will be minor riparian encroachment on the north bank, owing to the construction of dwellings and associated access. This enhancement will be achieved by reducing heavy shading through the removal of several trees and scrubby areas, alongside the enhancement of the riparian zone with an appropriate wildflower mixture such as Emorsgate EP1 Pond Mixture, or similar. This will provide a diverse area of aquatic marginal vegetation along more than 75% of the ditch section.

3.8.2 A full target condition assessment for each enhanced habitat type is detailed in Appendix B. Proposals are to enhance 0.12 watercourse units from the baseline, resulting in the delivery of **0.22** watercourse units, a net increase of 0.10 watercourse units.

3.9 Adherence to the Mitigation Hierarchy

Avoidance and Mitigation

3.9.1 The scheme has been designed to avoid impacts to the majority of individual trees (a medium distinctiveness habitat) through the location of the access route at an existing access point and the use of no-dig construction through root protection areas of trees. Full details of protection measures are included within the arboricultural package which accompanies this application.

Compensation

3.9.2 In accordance with the hierarchy, there has been a focus on enhancement of existing habitats within the scheme. This includes the enhancement of existing modified grassland to higher condition or to other neutral grassland through overseeding and management, and the enhancement of existing blackthorn scrub from moderate to good condition through new shrub planting, and establishment of glades and rides. The enhancement of the existing ditch is also proposed through reducing shading and establishing a species-rich riparian zone.

3.9.3 New habitat creation has focused on medium distinctiveness habitats wherever possible. Habitats were selected which are appropriate to the location and size of the site. This has included the creation of areas of mixed scrub, creation of new areas of wildflower grassland to the margins of the site, and planting of 13no. new native trees throughout the site. All new hedgerow creation has focused on the planting of Species-rich Native Hedgerows to maximise on-site gains and offset hedgerow losses.

3.9.4 Due to the requirements for usable public open spaces and a drainage strategy to offset flooding, areas of low distinctiveness Modified Grassland and SuDS were necessary within the scheme, however all other areas of the site have seen the creation of semi-natural habitats.

3.9.5 On-site compensation for habitat and hedgerow units was not sufficient to achieve net gain. Therefore, allocation of registered off-site gains for habitat units and hedgerow units is proposed to be used in the first instance, and statutory credits are only to be used as a last resort.

3.10 Trading Summary

3.10.1 Trading rules have not been satisfied for Individual Trees with a net loss of 2.22 habitat units. Trading rules have also not been met for low distinctiveness habitats, with a net loss of 1.70 habitat units.

3.10.2 Trading rules have not been satisfied for medium distinctiveness hedgerows with a net loss of 0.25 hedgerow units. There is also a net loss of 0.77 hedgerow units for low distinctiveness hedgerows, and 0.06 hedgerow units for very low distinctiveness hedgerows.

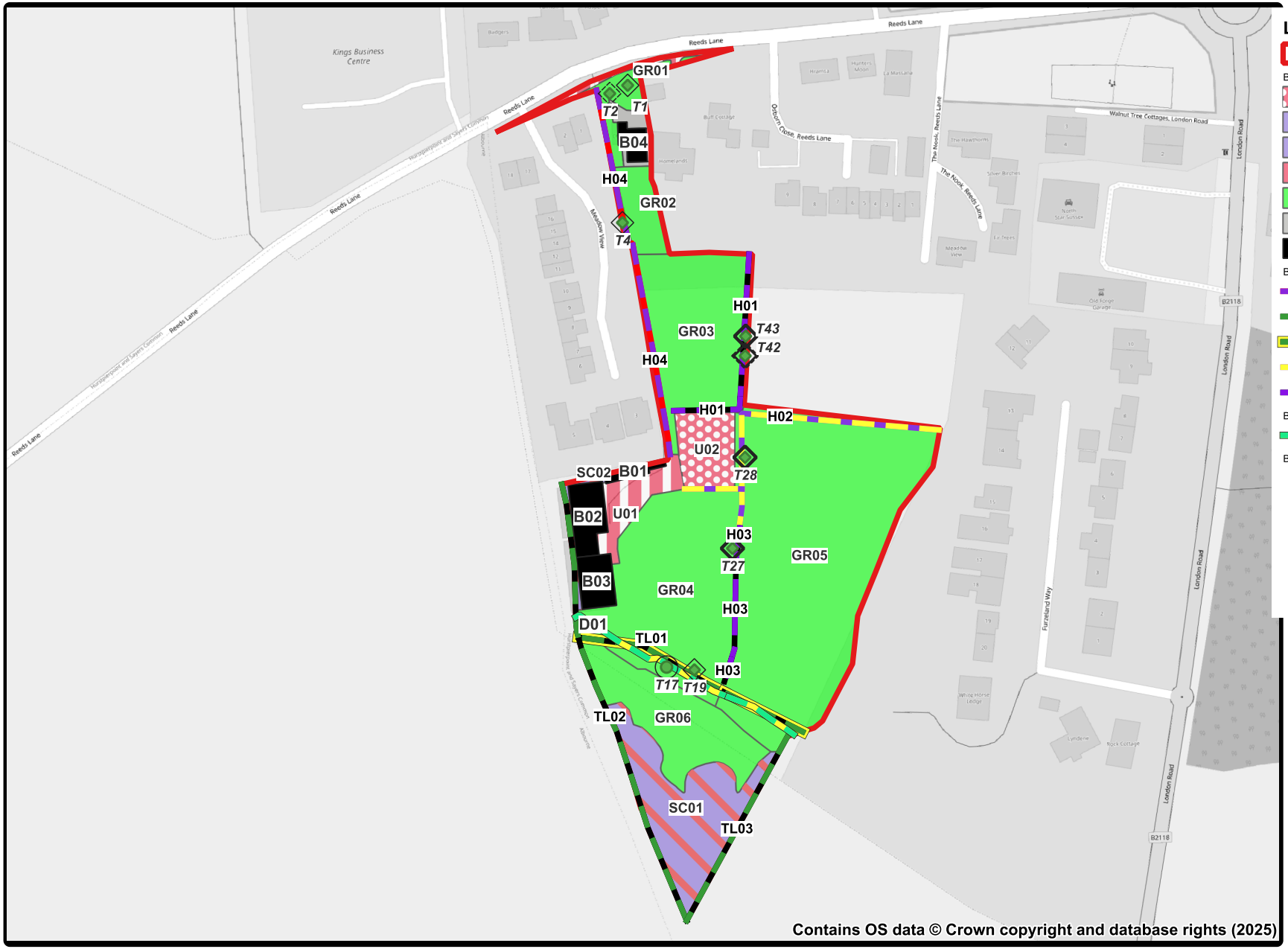
3.10.3 All trading rules have been met for watercourse units.

3.11 Overall Results

3.11.1 Once all retention, enhancement and habitat creation measures are taken into the account, the proposed scheme currently results in the delivery of **5.11** Habitat Units, resulting in a net decrease of **-1.70** units and a **-25.03%** change in Habitat Units.

3.11.2 The proposed scheme shall currently result in **3.63** Hedgerow Units, resulting in a net decrease of **-1.08** units and a **-22.97%** change in Hedgerow Units.

3.11.3 The proposed scheme shall currently result in **0.49** Watercourse Units, resulting in a net increase of **0.10** units and a **24.90%** Biodiversity Net Gain in Watercourse Units.



Legend

- Red Line Boundary

Baseline Habitats

- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- Blackthorn scrub
- Bramble scrub
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Modified grassland
- Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Buildings

Baseline Hedgerows

- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- Line of trees
- Ecologically valuable line of trees
- Native hedgerow
- Species-rich native hedgerow with trees

Baseline Watercourses

- Ditches

Baseline Individual Trees

- Existing Very Large Urban Tree
- Existing Large Urban Tree
- Existing Medium Urban Tree
- Existing Medium Veteran Tree
- Existing Small Urban Tree

25 50 m

1:2,000

Figure No. 01 - Baseline Habitat Plan

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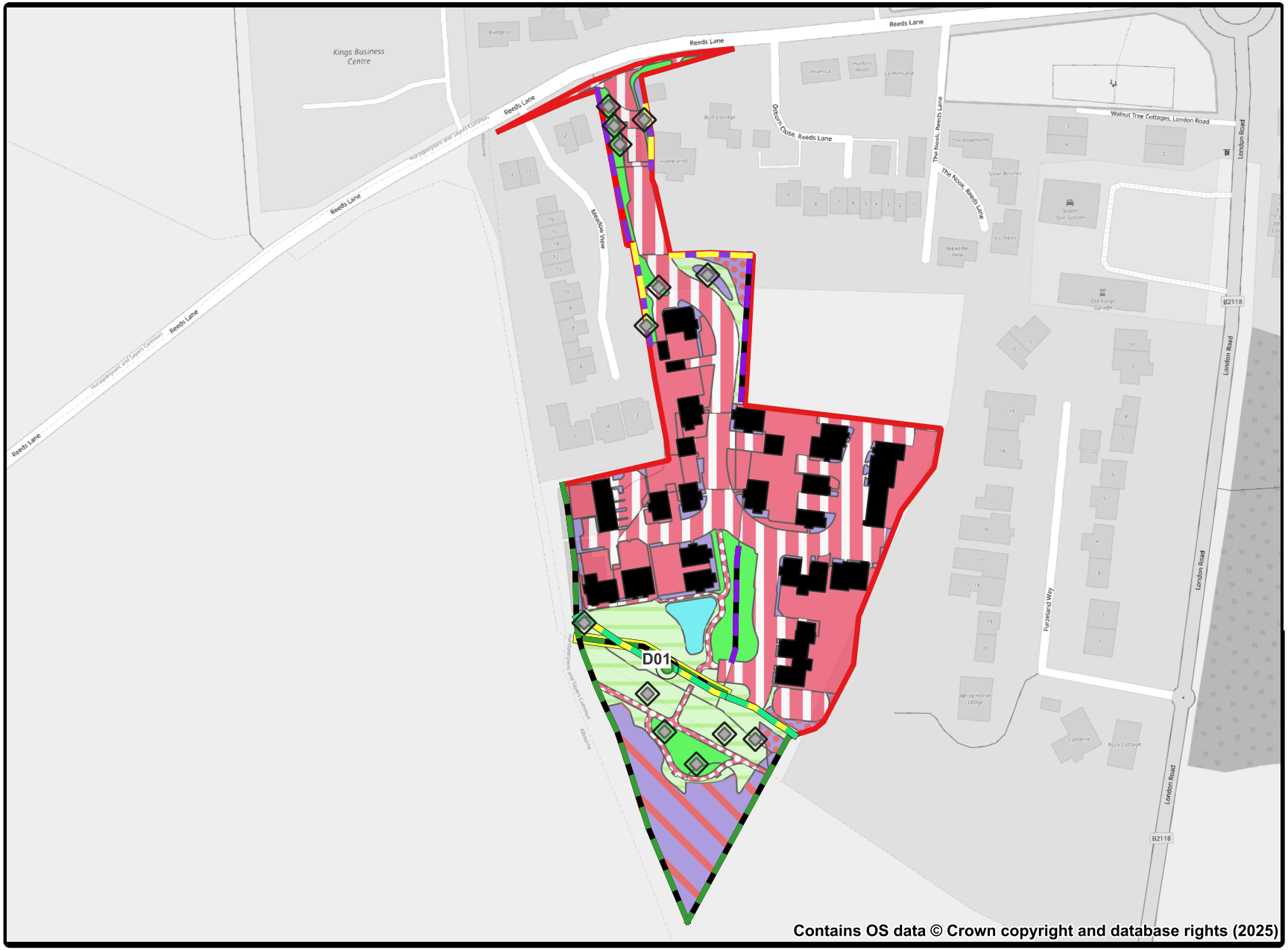
Client

Antler Homes

Project Title & Location

Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common

Drawn by	Approved by	Rev	Date
MD	CO	00	10/04/25



Legend

- Red Line Boundary

Proposed Habitats

- Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
- Blackthorn scrub
- Bramble scrub
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Introduced shrub
- Mixed scrub
- Modified grassland
- Other neutral grassland
- Sustainable drainage system
- Vegetated garden
- Proposed buildings

Proposed Hedgerows

- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
- Line of trees
- Ecologically valuable line of trees
- Species-rich native hedgerow
- Native hedgerow with trees

Proposed Watercourse

- Ditches

Proposed Individual Trees

- Retained Medium Veteran Tree
- Proposed Trees

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Client

Antler Homes

Project Title & Location

Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common

Drawn by	Approved by	Rev	Date
MD	CO	00	10/04/25

25 50 m

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Figure No. 02 - Proposed Habitat Plan

4.0 MEASURES TO ACHIEVE MINIMUM REQUIRED LEVELS OF BNG

4.1 The scheme currently meets the mandatory minimum 10% net gain in watercourse units with all watercourse trading rules satisfied.

4.2 Proposal currently result in a deficit of **2.39** habitat units and **1.55** hedgerow units. Trading rules for hedgerows, and medium and low distinctiveness habitats are not currently met due to the deficit in units.

4.3 The purchase of units from a private habitat provider, such as the Environment Bank or Iford Biodiversity Project, shall be sought post-planning approval to allow the shortfall in units to be addressed. Purchased units shall include a minimum of 2.22 habitat units of either individual trees or a higher distinctiveness habitat type to ensure that all trading rules for area habitats are met. In addition, purchased units shall include a minimum of 0.25 medium distinctiveness hedgerow units, or a higher band to ensure that trading rules for hedgerows are met.

4.4 This approach is in accordance with Government guidelines, with the completion of a full metric with inclusion of off-site habitats provided pre-commencement as part of the standard Biodiversity Gain Condition.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Metric calculations have identified that the proposed scheme currently does not result in a minimum of +10% Biodiversity Net Gain in Habitat and Hedgerow Units, however habitat and hedgerow Units shall be purchased from a third-party provider to satisfy the current deficit and ensure that the current proposals abide by the trading rules. Net gains will be achieved for watercourse units on-site.

5.2 To ensure the above habitats are managed into the future, a suitable Habitat Creation Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) should be produced. This should include management prescriptions for new habitat areas including aspects such as mowing regimes, which shall ensure the target conditions are achieved. The HMMP should include details of monitoring intervals and methods for the minimum 30-year period to ensure that the target conditions are achieved. These measures shall ensure that the scheme accords with The Environment Act 2021 and can be secured by the standard Biodiversity Gain pre-commencement planning condition.

6.0 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. Winchester

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2023). *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool.*

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (2023). *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology.*

UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.01

Appendix A – Condition Assessment for Existing Habitats

Modified Grassland (GR01 and GR02) in Moderate Condition:

	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.	Yes	Average of above 6 species per m2 in winter/early spring within 5 quadrats. Likely to be higher within spring-summer.
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.	No	Entirety of sward above 7cm as no areas are mown
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes	Cover of scattered bramble scrub c. 10% across entire sward with small localised areas
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.	Yes	No evidence of damage as sward remained unmanaged
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes	Localised areas of bare ground beneath trees, and around verges
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	No	No bracken present
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes	No invasive species present
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		Yes
	Number of criteria passed		5

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	

Modified Grassland (GR03-GR06) in Poor Condition:

	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.	No	Average of above 3-4 species per m2 in winter/early spring within 5 quadrats. Likely to be higher within spring-summer but may not reach 6 species per m2.
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.	No	Entirety of sward above 7cm as no areas are mown
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes	Cover of scattered bramble scrub c. 10% across entire sward with small localised areas
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.	Yes	No evidence of damage as sward remained unmanaged
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes	Localised areas of bare ground beneath trees, and around verges
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	No	No bracken present
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes	No invasive species present
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		No
	Number of criteria passed		4

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
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

Ruderal/Ephemeral in Good Condition:

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	7th March 2025 - Max Day MSci (Hons) Assistant Ecologist
Limitations (if applicable)	Survey was undertaken in Winter and so assessed under a precautionary approach.	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	LLD2818
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	

	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.	Yes	Varied structure with mosses, tall forbs, and scattered scrub
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.	Yes	Range of flowering species identified
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	No invasive species or detrimental species identified
	Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)		Yes
	Number of criteria passed		3

Condition Assessment Result	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/✓**
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)	x
• 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)	

Blackthorn in Moderate Condition:

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	7th March 2025 - Max Day MSci (Hons) Assistant Ecologist
Limitations (if applicable)	Survey was undertaken in Winter and so some perennial and annual species may not be visible. Assessed under a precautionary approach.	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	LLD2818
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	SC01

	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 *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* (only in its restricted native range), or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	No	Good example of habitat but dominated by blackthorn with less than three woody species (only scattered bramble)
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran[3]) shrubs are all present.	Yes	Range of ages including mature, young shrubs, seedlings and saplings
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	No invasive or suboptimal species 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.	Yes	Forms a natural edge with adjacent grassland and lines of trees
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	Very dense, with only minor clearings present in winter, but were covered in bramble.
		Number of criteria passed	3

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

Tree T01 in Good Condition:

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	7th March 2025 - Max Day MSci (Hons) Assistant Ecologist
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	LLD2818
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	T01

	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	White willow is native
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	Individual tree so automatically passes.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	Yes	Tree is 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.	Yes	No regular pruning or damage from human activities owing to lack of management
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Yes	Lots of deadwood with crevices and cavities present
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Entire canopy oversailing vegetation
	Number of criteria passed	6	

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

Tree T02 in Good Condition:

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	7th March 2025 - Max Day MSci (Hons) Assistant Ecologist
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	LLD2818
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	T02

	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).	No	Leyland cypress non-native
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	Individual tree so automatically passes.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	Yes	Tree is 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.	Yes	No regular pruning or damage from human activities owing to lack of management
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Narrow with no crevices, ivy or loose bark
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Entire canopy oversailing vegetation
	Number of criteria passed	5	

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

Trees within Native Hedgerows (H01 and H03) and Ecologically Valuable Line of Trees (T01) in Good Condition:

Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference										
		T04	T17	T28	T42	T43						
		Grid reference										
Condition Assessment Criteria												
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						All native oak or willow
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						Continuous canopy with lines of trees
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						All trees mature or early 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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						Trees show no evidence of regular pruning, or adverse impact on health by human activities
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						All trees have deadwood components, some with hollowing.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						All trees located within soft landscaping areas with dense ground vegetation
	Number of criteria passed	6	6	6	6	6						

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

Native Hedgerows (H01-H03) in Good Condition

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		**Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Criteria description**	**Habitat parcel referen** H01 / **Grid reference**	H02	H03
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				**Criterion passed (Yes**		
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).	Y	Y	Y
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).	Y	Y	Y
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).	Y	Y	Y
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).	Y	Y	Y
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.	Y	Y	Y
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.	N	N	N
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[3]) 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[4], as well as the BSBI website[5] where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'[6] 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[7].	Y	Y	Y
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Y	Y	Y
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[8]), 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		N
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from 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.	Y		Y

Ecologically Valuable Line of Trees (TL01) and Lines of Trees (TL02 and TL03) in Good Condition

Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference				
		TL01	TL02	TL03		
		Grid reference				
Condition Assessment Criteria						
		Criterion passed (Yes or				Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Y	Y	Y		All of trees present were native species
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.	Y	Y	Y		Continuous canopy across all lines of 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.	Y	Y	N		T17 veteran. TL02 lots of standing deadwood
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].	Y	Y	Y		TL02 adjacent to agri field, but used for grazing
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.	Y	Y	Y		All trees healthy
	Number of criteria passed	5	5	4		

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

Ditch in Poor Condition:

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Land Rear of Chesapeke, Sayers Common	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	7th March 2025 - Max Day MSci (Hons) Assistant Ecologist
Limitations (if applicable)	Survey was undertaken in Winter and so some perennial and annual species may not be visible. Assessed under a precautionary approach.	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	LLD2818
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	D01

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Yes	Clear water with no obvious signs of pollution
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20 m ditch length.	No	Very few, if any, submerged, emergent and floating species. Waterbody was very shallow with regular rate of flow in winter limiting possible species.
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed *Lemna* spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Yes	No duckweed or filamentous algae identified
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	No	Low cover of aquatic marginal vegetation, limited to occasional hemlock water dropwort, sedges and rare rushes.
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes	No evidence of physical damage
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m in main drains.	No	Water level less than 50cm in winter
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	No	Majority of ditch is heavily shaded by adjacent line of trees alongside willow and bramble scrub thickets
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species[1].	Yes	No invasive non-native species identified.
	Number of criteria passed	4	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	x

Appendix B – Target Condition Assessment for Proposed Habitats

Enhanced Modified Grassland = Good Condition

	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.	Yes	Grassland to be scarified and reseeded. To be enhanced with a flowering lawn mixture to ensure high species per m2.
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.	No	Areas proposed to be regularly mown so will not have areas above 7cm.
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes	Grassland and adjacent scrub to be managed to avoid encroachment.
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.	Yes	Areas not proposed to be subject to high levels of access with hard landscaping pathways implemented.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes	Localised areas of bare ground beneath trees, and around verges to be maintained. Large bare ground areas to be reseeded.
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	Yes	No bracken present in baseline. Any encroachment to be managed.
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes	No invasive species present in baseline, any encroachment to be managed.
		Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)	Yes
		Number of criteria passed	6

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	x
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)	

Enhanced Other Neutral Grassland = Moderate Condition

	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	Diverse wildflower grassland to be created through scarification and reseeding including habitat indicators. Management to reduce nutrient load, cover of rye grasses, and white clover.
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.	Yes	Areas of grassland to me mown short such as short pathways through the sward.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[2].	Yes	Shading of adjacent trees and scrub to provide some areas of bare ground. Large areas to be reseeded. If no bare ground forms then areas will be occasionally scarified.
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	No bracken present in baseline. Management to remove any scrub or bracken encroachment.
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.	No	Areas adjacent to publically accessible space so may have high levels of access. No INNS present in baseline, will be removed by management regime.
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.**	No	Nutrient load not assessed at baseline so may not be feasible.
	Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)	No	
	Number of criteria passed	4	

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

Enhanced Blackthorn Scrub = Good Condition

	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 *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* (only in its restricted native range), or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	New native species to be planted within scrub, and managed to reduce cover of blackthorn below 75%
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran[3]) shrubs are all present.	Yes	Range of ages including mature, young shrubs, seedlings and saplings to be retained
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	No invasive or suboptimal species present. Management to remove any encroachment
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	Natural edge with adjacent grassland and lines of trees to be preserved
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Yes	Glades and rides to be cut into scrub to provide sheltered edges. To be seeded with shade-tolerant wildflower mixture
		Number of criteria passed	5

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

Proposed Mixed Scrub = Moderate Condition

	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 *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* (only in its restricted native range), or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	To be planted with diverse native scrub species of equal parts
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran[3]) shrubs are all present.	Yes	New seedlings and saplings not to be uprooted, but won't be allowed to encroach on grassland
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	No invasive or suboptimal species to be planted. Management to remove any encroachment.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	Natural edge with adjacent grassland and lines of trees to be created.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	Insufficient area to create glades and rides.
		Number of criteria passed	4

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

Proposed SuDS = Good Condition

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.	Yes	Varied structure with grassland, scrub, and trees to be planted.
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.	Yes	Range of flowering species of known value to wildlife to be planted.
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	No invasive species or detrimental species to be planted. Any encroachment to be removed through management.
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].	Yes	Species to only include native planting of known value to wildlife.
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.	Yes	To be seeded with native wetland or pond mixture
		Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)	Yes
		Number of criteria passed	5

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
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)	x
• 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)	

Proposed Individual Trees = Moderate Condition

	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	Native tree planting to comprise minimum of 70% native species.
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	All trees proposed to be individual trees.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	No	New tree planting so cannot be targeted.
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.	Yes	Trees not to be regularly pruned unless required to avoid catastrophic failure. Trees to be planted in semi-natural habitat areas in low crime area. No usage of herbicide to be prescribed.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Criteria cannot be targeted.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Trees to be planted in semi-natural habitats.
	Number of criteria passed	4	

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

Retained Native Hedgerows (H01 and H03) in Good Condition

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes														
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		**Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Criteria description**	**Habitat parcel reference**										
				H01	H03									
				Grid reference										
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**										**Notes (such as justification)**
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Y	Y									Hedgerows to be managed above 1.5m to provide screening to adjacent properties.
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).	Y	Y									Hedgerows not to be reduced in size below 1.5m width to provide dense canopy.
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).	Y	Y									Gap between base already low in baseline. Management to ensure this is not lost.
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).	Y	Y									No gaps in hedgerow in baseline. Any dying shrubs to be replaced.
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.	Y	Y									Minimum of 2m semi-natural habitat gap to be maintained surrounding all hedgerows.
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 *Gallum aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	N	N									Hedgerows within nutrient enriched grassland so cannot guarantee absence.
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[3]) 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[4], as well as the BSBI website[5] where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'[6] 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[7].	Y	Y									No invasive or non-native species in baseline. Management to ensure no encroachment.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Y	Y									No damage in baseline. Management in widely accessible communal areas to ensure litter and rubble are removed.
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[8]), 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	N									No new trees to be planted. All existing trees of same age group.
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.	Y	Y									All trees to avoid detrimental management.

Proposed Species-Rich Native Hedgerows in Good Condition

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 hedgerow so cannot pass.
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	Newly planted hedgerow to implement appropriate laying, coppicing and cutting methods to establish dense canopy.
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	Management to create dense hedgerow with low base of canopy through appropriate pruning regime.
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	Hedgerow to be planted dense, with no gaps. Remedial measures to replace failed shrubs.
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.	Yes	Minimum of 2m semi-natural habitat gap to be maintained surrounding all hedgerows.
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.	No	Hedgerows within nutrient enriched grassland so cannot guarantee absence.
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[3]) 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[4], as well as the BSBI website[5] where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'[6] 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[7].	Yes	No invasive or non-native species in baseline habitats. Management to ensure no encroachment.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Management in widely accessible communal areas to ensure litter and rubble are removed.

Retained Ditch in Poor Condition

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Yes	No new sources of pollution to be introduced, with foul water pumping station to remove all new sewage from dwellings.
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20 m ditch length.	No	Low water levels and flowing water restrict ability to introduced emergent, submerged, and floating species. Will not be targeted.
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed *Lemna* spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Yes	No duckweed or filamentous algae identified in baseline. Biosecurity measures to be implemented to ensure not introduced during construction or planting.
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	Yes	Low cover of aquatic marginal vegetation, limited to occasional hemlock water dropwort, sedges and rare rushes. Further species to be introduced through seeding of pond mixture.
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes	No evidence of physical damage in baseline. No machinery or excessive management to be proposed.
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m in main drains.	No	Water level less than 50cm in winter. No new water sources to be introduced so will not hit this criteria.
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	No	Majority of ditch is heavily shaded by adjacent line of trees alongside willow and bramble scrub thickets. Scrub to be removed but trees will be retained.
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species[1].	Yes	No invasive non-native species identified. Management to ensure no encroachment of non-native species.
	Number of criteria passed	5	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	x

Enhanced Ditch = Moderate Condition

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Yes	No new sources of pollution to be introduced, with foul water pumping station to remove all new sewage from dwellings.
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20 m ditch length.	No	Low water levels and flowing water restrict ability to introduced emergent, submerged, and floating species. Will not be targeted.
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed *Lemna* spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Yes	No duckweed or filamentous algae identified in baseline. Biosecurity measures to be implemented to ensure not introduced during construction or planting.
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	Yes	Low cover of aquatic marginal vegetation, limited to occasional hemlock water dropwort, sedges and rare rushes. Further species to be introduced through seeding of pond mixture.
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes	No evidence of physical damage in baseline. No machinery or excessive management to be proposed.
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m in main drains.	No	Water level less than 50cm in winter. No new water sources to be introduced so will not hit this criteria.
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	Yes	Trees and scrub to be removed to enable construction. No new tree planting to cause high-levels of shading. Nearby scrub to be mananged to avoid encroachment.
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species[1].	Yes	No invasive non-native species identified. Management to ensure no encroachment of non-native species.
	Number of criteria passed	6	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	