

OHH Primary School, Sports Facilities and Allotments

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Report

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Purpose of the Report	To provide the results of a Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Metric assessment conducted at The Primary School, Sports Facilities & Allotments Reserved Matters Application (RMA) Site, which was included within the Outline Planning Permission (OPP), granted in October 2025 (LPA ref no. O/20/89498).	
Summary of Proposed Development	Application for the approval of reserved matters (appearance, layout, scale and landscaping) for the development of 269 dwellings, associated open space, landscaping, parking and other associated works, pursuant to Outline Planning Permission O/20/89498. Affects a public right of way. The application is to include details of the discharge of the following Outline Planning Permission conditions that are relevant to Ecology: • Condition 16 (Arb Assessment) • Condition 61 (SUDs) • Condition 64 (EMMP) • Condition 67 (Landscaping) • Condition 71 (BNG) An Environmental Impact Assessment was submitted with the outline application. The Outline site wide OPP planning application was submitted before BNG became a statutory requirement. Therefore, each Reserved Matters (RM) development parcel planning application has a target of providing a BNG. The BNG losses in each parcel will be offset with the Green Infrastructure (GI) BNG units gained from enhancement of the GI parcels (north, central and south GI). Each RM development BNG will be tracked within an overall OPP BNG tracker to monitor the BNG gain/loss.	
Surveys Undertaken	An extended UKHab survey and BNG condition assessment was conducted of all areas within the red line planning boundary at the Site to provide a habitat baseline on 20 October 2025.	
Summary of Results	The proposed landscape plan results in a 19.71% habitats BNG (2.35 habitat unit gain) and a 111.12% hedgerows BNG (2.51 hedgerow unit gain).	
Conclusions	The post development plan includes other neutral grassland, modified grassland, mixed scrub, pond, rain garden, introduced scrub, allotments, other woodland; mixed and urban trees. The hedgerow along the southern boundary is included to provide compensation for dormouse for hedgerow removal. Therefore only 0.11 km of this hedgerow is included within the BNG Metric to meet the Additionality Rules for protected species compensation and not double count compensation features.	
Compensation	The loss in hedgerow habitat is compensated with the inclusion of new species rich hedgerows. The loss in modified grassland is compensated with the inclusion of scrub,, woodland and grassland habitats within the Site.	
Enhancement	Overall the Site has been significantly enhanced as a result of the proposed development. A HMMP will be required and secured via planning condition to manage and monitor the Site for the 30-year BNG timeframe.	
Data Valid Until	October 2026	
Local Planning Authority BNG Statement		
Do you believe that, if the development is granted planning permission, the BNG Condition (as set out in pg 13 of Schedule 7A of the T&CPA 1990) would apply?	Yes	

The date of the pre-development biodiversity value of onsite habitat(s) have been calculated and the reason that it is a date earlier than the planning application submission date	20 October 2025. This is the date of the UKHab and BNG condition assessment survey which must occur in advance of the planning submission to inform the development layout.
The pre-development biodiversity value of onsite habitats on this date	11.95 habitat baseline Units 2.26 hedgerow baseline Units
Has there been any loss (or degradation) of any onsite habitat(s), resulting from activities carried out before the date specified in 1. Either: - On or after 30 January 2020 which were not in accordance with a planning permission; or - On or after 25 August 2023 which were in accordance with a planning permission	No
If yes, please provide details including: the date immediately before this activity was carried out; the onsite biodiversity on this date; and any supporting evidence (or reference to relevant document containing these details).	N/A
Publication date of the biodiversity metric tool used to calculate the biodiversity value	Statutory Biodiversity Metric V1.0.4
Does the application site have irreplaceable habitats	Yes
If yes, please provide a description of these habitats or reference to relevant documents	Veteran tree (T158) located outside site boundary, with RPZ within site boundary. (Tyler Grange Tree Constraints Plan).
Confirm that application includes the following: i) Completed Biodiversity Metric Tool ii) Baseline and Post-Development Habitat Plans iii) If applicable; plans showing irreplaceable habitats on site	Yes, Statutory Biodiversity Metric Tool submitted separately and results summarised in this report with the plans included (Figures 2 and 3).
Area there Protected and priority species on Site	Dormouse, slow worm, common lizard, grass snake, common toad, GCN, suitability for roosting bats and high value commuting and foraging habitat for bats.
Designated sites, important habitats or other biodiversity features	No designated sites on site. H1 comprises species rich native hedgerow (priority habitat). Lowland mixed deciduous woodland and a watercourse are located 10 m to the north of the Site.
Features of geological conservation importance	No

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Eastleigh Borough Council (One Horton Heath Team) commissioned Johns Associates Ltd to undertake a Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Metric assessment of the of the proposed Primary School, Sports Facilities & Allotments at One Horton Heath, Eastleigh, in support of a planning application for the site. The site is located at post code SO50 7QB (central Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SU 49117 16956) and is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'. Figure 1 provides the Site location plan. The Site currently consists of ex-agricultural fields comprising modified grassland and a series of hedgerows.

1.2 SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

One Horton Heath (OHH) is a comprehensive redevelopment scheme which will provide new retail, employment, residential, senior living, a new primary school, and a new local centre, amongst other new uses on land which is currently undeveloped. Outline planning permission for OHH was granted on 27 October 2025 under application reference O/20/89498.

The description of development proposed in the outline planning application was as follows:

"Outline: Phased mixed-use development comprising severable and separate phases of development (as per the Phasing Plan) consisting:

- Up to 2,500 residential units in total (across The Lower Acre, Quobleigh Breach, The Upper Acre, Round Copse, The Holme, The Homestal, Chalcroft Farm and The Folds phases and partially within Chalcroft Outfarm Works phase);
- A Local Centre (and supporting secondary local centres) on land up to 3.1ha comprising mixed-use residential/retail/leisure/community/employment/day nursery/food establishment uses (Local Centre Phase);
- Further non-residential floorspace on land up to 5ha comprising of office, commercial and industrial uses and general industrial and storage & distribution uses (Chalcroft Outfarm works and Fir Tree Farm Hub phases and partially within the Chalcroft Farm phase);
- A 3FE Primary School (Primary School Phase);
- Public open space including formal sports facilities and informal provisions (across Green Infrastructure Phases);
- Allotments, ecological, landscape and sustainable drainage works;
- Key infrastructure and utilities provision including new roads, footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths;
- Vehicular access from Allington Lane, Fir Tree Lane and Burnetts Lane with improvements to the existing road junction at Fir Tree Lane/Burnetts Lane; and
- Site preparation and demolition works All Matters Reserved Except Access."

A series of Reserved Matters submissions are being made to Eastleigh Borough Council for the detailed design of the development phases that were approved as part of the aforementioned outline planning permission.

This Reserved Matters submission principally comprises of the detailed design of the 3FE Primary School and the adjoining sports facilities, together with the following:

- Associated green infrastructure;
- Allotments, ecological, landscape and sustainable drainage works;
- Key infrastructure and utilities, including the provision of vehicular and pedestrian access, footpaths, and cycle paths.

The outline planning permission is subject to a total of 76 planning conditions.

In accordance with Condition No. 4 of the outline planning permission, this report provides details of the layout, scale, appearance, and landscaping of the site. In addition, this report also considers those conditions that are relevant to the 3FE Primary School and adjoining sports facilities, which includes Conditions Nos. 16, 21, 25, 33, 48, 52, 58, 61, 64, 67 and 71.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the results of a Statutory BNG assessment for the Primary School, Sports Facilities & Allotments RM Site. The OPP OHH application was submitted prior to the delivery of 10% BNG becoming mandatory for most developments on the 12 February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) and therefore the aim is for the OPP OHH site wide development to reach an overall BNG.

The BNG loss for each RM development application will be tracked and offset with the BNG Gain from the enhancement of the north, central and southern Green Infrastructure (GI) parcels within the Site and if required within off-site land outside of the red line boundary of the OPP but within the applicant's control.

The post-development landscape general arrangement plan produced by Stantec has informed the post-development BNG calculations. The plan was designed with ecological advice and through consultation Stantec Limited to avoid habitats of higher distinctiveness and to maximise the achievable BNG whilst strengthening green infrastructure in the local area.

1.4 PERSONNEL

The UKHab Survey/Condition Assessments and BNG calculations/production of the report were conducted by Ellie Brine BSc (Hons) ACIEEM, a Consultant Ecologist at Johns Associates who has both worked and studied within the Environmental Sector since 2015. Ellie holds a First-Class degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation Science, is an Associate Member of the the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEEM) and is proficient in botanical identification, holding a FISC Level 4.

The BNG Metric was reviewed by Katherine Newbert BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM, a Principal Ecologist at Johns Associates who has worked in ecological consultancy since 2015. Kat has a MSc in Applied Ecology and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM). Kat is a Botanical specialist and the Wiltshire BSBI Vice County Recorder for vascular plants with a FISC Level 5.

The BNG Report and BNG was reviewed by Tessa Pepler BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM, a Principal Ecologist at Johns Associates who has worked as an ecological consultant since 2005. Tessa has a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Studies and an MSc in Ecology and Management of the Natural Environment. Tessa is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and holds a Natural England Class 1 survey licence for bats (2019-40584-CLS-CLS-1), great crested newt (2015-18828-CLS-CLS), and dormice (2016-20745-CLS-CLS). Tessa is proficient in botanical identification and is certified FISC Level 3.

1.5 STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric uses habitat as a proxy for overall biodiversity within different habitat types. Habitats are assigned a value based on their intrinsic biodiversity value or 'distinctiveness', which is predefined for each habitat within the metric. This value is then multiplied based on the size, condition, and geographical location of the habitat in order to ascertain its absolute value in 'biodiversity units'. Separate calculations are used within the metric for area-based habitats, linear habitats (such as hedgerows) and watercourses (including ditches and streams). These units are non-transferable and must therefore be considered individually for each project or development. Hereafter they will be referred to as "habitat units", "hedgerow units" and "river units" respectively. Collectively, they will be referred to as "biodiversity units".

Natural England provides a Calculation Tool with all calculations built in to aid in the assessment process. This report should be read in conjunction with the Calculation Tool provided for the assessment of this Site.

Underlying this assessment process are a key set of principles which explain the intended use of the Metric. They are as follows:

- Principle 1 – The metric assessment should be completed by a competent person.
- Principle 2 – The use of this biodiversity metric does not override existing biodiversity protections, statutory obligations, policy requirements, ecological mitigation hierarchy or any other requirements. This includes consenting or licensing processes, for example woodlands.
- Principle 3 – This biodiversity metric should be used in accordance with established good practice guidance and professional codes.
- Principle 4 – This biodiversity metric is not a complex or comprehensive ecological model and is not a substitute for expert ecological advice.
- Principle 5 – Biodiversity units are a proxy for biodiversity and should be treated as relative values.
- Principle 6 – This biodiversity metric is designed to inform decisions in conjunction with locally relevant evidence, expert input, or guidance.
- Principle 7 – Habitat interventions need to be realistic and deliverable within a relevant project timeframe.
- Principle 8 – Created and enhanced habitats should be, where practical and reasonable, local to any impact and deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation.
- Principle 9 – This biodiversity metric does not enforce a minimum habitat size ratio for compensation of losses. Proposals should aim to:
 - Maintain habitat extent - supporting more, bigger, better and more joined up ecological networks;

- Ensure that proposed or retained habitat parcels are of sufficient size for ecological function.

During the process of undertaking a biodiversity net gain assessment using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, the following rules must be followed to ensure its proper use:

- Rule 1 – The trading rules of this biodiversity metric must be followed.
- Rule 2 – Biodiversity unit outputs, for each type of unit, must not be summed, traded, or converted between types. The requirement to deliver at least a 10% net gain applies to each type of unit.
- Rule 3 – To accurately apply the biodiversity metric formula, you must use the biodiversity metric calculation tool or small sites biodiversity metric tool (SSM) for small sites. The tools remove the need for a user to manually calculate the change in biodiversity value. The tool will summarise the results of the calculation and inform a user whether the biodiversity net gain objective has been met.
- Rule 4 – In exceptional ecological circumstances, deviation from this biodiversity metric methodology may be permitted by the relevant planning authority.

1.5.1 Significant On-Site Enhancements

A significant on-site enhancement occurs where habitat enhancement has contributed significantly to the proposed development's BNG, relative to the biodiversity value before development. This varies with the scale of the development but usually include the following:

- Habitats of medium or higher distinctiveness in the biodiversity metric.
- Habitats of low distinctiveness which create a large number of biodiversity units relative to the biodiversity value of the site before development.
- Habitat creation or enhancement where distinctiveness is increased relative to the distinctiveness of the habitat before development.
- Areas of habitat creation or enhancement which are significant in area relative to the size of the development.
- Enhancements to habitat condition, for example from poor or moderate to good.

Where there are significant enhancements, they must be secured with a legal agreement (planning obligation or conservation covenant) or planning condition for 30 years in the same way as off-site gains e.g. a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP). Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) will consider the most appropriate mechanism. The above mechanisms can also be applied by the LPA for plans that are not 'significant enhancements' where they contribute to locally important species or ecological networks.

1.5.2 Non-Significant Enhancements

A non-significant enhancement are habitat enhancements whose loss will not significantly decrease the biodiversity value for example private gardens or container planting. These enhancements do not normally require maintenance provisions e.g. an HMMP, legal agreement or commitment to maintain them for 30 years.

1.6 LEGISLATION AND POLICY

The legislation and national and local planning policies which are relevant to this assessment are provided in Appendix A to this report.

Figure 1: Site Location Red Line Boundary Plan and Context of Site



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 HABITAT CLASSIFICATION AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

2.1.1 UKHab Survey

A UKHab survey and Statutory BNG Condition Assessment of the Site was undertaken on 20 October 2025 by experienced ecologist Ellie Brine BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM from Johns Associates Ltd. The weather was dry and sunny with good visibility. This survey was completed in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) v2.0 (2023) Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (CIEEM, 2017) and BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity - Code of practice for planning and development (British Standards Institute, 2013).

Each habitat parcel is assessed on its condition via a series of relevant criteria as per the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Defra July 2024). Information recorded including species abundance, presence of non-native species, undesirable species, management, habitat structure, human impacts and age of habitats were recorded using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments in the field which are appended to this report.

The on-Site and off-Site (where accessible) habitats were classified following the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Version 2.0 (2023) guidelines, which provides a more detailed interpretation of baseline habitat survey data than previous habitat classifications systems, such as Phase 1 Habitat Assessments. The professional edition of UKHab “UK Habitat Classification –Professional Edition1” (UKHab-P) was used which includes Priority Habitat Types, all Annex 1 Habitats and the habitats listed in EUNIS.

The classification of primary habitats is hierarchical with five levels with a list of Secondary Codes, the latter is sub-divided into Essential codes and Additional codes. It is mandator that each recorded habitat parcel is allocated single primary Habitat Code and to record the presence of all Essential Secondary Code features associated with that habitat parcel. Additional Secondary Codes can also be associated with habitat parcels, where it is relevant to the whole parcel. Up to six Secondary Codes can be allocated to a single habitat.

UKHab v2.0 has a total of 268 Secondary Codes, sub-divided into 15 major groupings. Secondary codes are added to habitat parcels to:

- Confirm the identity of habitat mosaic and complexes.
- Add information about habitat origin and modifications.
- Add information on environmental context, management and land use in a consistent manner.

Essential Secondary Codes are identified as 2-digit numbers (10 – 90). Additional Secondary Codes (100 – 853) are 3-digit numbers and cover features including land management, land use (incorporating green infrastructure), environmental qualifiers, species features and hydrological regime descriptors. The UK Habitat Classification v2.0 Secondary Code Groupings are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: The UK Habitat Classification v2.0 Secondary Code Groupings

UKHab v2.0 Secondary Code Grouping	Description	UKHab v2.0 Codes
Secondary Essentials – Grasslands and Heathland	Habitat mosaic types and complexes that occur in the grassland, heathlands, hedgerows and scrub habitat	10 – 19

Secondary Essentials – Woodlands and Trees	Habitat complexes, origins and mosaic types that principally occur in woods associated with trees	25 – 34
Secondary Essentials – Freshwater	Habitat complexes and origins that principally occur in freshwater habitats	40 – 51
Secondary Essentials – Wetlands	Habitat complexes and environmental qualifiers that principally occur in wetlands	55 – 57
Secondary Essentials – All habitats	Habitat descriptors that can occur on any habitat	60 – 63
Secondary Essentials – Coast	Habitat complexes that principally occur on the coast	70 – 77
Secondary Essentials – Built environment	Habitat complexes, mosaics, land uses and green infrastructure principally associated with the built environment	80 – 90
Additional Secondary Codes – Grasslands and Heathlands	Habitat management, land use, environmental qualifier and species features principally associated with grassland, heathlands, hedgerows and scrub habitat	100 – 131
Additional Secondary Codes – Woodlands and Trees	Habitat management, land use, environmental qualifiers and species features principally associated with woods and trees	200 – 217
Additional Secondary Codes – Freshwater	Habitat management, land use, environmental qualifiers and species features principally associated with freshwater habitats	300 – 323
Additional Secondary Codes – Wetlands	Hydrological regime, habitat management and species features principally associated with wetlands	400 – 425
Additional Secondary Codes – All habitats	Additional habitat descriptors that can occur on any habitat	500 – 532
Additional Secondary Codes – Farming	Habitat management and land uses principally associated with farmlands	600 – 618
Additional Secondary Codes – Coast	Land use and environmental qualifiers principally associated with coastal areas	700 – 703
Additional Secondary Codes – Built environment	Land use and green infrastructure descriptors principally associated with the built environment	800 – 853

Where appropriate, maps were supplemented with target notes which provided specific information on habitats present that were too limited in extent to map at the scale at which data is presented, or the presence of species and habitats of ecological interest.

An annotated habitat map together with descriptions of the recorded habitat types was produced, which was subsequently digitised using a geographical information system (ArcGIS). The survey also included identification of any non-native invasive plant species. Flora taxonomy follows the nomenclature detailed in New Flora of the British Isles (4th Edition) (Stace C., 2019). Flora, where appropriate, are given a descriptive score of abundance using the DAFOR scale, as follows:

- D – Dominant

- A – Abundant
- F – Frequent
- O – Occasional
- R – Rare
- L – Locally (to be used as a prefix for any of the above)
- V – Very (to be used as a prefix for any of the above)

2.1.2 Individual Trees

Individual tree is a broad habitat type which is used to record:

- Individual urban/rural trees
- Lines of trees
- Blocks/groups of trees found within the perimeter of urban land.
- Includes ancient and veteran trees

Individual trees are classified as either 'urban' or 'rural' trees. Classification is carried out after considering the degree of urbanisation of the habitats around the tree and the overall best fit for the location.

Recording individual trees at baseline is based on their diameter at breast height (DBH). The biodiversity metric uses set values to represent the areas of individual trees as displayed in Table 2. The number of individual trees are then input into the tree helper tool embedded within the statutory metric to generate area values to input into the metric spread sheet.

At baseline, a small size class tree is considered to have a minimum DBH of 7.5 cm. All trees under this DBH are considered saplings and are therefore excluded from individual tree assessments. Sapling trees are covered under secondary coding.

In post development calculations, all trees planted with a DBH less than 7.5 cm are classified as 'small'.

Table 2: Tree Size Classes and Area Equivalents, Taken from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide

Size Class	Diameter at Breast Height (cm)	Biodiversity Metric Area Equivalent (ha)
Small	Greater than 7.5 cm and less than or equal to 30cm	0.0041
Medium	Greater than 30 cm and less than or equal to 60cm	0.0163
Large	Greater than 60 cm and less than or equal to 90 cm	0.0366
Very Large	Greater than 90 cm	0.0765

2.1.3 ArcGIS Symbology

At the time of production, a complete symbology for all habitats in the UK Habitat Classification Professional Edition (UKHab-P) was not available. The UK Habitat Classification Basic Edition (UKHab-B) symbology has therefore been used, and where necessary to add in habitats not included in UKHab-B we have designed our own hatching system within the Level 2 colours for those habitats – following the guidance provided in the UK Habitat Classification Basic Edition: Suggested Symbology for Maps document (UKHab, 2020).

2.1.4 Minimum Mapping Units

UKHab guidance indicated that UKHab has 3 Minimal Mapping Units (MMU's):

- 25 m² and 5 m length for urban and small-scale development projects, fine scale mapping of designated sites
- 400 m² and 20 m length for landscape scale surveys
- 2500 m² for larger unenclosed upland habitats.

Large scale, simple habitats or feasibility surveys should use a larger MMU. For this project, given the size of the site and the scale of the map the 25 m² and 5 m length MMU has been applied. This will allow all habitats to be clearly visible on the map whilst enabling enough fine detail to remain to clearly show all habitats present.

2.1.5 Strategic Significance

As part of the BNG assessment, habitats are afforded different levels of strategic significance, which describes the local significance of the habitat based on its location and the habitat type. Habitats were assigned a strategic significance value using the Hampshire County Council published Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The strategic significance is assigned as being high or low in post-development. 'High' strategic value is assigned to network opportunity areas identified within the LNRS and 'low' is assigned to all habitats not identified in the strategy.

2.1.6 Distinctiveness

For the purpose of the metric assessment, distinctiveness refers to the relative scarcity of the habitat and its importance for nature conservation. The actual values assigned to each habitat type used in the metric are given in the Technical Supplement. These are automatically applied by the calculator tool based on the habitat type.

2.1.7 Mitigation Hierarchy

Projects should first seek to avoid and minimise effects upon biodiversity, compensation must be justified and as a last resort. Projects should also achieve gains in biodiversity at every stage of the mitigation hierarchy. Avoidance of biodiversity loss should be priority which enables biodiversity gain simpler and more cost-efficient than if biodiversity losses occur. Table 3 provides the application of the mitigation hierarchy in accordance with the BNG Good practice Principles for Development, A Practical Guide, produced by CIEEM, IEMA and Ciria, Baker *et al* 2019.

Table 3: Applying the Mitigation Hierarchy (Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development' (Baker et al., 2019)).

Stage	In Practice
1. Avoidance	This first stage is to avoid harm to biodiversity, for example by locating to an alternative site. It is the most important stage and can ease the consent process, whereas missing this stage can lead to criticism, objections and refusal of permission for the development.
2. Minimisation	If avoiding all adverse effects is not possible, action is taken to minimise these effects, such as those in the CIEEM EclA guidelines (CIEEM, 2018), which include timing works to avoid sensitive periods.
3. Compensation	Addressing residual adverse effects is the final stage, only considered after all possibility for avoiding and minimising the effects have been implemented. Compensation does not prevent the effects, rather it involves measures to make up for residual effects that cannot be prevented. Offsetting is a form of compensation that trades losses of biodiversity in one location with measurable gains in another – biodiversity offsets have a formal requirement for measurable outcomes. Offsetting losses of biodiversity with gains elsewhere can be within or outside of the development footprint.

2.2 LIMITATIONS, CONSTRAINTS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The findings of this report are valid at the time of survey. Should there be delays to the project timetable and/or implementation of the proposed development, updated desk study and/or site survey work may be required. In this instance, advice should be sought to ensure the data, recommendations and conclusions set out in this report remain valid.

The UKHab was undertaken in October, which is outside of the optimum field survey season for the south of England (from May to August for grassland and March to May for woodland flora), wherein the most accurate picture of the vegetation communities present can be gained. The survey results are considered accurate due historical data held for the Site and the ability of the surveyor to identify botanical species in the vegetative state.

No other limitations or constraints with regard to the field survey or desk study were encountered and therefore the BNG calculations are considered valid.

3 BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

3.1 STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

There are no measures described within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire located on the Site. Adjacent to the north of the Site is a Riparian Buffer, however the red line falls outside of this 10 m buffer. All post development habitats have therefore been afforded low strategic significance.

3.2 EXISTING UKHAB BASELINE HABITAT FINDINGS

Please see the EclA Report Section 4.2 for the full baseline habitats description. The Existing UKHab Plan (Figure 2) and the baseline BNG habitat condition sheets (Appendix B) should be referred to throughout this section. No Schedule 9 non-native invasive species were encountered during the survey.

3.3 EXISTING BNG BASELINE HABITATS

The Statutory BNG Metric Assessment spreadsheet is submitted separately to this report and should be referred to for the areas of habitats and the baseline BNG unit values.

3.3.1 Habitat Distinctiveness

The habitats within the Site boundary are of low to medium distinctiveness and this has been quantified from the Statutory Metric trading summary for each habitat type (Table 4). The wider Site has scope to provide biodiversity net gain to offset the loss in the on-site habitats.

Following the mitigation hierarchy, areas of higher distinctiveness value should be preferentially retained and development avoided within those areas to ensure that a high loss is BNG does not occur. Looking at the distinctiveness of each habitat it is possible to highlight areas for potential habitat creation and enhancement. Habitats of low – medium distinctiveness are suitable for the creation of higher value habitat or improved in terms of their overall habitat condition through the design and implementation of new and appropriate management strategies.

Table 4: Existing Habitat Type Distinctiveness

Habitat Type	Distinctiveness	Trading Rule
Habitats		
Modified grassland	Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required
Hedgerows		
Species-rich native hedgerow	Medium	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required

Figure 2: Baseline UKHab Habitat Plan



3.4 POST-DEVELOPMENT

3.4.1 On-Site Habitats

The post-development proposals for the Site comprise a Primary School, Sports Pitches and allotments with associated roads, car parking and footpaths. Buffers of greenspace are provided along the hedgerows and boundary habitats which comprise other neutral grassland in good condition, mixed scrub in moderate condition and individual tree planting. There will be a total of 204No. individual urban trees planted along roads and within public areas within the Site.

There will be a loss of H1 to accommodate parking, a road and footpaths. New non-native hedgerows will be created in the northern (school) parcel of the development and species rich native hedgerow will be created in the southern parcel of the Site. The species rich hedgerow along the southern boundary of the Site is included to provide compensation for dormouse and therefore only 0.11 km of the 0.211 km length of this hedgerow is included within the Statutory BNG Metric assessment to reach a neutral score of zero to meet the Additionality Rules of BNG.

Figure 3: On-Site Post-Development UKHab Habitat Plan



3.4.2 Headline Results

As demonstrated in Table 5 below, the biodiversity net gain results show an overall net gain in habitats, and a net gain in hedgerows. The trading rules have been satisfied for hedgerows and habitats.

Table 5: Summary of Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment before Offsetting

Unit Type	Baseline Units	Post-development Units	Net Unit Change	% Change	Trading Rules Satisfied?
Habitat	11.95	14.3	2.35	19.71%	Yes
Hedgerow	2.26	4.76	2.51	111.12%	Yes

3.4.3 Compensation and Enhancement Measures

Table 6 below details the requirements of the compensation and enhancement measures which will be implemented in order to achieve the net gain in habitat and hedgerow BNG habitat conditions for the post-development habitats. The enhancement of habitat within the Site is significant relative to the baseline biodiversity value before development and includes:

- Habitats of medium or higher distinctiveness in the biodiversity metric.
- Habitat creation or enhancement where distinctiveness is increased relative to the distinctiveness of the habitat before development.

Due to the 'significant enhancement' of habitats at the Site, a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) is required to be provided within the planning application or via planning condition.

Table 6: Summary of Proposed Compensation and Enhancement Measures

Habitat Type	Proposed Compensation or Enhancement Measure	Target Condition	Delivery Details
Grassland	Creation of modified grassland	Poor	In order to satisfy the criteria for poor condition as per the Statutory Metric, the following are achievable and must apply: - The sward height must be varied with at least 20% of the sward >7cm in height, and 20% <7cm; - No bracken or scrub encroachment should be allowed to establish; - No invasive non-native species should be present. Due to the species composition being limited to one species (Bourne Amenity, 'Rhizomatous Tall Fescue (RTF) Turf) it is not possible to achieve a condition higher than poor.
	Creation of other neutral grassland	Good	In order to satisfy the criteria for Good condition as per the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, the following are achievable and must apply: - The appearance and composition must fit the UKHab definition of other neutral grassland; - The sward height must be varied with at least 20% of the sward >7cm in height, and 20% <7cm; - No bracken or scrub encroachment should be allowed to establish; - No invasive non-native species should be present; - There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m² (not inclusive of species of sub-optimal condition). This Criterion is considered achievable due to the application of Emorsgate EM3 of which comprises 30 different species at appropriate proportions to achieve 10 species per m².
Woodland	Creation of a small area of other woodland; mixed	Poor	Please see appended Condition Assessment Sheet for Woodlands (Appendix C). A score of 24 will be achieved.
Heathland	Creation of mixed scrub	Moderate	In order to achieve moderate condition, the following are achievable and must apply:

and Scrub			- The appearance and composition must fit the UKHab definition of mixed scrub; - No invasive non-native species should be present; - The scrub should have a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and/or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat; - Clearings, glades or rides should be present within the scrub.
Lakes	Creation of pond	Moderate	In order to achieve good condition for ponds (non-priority habitats), the following are achievable and must apply: - Good water quality with low turbidity; - Habitat of at least moderate distinctiveness surrounds the pond for at least 10m from its perimeter; - Less than 10% of the surface is covered with duckweed or filamentous algae; - The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies; - Water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year; - No invasive non-native animals or plants must be present; - The pond should not be artificially stocked with fish; - Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3m deep; - The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by trees and shrubs.
Urban	Allotments	Moderate	In order to achieve moderate condition for urban, the following are achievable and must apply: - A varied vegetation structure; - Presence of different plant species beneficial for wildlife; - Invasive plants and those to the detriment of native wildlife cover less than 5% of vegetated area.
	Rain Garden	Good	In order to achieve moderate condition for urban, the following are achievable and must apply:

			- A varied vegetation structure; - Presence of different plant species beneficial for wildlife; - A complete absence of invasive non-native species.
Trees	Planting of 204 small trees	Moderate	In order to achieve moderate condition, the following are achievable and must apply: - Tree species should be native; - Trees should not be unnecessarily pruned or subjected to detrimental activities; - Deadwood, cavities, ivy and loose bark should be preserved; - At least 20% of the tree canopy should oversail vegetation beneath. - Gaps in canopy of tree groups are <10% and no individual gaps being >5m wide.
Hedgerows	Creation of species-rich native hedgerow	Moderate	In order to achieve good condition, the following must apply: - The hedgerow should be >1.5m in height on average; - Canopy gaps make up <10% of total length and no gaps are >5m wide; - Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment should account for <20% of ground flora at the hedge base; - >90% of the hedgerow is free of non-native or neophyte species; - >90% of the hedgerow is free of damage from human activities

3.4.4 BNG Good Practice Principals for Development

In accordance with the BNG Good practice Principles for Development, A Practical Guide, produced by CIEEM, IEMA and Ciria, Baker *et al* 2019. Table 7 provides the Good Practice Principles that have been applied to the BNG assessment.

Table 7: Accordance with 'Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development' (Baker et al., 2019).

Principle	In Practice
1. Apply the mitigation hierarchy	Designs decisions have been documented within the prepared EcIA due consideration for the CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) (CIEEM, 2018) including mitigation hierarchy. Trading rules have been met within the prepared metric and ecologically justified decisions have been taken in respect of proposed habitats.
2. Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset elsewhere	No irreplaceable habitat within the Site and therefore such losses are avoided.
3. Be inclusive and equitable	Design decisions taken have considered wider stakeholders including the local population and the end users of the Site. The GI areas have sought to balance biodiversity benefits and access to nature and the Primary School, Sports Facilities & Allotments Area RM Site will further contribute to the units available in the wider OPA.
4. Address risk	A precautionary approach has been taken to creation of new habitat types and condition for on and off-site biodiversity gain provision. As an example; modified grassland has been afforded poor condition due to the presence of only one species within the turf mix; allotments have been offered moderate condition due to the potential for establishment of invasive species and; good condition other neutral grassland considered achievable due to the application of Emorsgate EM3 of which comprises 30 different species at appropriate proportions to achieve 10 species per m ² .
5. Make a measurable net gain contribution	The Statutory Biodiversity Metric has been used to demonstrate a clear and quantified calculation of the net gain of development upon biodiversity, using habitat as a proxy for wider biodiversity.
6. Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity	The decisions for design proposals have been subject to an iterative process with ecologists to ensure biodiversity is considered from an early stage and the best outcomes for biodiversity are achieved. The Trading Rules will be met on Site.
7. Be additional	Habitat creation and enhancement have been included as a betterment to the habitat at the Site. No habitats included within the BNG are created for

	specific protected species compensation – the area of the southern species rich hedgerow that results in BNG units above zero is excluded from the BNG.
8. Create a net gain legacy	All habitats will be managed for at least 30 years to support long term benefits with interest of both nature and the local residents in mind. A HMMP will be produced for the on-site and off-site habitats which will outline designing for climate change, adaptive management and the funding mechanisms for the long-term management of the habitats.
9. Optimise sustainability	The habitats are designed to be low maintenance to reduce costs and the need for any pesticides.
10. Be transparent	An iterative approach has been used to inform the biodiversity net gain throughout the design of the Site. Inputs from stakeholders will be used to refine the approach as necessary through the planning process.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Provided that the recommendations for creation and management of habitats can be adhered to, it is predicted that the proposed development will achieve a net gain of 19.71% (2.35 Units) with a 111.12% (2.51 Units) hedgerow net gain. The habitat and hedgerow Trading Rules have been met.

Figure 3 Provides the post development UKHab Plan and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric BNG spreadsheet has been submitted separately within this planning application.

It is recommended that a CEMP be produced in order to set out avoidance and mitigation measures during construction, particularly in relation to **retained and enhanced** habitats, and root protection zones.

Due to the Site being 'significantly enhanced', a HMMP will be required to ensure that the required habitats and habitat conditions are created, maintained and monitored appropriately to ensure that the BNG conditions stated within this assessment are achieved. Monitoring Site visits will be required to be conducted on Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 and follow up Site visits will also be required following any remediation measures being implemented to ensure success.

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APPENDIX A – LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

LEGISLATION

Environment Act 2021 and Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) except for small sites will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain from 12 February 2024. BNG will be required for small sites from 2 April 2024. BNG will be measured using Defra's biodiversity metric and all off-site and significant on-site habitats will need to be secured for at least 30 years. This sits alongside:

- A strengthened legal duty for public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity,
- New biodiversity reporting requirements for local authorities, and
- Mandatory spatial strategies for nature: Local Nature Recovery Strategies or 'LNRS'.

Schedule 7A Biodiversity Gain in England – Part 1 states:

1 (1) This Schedule makes provision for grants of planning permission in England to be subject to a condition to secure that the biodiversity gain objective is met.

(2) Paragraphs 2 to 12 have effect for the purposes of this Schedule.

Biodiversity gain objective

2 (1) The biodiversity gain objective is met in relation to development for which planning permission is granted if the biodiversity value attributable to the development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by at least the relevant percentage.

(2) The biodiversity value attributable to the development is the total of—

(a) the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat,

(b) the biodiversity value, in relation to the development, of any registered offsite biodiversity gain allocated to the development, and

(c) the biodiversity value of any biodiversity credits purchased for the development.

(3) The relevant percentage is 10%.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations amend this paragraph so as to change the relevant percentage.

Biodiversity value and the biodiversity metric

3 References to the biodiversity value of any habitat or habitat enhancement are to its value as calculated in accordance with the biodiversity metric.

4 (1) The biodiversity metric is a document for measuring, for the purposes of this Schedule, the biodiversity value or relative biodiversity value of habitat or habitat enhancement.

(2) The biodiversity metric is to be produced and published by the Secretary of State.

(3) The Secretary of State may from time to time revise and republish the biodiversity metric.

(4) Before publishing or republishing the biodiversity metric the Secretary of State must consult such persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make transitional provision in relation to the revision and republication of the biodiversity metric.

(6) The Secretary of State must lay the biodiversity metric, and any revised biodiversity metric, before Parliament.

Pre-development biodiversity value

5 (1) In relation to any development for which planning permission is granted, the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat is the biodiversity value of the onsite habitat on the relevant date.

(2) The relevant date is—

(a) in a case in which planning permission is granted on application, the date of the application, and

(b) in any other case, the date on which the planning permission is granted.

(3) But the person submitting the biodiversity gain plan for approval and the planning authority may agree that the relevant date is to be a date earlier than that specified in sub-paragraph (2)(a) or (b) (but not a date which is before the day on which this Schedule comes into force in relation to the development).

(4) This paragraph is subject to paragraphs 6 and 7.

6 If—

(a) a person carries on activities on land on or after 30 January 2020 otherwise than in accordance with—

(i) planning permission, or

(ii) any other permission of a kind specified by the Secretary of State by regulations, and

(b) as a result of the activities the biodiversity value of the onsite habitat referred to in paragraph 5(1) is lower on the relevant date than it would otherwise have been, the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat is to be taken to be its biodiversity value immediately before the carrying on of the activities.

7 Where planning permission is granted in respect of land which is registered in the biodiversity gain site register under section 100 of the Environment Act 2021, the pre-development biodiversity value of the land is the total of—

(a) the biodiversity value of the onsite habitat on the relevant date, and

(b) to the extent that it is not included within that value, the biodiversity value of the habitat enhancement which is, on that date, recorded in the register as habitat enhancement to be achieved on the land.

Post-development biodiversity value

8 (1) In relation to any development for which planning permission is granted, the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat is the projected value of the onsite habitat as at the time the development is completed.

(2) That value is to be calculated by taking the pre-development biodiversity value and—

(a) if at the time the development is completed the development will, taken as a whole, have increased the biodiversity value of the onsite habitat, adding the amount of that increase, or

(b) if at the time the development is completed the development will, taken as a whole, have decreased the biodiversity value of the onsite habitat, subtracting the amount of that decrease. This is subject to paragraph 9.

9 (1) This paragraph applies in relation to any development for which planning permission is granted where—

(a) the person submitting the biodiversity gain plan for approval proposes to carry out works in the course of the development that increase the biodiversity value of the onsite habitat, and

(b) the planning authority considers that the increase is significant in relation to the pre-development biodiversity value.

(2) The increase in biodiversity value referred to in sub-paragraph (1) is to be taken into account in calculating the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat only if the planning authority is satisfied that the condition in sub-paragraph (3) is met.

(3) The condition is that any habitat enhancement resulting from the works referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(a) will, by virtue of—

(a) a condition subject to which the planning permission is granted,

(b) a planning obligation, or

(c) a conservation covenant, be maintained for at least 30 years after the development is completed.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations amend sub-paragraph (3) so as to substitute for the period for the time being specified there a different period of at least 30 years.

Registered offsite biodiversity gains

10(1) “Registered offsite biodiversity gain” means any habitat enhancement, where—

(a) the enhancement is required to be carried out under a conservation covenant or planning obligation, and

(b) the enhancement is recorded in the biodiversity gain site register (as to which, see section 100 of the Environment Act 2021).

(2) References to the allocation of registered offsite biodiversity gain are to its allocation in accordance with the terms of the conservation covenant or planning obligation referred to in sub-paragraph (1)(a).

(3) The biodiversity value of registered offsite biodiversity gain is measured, under the biodiversity metric, in relation to development to which it is allocated.

Biodiversity credits

11 “Biodiversity credits” means credits under section 101 of the Environment Act 2021.

General

12 (1) In relation to development for which planning permission is granted—

“onsite habitat” means habitat on the land to which the planning permission relates;

“planning authority” means the local planning authority, except that—

- (a) in a case where the planning permission is granted by Mayoral development order under section 61DB, “planning authority” means such of the Mayor of London or the local planning authority as may be specified in the order;

(b) in a case where the planning permission is granted by the Secretary of State under section 62A, 76A or 77, “planning authority” means such of the Secretary of State or the local planning authority as the Secretary of State may determine;

(c) in a case where the planning permission is granted on an appeal under section 78, “planning authority” means such of the person determining the appeal or the local planning authority as that person may direct.

(2) “Habitat enhancement” means enhancement of the biodiversity of habitat.

(3) References to the grant of planning permission include the deemed grant of planning permission.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

NPPE

There are numerous national and local planning policies associated with flora and fauna (also referred to as biodiversity) that need to be addressed as part of the planning process. The Government has issued its National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) February 2025, which requires impacts to biodiversity to be minimised. Paragraph 194 of the NPPF applies the same protection to Ramsar sites as that conferred by the Habitats Regulations to SACs and SPAs, it also applies the same protection to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitat sites.

To protect and enhance biodiversity plans should:

- 192a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation;
- 192b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

The NPPF requires development to apply the following principles (Paragraph 193):

- a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁷⁰ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

- d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

Planning authorities should follow key principles to ensure that the potential impacts of planning decisions on biodiversity conservation are considered. Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation provides guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation and complements the NPPF.

The Natural Environment Paper

“The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature” outlines the Government’s approach and vision for nature in the UK including protecting and improving our natural environment, growing a green economy and reconnecting people and nature.

Biodiversity 2020

A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services, are the country level strategies for England and builds on the natural Environment White Paper. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea. The priorities for action include a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation, putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy, reducing environmental pressure and improving knowledge.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Eastleigh Borough Council

Eastleigh Borough Council’s Local Plan 2016 to 2032 (dated April 2022) contains Policies relating to the natural environment which are reproduced below:

Policy DM11, Nature Conservation

1. The Council will work with statutory and voluntary agencies and developers, and will determine planning applications, to:
 - a. protect, conserve, enhance and facilitate adaption to climate change:
 - i. international, national and local nature conservation designations; and
 - ii. networks of natural habitats and features, including the Local Ecological Network, Priority Biodiversity Areas and Priority Biodiversity Links, watercourses, wetland complexes, woodland trees, and trees and hedgerows important to biodiversity and local character.
 - b. assist in achieving national, county and local biodiversity targets as set out in Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs);
 - c. seek a net gain of biodiversity on all development sites (including sites for redevelopment) through the protection, enhancement and connection of existing and provision of new habitats and features of nature conservation interest compatible with the native biodiversity characteristics of the Borough, having regard to local geodiversity and soils; and

d. contribute to major elements of the PfSH Green Infrastructure Strategy and other strategies for the provision and enhancement of multifunctional green infrastructure including green routes, ecological networks and biodiversity enhancements (see strategic policy S9).

2. Development which is likely (either individually or in combination with other developments) to adversely affect the integrity of an international or European nature conservation site will not be permitted subject only to imperative reasons of overriding public interest and securing any necessary compensatory measures in the absence of alternative solutions. A 'project level' Habitat Regulations Assessment will be required where there are likely significant effects or uncertainty. Any mitigation measures required to ensure no adverse impact must be implemented at the appropriate time.

3. The Council will work with PfSH, Natural England, the Environment Agency and other wildlife organisations to develop and implement with developers a strategic approach to the protection and enhancement of international and European sites from the direct and indirect effects of development. Within Eastleigh Borough this will include:

a. implementing:

i. the Solent Recreation Mitigation Strategy (requiring contributions from residential developments within 5.6 kilometres of the Solent Special Protection Area to the Strategy); and

ii. the interim and any future New Forest Recreation Mitigation Strategy if required;

or alternative agreed site specific measures to address recreational disturbance;

b. preserving the water quality and flows within the Itchen and Hamble, Southampton Water and Solent;

c. protecting the River Itchen SAC, in particular the maintenance and where appropriate restoration of habitats and qualifying species to favourable conservation status (as defined by article 1 of the Habitats Directive); and

d. seek contributions towards measures set out in the Southern Damsely Conservation Strategy (or other strategy) specifically to deliver biodiversity net gain.

4. Development will not be permitted if it is likely (either individually or in combination with other developments) to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) as shown on the policies map (or on a more recent plan provided by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre) unless it can be demonstrated that:

a. there are no alternative solutions;

b. the adverse effects are unavoidable;

c. measures are taken to mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for the adverse effects;

d. there is an overall biodiversity net gain; and

e. if there are any residual adverse effects which cannot be avoided, mitigated or compensated, the benefits of the development must clearly outweigh the adverse effects on the nature conservation value of the site and any broader impacts on national and local designations.

5. Development will not be permitted if it is likely (either individually or in combination with other developments) to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on **priority habitats, protected priority species, or on the local exological network** unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a. there are no alternative solutions;
 - b. the adverse effects are unavoidable;
 - c. measures are taken to mitigate or, as a last resort, compensate for the adverse effects;
 - d. there is an overall biodiversity net gain; and
 - e. if there are any residual adverse effects, the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the adverse effects on priority habitats, priority and protected species, and the local ecological network.
6. Development will not be permitted if it results in the loss or deterioration of **irreplaceable habitats** (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees), unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.
7. **Buffers** free from development will be provided to designated sites to avoid/mitigate impacts, including recreational impact and impacts on edge habitats, and to maintain dark skies.
8. Development will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that:
- a. there have been thorough habitat and species **surveys**;
 - b. the great crested newt strategic survey and strategy have been considered in all developments within 500m of a great crested newt pond; and
 - c. the strategic bat trapping survey has been considered in all developments within the locality of a woodland or connected habitat networks.

Strategic Policy S9, Green Infrastructure

1. Through new development and other initiatives and the Borough Council will seek to achieve the provision, retention and/or enhancement of the following forms of multi-functional green infrastructure, including provision of:
- a. landscape scale strategic links across the Borough boundary, to and between the Borough's settlements, the countryside, the coast, and the major areas of open space including the country parks (see strategic policy S12);
 - b. interlinked publicly accessible open space through new and existing development including for example formal sports facilities and informal amenity spaces and cemeteries (see policies DM32-DM34, Chapter 5 and detailed proposals in Chapter 6);
 - c. green infrastructure incorporated into all new development with multifunctional spaces connected by primary, secondary and tertiary green links;
 - d. interconnected urban green infrastructure within the fine grain of existing and new development including green, cycle ways, paths and linkages between community facilities and open spaces to link community facilities;
 - e. green stepping stones such as street trees, green roofs and walls, pocket parks and urban copses (see policy DM1, Chapter 5);
 - f. connected habitats linking the network of designated sites and existing priority habitats, taking account of the Hampshire ecological network map (see policy DM11, Chapter 5);

- g. incorporation of historic buildings and landscapes, including historic parks and gardens within the wider Green Infrastructure to protect their setting (see policy DM12, Chapter 5); and
- h. opportunities for local food growing including allotments, community orchards and farms (see policies DM32 to DM34, Chapter 5 and detailed proposals in Chapter 6).

5.1.1 Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, EBC, December 2009

The Biodiversity SPD is intended to provide additional guidance on the legal and policy basis for the saved nature conservation policies within the adopted Eastleigh Borough Local Plan Review (2001-2011), and on the interpretation of these policies. It forms part of the statutory Local Development Framework for Eastleigh Borough To provide additional guidance supplementary to the South East Plan, and the Council's Local Development Framework.

5.1.2 Tree Strategy 2022 – 2030, EBC, March 2022

The purpose of this strategy is to provide an over-arching framework to support the Council's detailed operational policy and technical documents relating to trees, achieve the Council's target to plant 160,000 more trees in the borough by 2030 and provide a basis to develop further actions. The two key principles are to preserve and increase the number of trees in the borough.

APPENDIX B BASELINE BNG CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

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 OHH Primary School	Survey date and Surveyor name	20-Oct-25
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	G1 and G2
Habitat Description			
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	
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	
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	
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.	Y	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Y	
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Y	
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		5	
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)	Y	
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				
Species-rich Native Hedgerow				
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification				
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-Site OHH Primary School		Survey date and Surveyor name	Elle Brine 20 October 2025
Limitations (if applicable)			Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference			Habitat parcel reference	
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 ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . 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).	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 <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).	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	
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	
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.	N	
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.	Y	

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	
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	
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.		
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.		
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 <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> 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 <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).		1		
Score achieved:			Good		
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 <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> 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 <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).		1		
Score achieved:					
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score					
Footnotes					
Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK</i> . [online] Available on: layout (hedgeline.org.uk)					
Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) <i>Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows</i> . [online] Available on: Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk)					
Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).					
Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) <i>The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain</i> . Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on: The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7) JNCC Resource Hub					
Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). <i>Definitions: wild, native or alien?</i> [online] Available on: Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (bsbi.org)					
Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) <i>Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora</i> . [online] Available on: Acknowledgements Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk)					
Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNS) (2022) Available on: NNSP-(nonnativespecies.org)">Home > NNSP (nonnativespecies.org)					
Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)					

APPENDIX C POST-DEVELOPMENT BNG CONDITION ASSESSMENTS

Habitat Description			
Modified Grassland - Created			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
	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.	N	
A	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.		
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	N	
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	
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.	Y	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Y	
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Y	
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)			No
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)		
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	Y	

Habitat Description			
Other neutral grassland - Created			
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.	Y	Emorsgate EM3
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.	Y	Diverse species mix used providing complex sward height
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens².	Y	
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%.	Y	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition³ 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 species⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m² 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.	Y	Emorsgate EM3
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland)		Y	
(Yes or No)			
Number of criteria passed		Y	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved */✓	
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	Y	
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)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F	Poor (1)		

Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference		Other woodland; mixed - created		
Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.	1	
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .	3	
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ³ ≥10% cover.	3	
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species ⁴ across woodland parcel.	2	Scots pine, english oak, small-leaved lime
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	3	
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted ⁷ .	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ .	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category ⁷ .	3	
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland ⁸ ; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland ⁸ .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	1	
H	Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback ⁹ .	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	3	
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	1	
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland ¹¹ .	Two storeys across all survey plots ¹¹ .	One or less storey across all survey plots ¹¹ .	1	
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.	1	
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	1	
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident ¹⁴ .	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	1	
Total Score (out of a possible 39)					24	
Condition Assessment Result				Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)				Good (3)		
Total score 26 to 32				Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)				Poor (1)		

Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	Mixed Scrub - Created
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).	Y	
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	N	
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.	Y	
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	N	
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Y	
Number of criteria passed			3
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)	Y	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

Grid reference			Habitat parcel reference	Pond - created
Condition Assessment Criteria			Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland ¹ and non-woodland):				
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	Y		
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	N		
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Y		
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	N		
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams ² , pumps or pipework.	N		
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species ³ .	Y		
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Y		
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:				
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) ⁴ cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Y		
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Y		
Number of criteria passed		6		
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Results for woodland ponds which require assessment of 7 core criteria				
Passes 7 criteria	Good (3)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Moderate (2)			
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)			
Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria				
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)			
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)	Y		
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)			

Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	Rain garden – created
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.	Y	
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.	Y	
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).	Y	
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.		
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 .		
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.		
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).		
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.		
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)			Y
Number of criteria passed			Good

Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	Allotments – created
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.	Y	
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.	Y	
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).	N	
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.		
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 .		
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.		
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).		
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.		
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)			N
Number of criteria passed			Moderate

Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	204 small trees - created
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/N	
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	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	N	
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	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	
Number of criteria passed		3 or 4	
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)	Yes	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference		Species-rich native hedgerow – created	
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 ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . 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).	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 <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).	N	
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).	N	
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	
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1m 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 1m 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.	N	

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.	Y	
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 3 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	
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	

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.		
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.		

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 <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> 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 <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		Moderate