

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Survey site:

The Paddock, Shop Lane, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire, SO19 0QS

Client:

Shane Castle

Date:

11th August 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Eastleigh Borough Council. The proposal is described as:

“Use of land for one residential caravan plot.”

BNG assessment methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **[BNG Methodology and Legislation – 2025.](#)**

The results and recommendations contained within this report are valid for 18 months. An updated site visit and BNG assessment may be required if the report is to be used any longer than 18 months after completion.

Version control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Zenobia – Jay Hatch BSc (Hons), Consultant Ecologist	10 th August 2025
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Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Construction Industry Research and Information Association & Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2019). Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Development.

Proportionality

The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate.

The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.

(BS 42020, 2013)

Executive Summary

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Shane Castle to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at The Paddock, Shop Lane, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire, SO19 0QS (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The assessment was required to inform a planning application for the use of land for one residential caravan plot (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

Areas of Habitat

The on-site baseline habitat value of the site is 0.72 units, comprising 0.04 units of poor condition individual trees, 0.36 units of moderate condition individual trees, 0.08 units of mixed scrub, 0.21 units of other neutral grassland, 0.03 units of modified grassland, and 0 (no value) units of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface.

The on-site post development habitat value of the site is 1.06 units, comprising 0.16 units of enhanced mixed scrub, 0.01 units of created vegetated garden, 0.44 units of created individual trees, 0.46 units of created other neutral grassland, and 0 (no value) units of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, and developed land; sealed surface.

This results in a net change in biodiversity of **+47.98%** (i.e. a net gain). The proposed development exceeds the minimum requirement of +10% net change in biodiversity and meets all trading rules.

Table 1. BNG net change summary

Unit Type	Baseline Units	Units Required to Meet Target	Post Development Units	Net Loss/Gain	Unit Deficit
Habitat Units	0.72	0.79	1.06	+47.98%	0
Linear Units	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Watercourse Units	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Management Plan must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years.

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1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Background

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Shane Castle to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at The Paddock, Shop Lane, Bursledon, Southampton, Hampshire, SO19 0QS (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The assessment was required to inform a planning application for the use of land for one residential caravan plot (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”). A plan showing the proposed development is provided in Appendix 1.

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool – The Paddock SO19 0QS – V1 – 10th August 2025
- Preliminary Ecological Assessment – The Paddock SO19 0QS – V1 – 8th July 2025
- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment – The Paddock – July 2024 – David Archer Associates (the baseline for this assessment has been taken from this report)

1.2 Site Location, Geology and Landscape Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SU 47084 11083 and has an area of c. 0.24ha. The site comprises hard standing (an access track and unvegetated garden), a residential building and stable block, modified grassland and mixed scrub. The site is boarded by land within the wider ownership boundary along all aspects, comprising hardstanding, buildings and modified grassland. Beyond the wider side ownership boundary is Shop Lane to the northwest, grassland and pockets of trees to the north, east and south. The site is situated within an area of more rural character within an urban location to the eastern side of Southampton, the wider area comprises residential dwellings with associated garden space, industrial sites, and agricultural land, interspersed by hedgerows and lines of trees. A site location plan is provided in Appendix 2.

1.3 BNG Informative

BNG is a specific, measurable outcome of project activities that deliver demonstrable and quantifiable benefits to biodiversity compared to the baseline situation. In order to achieve BNG, a project must be able to demonstrate that it has followed all 10 of the Principles of Biodiversity Net Gain (as outlined in the British Standard 8683:2021 Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain).

The legalised Environment Act (2021) requires developments in England to demonstrate a measurable net gain in biodiversity and sets a target of a minimum of 10% BNG for all developments. It also stipulates that a management plan with a minimum 30-year term, should be adopted to ensure biodiversity net gain can be delivered. The Environment Act (2021) states biodiversity net gain is mandatory for sites over 0.5ha as of February 2024. The requirement for biodiversity net gain is also enshrined within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024). The DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric is the widely accepted tool used to calculate BNG. It enables the calculation of habitat value pre- and post-development in order to determine the overall

change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposed development. The Biodiversity Metric has separate BNG assessments for areas of habitat, hedgerows and watercourses. The biodiversity value of a site should be maximised. However, it may not always be possible to achieve a 10% biodiversity net gain within a site and therefore the Statutory Biodiversity Metric can also account for offsite habitat creation, where land is available. Alternatively, developers can seek to provide an agreed financial contribution to an appropriate third party (such as the Local Authority, the UK Government or another landowner) to deliver the required biodiversity net gain elsewhere on their behalf.

In accordance with the principles of the mitigation hierarchy, efforts have been made to avoid, minimize, and compensate for potential biodiversity impacts arising from the proposed development.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Baseline Biodiversity Value

The baseline BNG Calculation was informed by the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (David Archer Associates, July 2024). A baseline habitat plan is provided in Appendix 3.

Habitat Classification

The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (David Archer Associates, July 2024) classified the habitats on site according to The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023).

Habitat Area/Length

The area or length of each habitat was calculated using qGIS software. In calculating the area or length of each habitat, habitats which occur as two or more isolated parcels across the site were combined, where they were deemed to be of a similar composition and condition. Distinctions were made between habitats to be retained (i.e. left as found in baseline), enhanced (i.e. improved condition) or lost (i.e. destroyed by proposed development).

Areas of scattered trees were calculated using the Tree Helper tool within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Class sizes for urban trees are set out in Table 14 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023).

Habitat Condition

Habitat condition was assessed using the relevant condition assessment sheets found in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023).

Strategic Significance

Strategic significance was assigned for each proposed habitat based upon a review of the following:

- Likely ecological value
- Function within the landscape
- Any site or habitat allocations under the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036

2.2 Post Development Biodiversity Value

The post development BNG Calculation was informed by the development plan which is included in Appendix 1. A post development habitat plan is provided in Appendix 4.

Habitat Classification

Proposed habitats were translated to their equivalents in the UK Habitat Classification using The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023) and the information provided within the development plan.

Habitat Area/Length

The area or length of each proposed habitat was calculated using qGIS software. In calculating the area or length of each habitat, habitats which occur as two or more isolated parcels across the site were combined, where they were deemed to be of similar composition and condition. Distinctions were made between habitats to be retained (i.e. left as found in baseline), enhanced (i.e. improved condition) or newly created.

Areas of scattered trees were calculated using the Tree Helper tool within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Class sizes for urban trees are set out in Table 14 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023).

Habitat Condition

Target habitat condition for each proposed habitat was determined assessed using the Temporal Multipliers Tool and the Enhancement Temporal Multipliers Tool included in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet as well as the relevant condition assessment sheets found in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023). This is based on the assumption that a 30-year management plan will be adopted for the site.

Strategic Significance

Strategic significance was assigned for each proposed habitat based upon a review of the following:

- Likely ecological value
- Function within the landscape
- Any site or habitat allocations under the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036

2.3 Limitations

There were not considered to be any limitations to the assessment.

3.0 Results

3.1 Baseline Habitats

Table 2 details the baseline habitats present within the site along with their area/length, condition and strategic significance. A full condition assessment for each habitat (where relevant) is provided in Appendix 5a.

Table 2: Baseline Biodiversity Value

Baseline Biodiversity Value				
Area Based Habitats				
Habitat	Area	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Grassland: Other neutral grassland	0.053ha	An area of other neutral grassland is present within the middle of the site, which contains a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species for this habitat type. It has a short homogeneous sward height <7cm tall and c. 4 – 5 species per m ² recorded.	Poor: passes 2 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'Grasslands medium/high/very high distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Grassland: Modified grassland	0.0143ha	An area of modified grassland is present along a small part of the sites north-western site boundary. It is maintained at a short homogeneous sward height c. <4cm and has c. 2 – 3 species per m ² recorded.	Poor: fails 2 of 7 criteria, including essential criterion A. Assessed using the 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub	0.0192ha	Mixed scrub is present within the southwestern corner of the site with no one species dominant, and was noted to be dense, with no clearings, glades or rides present. Species recorded include: A: Buddleia <i>Buddleja davidii</i> , European gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> , fleabane <i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i> F: Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , hedge bindweed <i>Calystegia sepium</i> O: Willow sapling <i>Salix</i> sp., hazel sapling <i>Corylus avellana</i> , redshank <i>Persicaria maculosa</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> R: Evening primrose <i>Oenothera biennis</i>	Poor: passes 1 of 5 criteria. Assessed using the 'scrub' habitat type condition sheet.	Medium Strategic Significance Location ecologically desirable (i.e. connects to similar off-site habitat) but not in local strategy

Urban: Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.1563ha	Hardstanding is present on-site in the form of a gravel access track leading from Shop Lane into the site, as well as areas of gravel along part of the south-eastern site boundary and towards the southern section of the site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
Individual trees	0.0407ha	Seven trees within an area of other neutral grassland, comprising one medium Lime <i>Tilia x europaea</i> , and six small trees made up of one lime, three apple <i>Malus</i> sp., and two cherry <i>Prunus avium</i> . Trees are numbered in accordance with the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment report (David Archer Associates, July 2024).	Moderate: passes 3 - 4 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	Medium Strategic Significance Location ecologically desirable (i.e. provides structure on-site) but not in local strategy
Individual trees	0.0081ha	Two small apple trees within an area of gravel (artificial unvegetated unsealed surface). Trees are numbered in accordance with the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment report (David Archer Associates, July 2024).	Poor: passes 2 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	Medium Strategic Significance Location ecologically desirable (i.e. provides structure on-site) but not in local strategy

3.2 Post Development Habitats

Table 3 details the post development habitats present within the site along with their area/length, condition and strategic significance. An assessment of the anticipated condition for each habitat (where relevant) is provided in Appendix 5b, which is based on the assumption that a 30-year management plan will be implemented for the site. The proposed development will result in the loss of modified grassland, other neutral grassland, scattered trees and an area of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface.

Table 3: Post Development Biodiversity Value

Post Development Biodiversity Value					
Area Based Habitats					
Retained	Habitat	Area/Length	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
	Urban: Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.041ha	Gravel access track leading from Shop Lane into the site will be retained.	See "Baseline Biodiversity Section" above.	

Created	Urban: Developed land; sealed surface	0.0206ha	Created residential dwelling and stable block.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
	Urban: Unvegetated garden	0.093ha	Created unvegetated garden associated with the created residential dwelling.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
	Urban: Vegetated garden	0.0068ha	Created vegetated garden associated with the created residential dwelling.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance Area/compensation not in local strategy/no local strategy and no evidence to suggest the habitat is of medium strategic significance (not part of a habitat corridor or steppingstone).
	Grassland: Other neutral grassland	0.0621ha	Proposed enhanced other neutral grassland will be created within the south of the site, bordering mixed scrub. Suggested planting mix to be utilised: Emorsgate EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture Sown @ 4g/m ² from https://wildseed.co.uk/mixtures/complete-mixtures/	Moderate: anticipated to pass all 2 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'Grasslands medium/high/very high distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Medium Strategic Significance Location ecologically desirable (i.e. connects to similar off-site habitat) but not in local strategy

	Individual trees	0.1303ha	The proposals include planting of 8 heavy standard individual trees (with a girth of 12-14cm, and a height of 3.5-4m). Recommended heavy standard species include lime <i>Tilia x europaea</i> , silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> , hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i> and beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> . These species have been recommended as they are fast growing and will achieve a diameter at breast height of >30m in 30 years providing all steps within the management plan are followed correctly.	Moderate: anticipated to pass 3 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	Medium Strategic Significance Location ecologically desirable (i.e. connects to similar off-site habitat) but not in local strategy
Enhanced	Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub	0.0192ha	Existing mixed scrub to be enhanced from poor to moderate condition by planting native woody species and creating other neutral grassland to form a well-developed edge between the mixed scrub and adjacent habitats. Recommended native woody species to plant include hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , spindle <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> , hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , elderflower <i>sambucas nigra</i> , guelder rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i> and holly <i>Ilex auifolium</i> .	Moderate: passes 3 of 5 criteria. Assessed using the 'scrub' habitat type condition sheet.	Medium Strategic Significance Location ecologically desirable (i.e. connects to similar off-site habitat) but not in local strategy

3.3 Change in Biodiversity Value of the Site

Full details are provided in the Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool – The Paddock SO19 0QS. The headline results are presented in Appendix 6.

Areas of Habitat

The on-site baseline habitat value of the site is 0.72 units, comprising 0.04 units of poor condition individual trees, 0.36 units of moderate condition individual trees, 0.08 units of mixed scrub, 0.21 units of other neutral grassland, 0.03 units of modified grassland, and 0 (no value) units of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface.

The on-site post development habitat value of the site is 1.06 units, comprising 0.16 units of enhanced mixed scrub, 0.01 units of created vegetated garden, 0.44 units of created individual trees, 0.46 units of created other neutral grassland, and 0 (no value) units of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface, and developed land; sealed surface.

This results in a net change in biodiversity of **+47.98%** (i.e. a net gain). The proposed development exceeds the minimum requirement of +10% net change in biodiversity and meets all trading rules.

4.0 Recommendations to Deliver BNG

4.1 Discussion

The current proposed plan results in a **+47.98%** net gain in habitat units. This is more than the 10% target of biodiversity net gain and therefore compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and current planning policies (National: National Planning Policy Framework, 2023; Local: Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036).

4.2 Post Development

A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Management Plan must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.

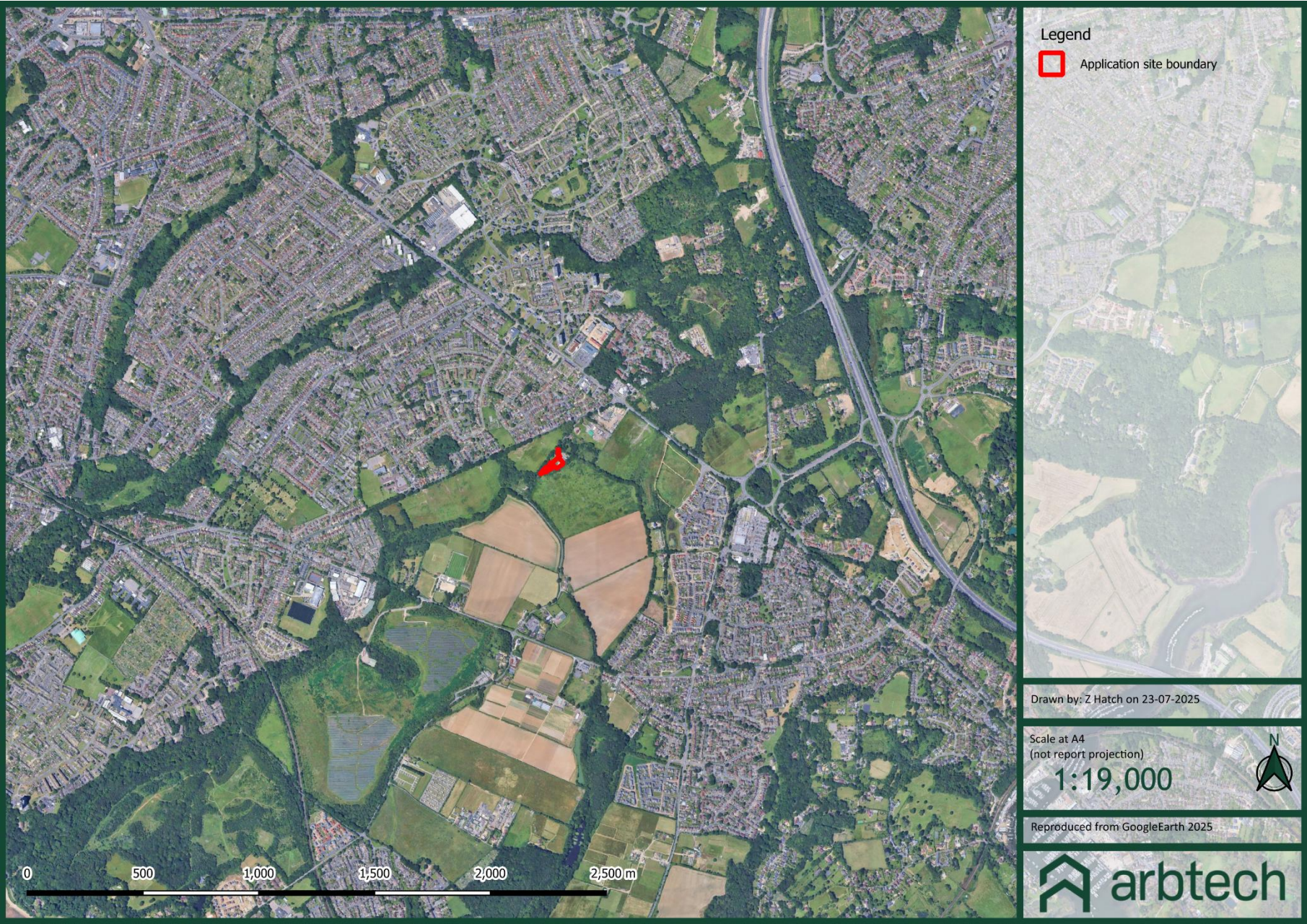
5.0 Bibliography

- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.
- CIEEM-CIRIA-IEMA (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Development.
- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey a technique for environmental audit.
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/pub10_handbookforphase1habitatsurvey.pdf
- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric (JP039).
- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (JP039).
- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 1 - Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (JP039).
- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 – Technical Information (JP039).
- The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023)

Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan

None available at the time of this report. Proposed development for BNG has been taken from the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Arbtech Consulting Ltd, July 2025) report as the development has already taken place.

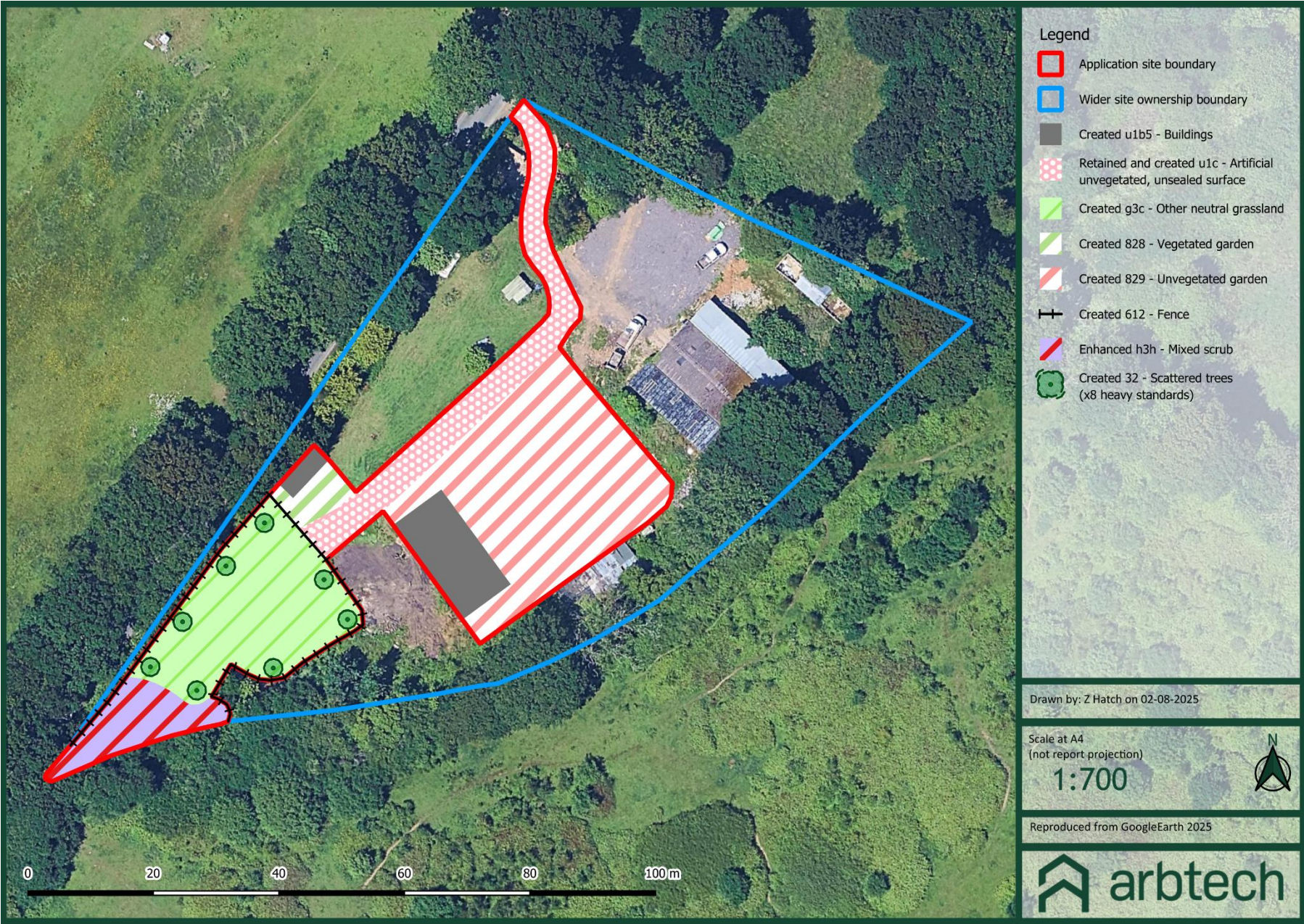
Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



Appendix 3: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 4: Post Development Habitat Plan



Appendix 5a: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets - Baseline

Modified Grassland Condition Assessment

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.	No	c. 2 – 3 plant species per m ²
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	No	Sward height is homogeneous and <4cm
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).	Yes	No scrub present
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes	No physical damage present
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Yes	Bare ground cover is <10%
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Yes	No bracken present
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Yes	No invasive non-native species present
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)	X	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	X	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	✓	

Other Neutral Grassland Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	Represents a good example of this habitat type
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No	Homogeneous sward height present c. <7cm
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	Bare ground cover is >5%
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	No bracken or invasive species present
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	Cover of suboptimal species is >5%
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	c. 4- 5 species per square meter present
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		2	
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	
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)	
		Score Achieved ×/√	
		X	
		X	
		✓	

Scrub Habitat Type Condition Assessment

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> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	No	Less than 3 native woody species present
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	One age class present
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	No invasive species present
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	No	No well-developed edge present
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	No clearings, glades or rides present
Number of criteria passed			2
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	X	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	X	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	✓	

Individual Trees Condition Assessment – T2, T3, T9, T10

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes	Trees are native
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	Individual trees automatically pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	Trees are not mature
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	No evidence of adverse impact on tree health by human activities
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No ecological niches present
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	>20% of tree canopy is oversailing vegetation beneath
Number of criteria passed		4	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	X	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	X	

Individual Trees Condition Assessment – T4, T5, T6

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	No	Trees are not native
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	Individual trees automatically pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	Trees are not mature
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	No evidence of adverse impact on tree health by human activities
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No ecological niches present
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	>20% of tree canopy is oversailing vegetation beneath
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	X	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	X	

Individual Trees Condition Assessment – T7, T8

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	No	Trees are not native
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	Individual trees automatically pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	Trees are not mature
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	No evidence of adverse impact on tree health by human activities
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No ecological niches present
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	No	None of the tree canopy over sails vegetation beneath
Number of criteria passed		2	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	X	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	X	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	✓	

Appendix 5b: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets - Proposed

Other Neutral Grassland Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	Represents a good example of this habitat type
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Yes	Varied sward height will be present
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	Bare ground cover is >5%
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	No bracken or invasive species present
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	Cover of suboptimal species is >5%
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	<10 species per m ² is anticipated.
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.		Good (3)	X
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)	X

Scrub Habitat Type Condition Assessment

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> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	More than 3 native woody species will be present
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	One age class present
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	No invasive species present
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	A well-developed edge will be present
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	No clearings, glades or rides present
Number of criteria passed			3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	X	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	X	

Individual Trees Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes	Trees will be native
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	Individual trees automatically pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	Trees will not be mature
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	Adverse impacts by humans is not anticipated
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No ecological niches are anticipated
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Trees will be planted with vegetation beneath
Number of criteria passed		4	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	X	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	X	

Appendix 6: Headline BNG Results

The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric is provided as a separate excel spreadsheet.

FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	0.34	
		Hedgerow units	0.00	
		Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	47.98%	
		Hedgerow units	0.00%	
		Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?		Yes ✓		
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Area habitat units	10.00%	0.72	0.79	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓				
No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓				
No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓				