# Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

## Colne Spring Villa, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire, AL4 0PB

## Manor Coliving Limited

| Status | Issue | Name | Date |
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**Arbtech Consultant's Contact Details:**

Abby Pidgen BSc (Hons) MSc
Graduate Ecologist
[redacted]

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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 Manor Coliving Limited to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at Colne Spring Villa, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire, AL4 0PB (hereafter referred to as "the site"). The assessment was required to inform a planning application for development of 9 Ecoliving cottages (hereafter referred to as "the proposed development").

The baseline habitat value of the site is 1.78 area-based habitat units with the proposed development resulting in a 32.50% area-based net gain and a 100% net gain for hedgerows (from a baseline of zero units). The proposed development is therefore anticipated to surpass the minimum target of 10% biodiversity net gain and thus is compliant with legislation (Environment Act 2021).

Incorporating the following habitats into the landscaping plan has achieved a net gain on the site:

- Planting of 25 individual native trees throughout the site.
- Enhancing the retained woodland on site to achieve moderate condition through the planting of shade tolerant ground flora and additional native tree planting in areas of open spaces.
- Creation of neutral grassland throughout the site.
- Creation of a hedgerows throughout garden spaces to improve connectivity.

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.

## Contents

**1.0 Introduction and Context** ..... **7**

1.1 Background ..... 7

1.2 Site Location, Geology and Landscape Context ..... 7

1.3 BNG Informative ..... 7

**2.0 Methodology** ..... **9**

2.1 Baseline Biodiversity Value ..... 9

2.2 Post Development Biodiversity Value ..... 9

2.3 Limitations ..... 10

**3.0 Results** ..... **11**

3.1 Baseline Habitats ..... 11

3.2 Post Development Habitats ..... 13

3.3 Change in Biodiversity Value of the Site ..... 15

**4.0 Discussion** ..... **17**

4.1 Additional Landscaping ..... 17

4.2 Post Development ..... 17

**5.0 Bibliography** ..... **18**

Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan ..... 19

Appendix 2: Site Location Plan ..... 20

Appendix 3: Baseline Habitat Plan ..... 21

Appendix 4: Post Development Habitat Plan ..... 22

Appendix 5a: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets - Baseline ..... 23

Appendix 5b: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets - Proposed ..... 25

Appendix 6: Headline BNG Results ..... 28

## 1.0 Introduction and Context

### *1.1 Background*

Arbtech Consulting Limited was instructed by Manor Coliving Limited to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment at Colne Spring Villa, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire, AL4 0PB (hereafter referred to as "the site"). The assessment was required to inform a planning application for development of 9 Ecoliving cottages (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:

- Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Arbtech, July 2024)
- Arboricultural Survey - BS5837:2012 (Arbtech, July 2024)

### *1.2 Site Location, Geology and Landscape Context*

The site is located at National Grid Reference TL 20620 05372 and has an area of approximately 0.88ha comprising buildings, hardstanding, vegetated garden, modified grassland, a pond, allotments and coniferous woodland. It is surrounded by woodland to the north and south with the River Colne to the east. The site is situated ~5.5km from St. Albans city centre with the university of Hertfordshire ~2.5km to the north. The wider landscape comprises a combination of urban developments to the north east and north west with agricultural land, pockets of woodland, standing and running water and good quality grassland to the south, east and west. The underlying soil type on the site is a freely draining, slightly acid, loamy soil. 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 requirement for biodiversity net gain is also enshrined within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023). 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.

## 2.0 Methodology

### *2.1 Baseline Biodiversity Value*

The baseline BNG Calculation was informed by the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Arbtech, July 2024). A baseline habitat plan is provided in Appendix 3.

**Habitat Classification**

The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal 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 habitat based upon a review of the following:

- Ecological value
- Function within the landscape
- Any site or habitat allocations under the City and District of St Albans District Local Plan

### *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 City and District of St Albans District Local Plan

***2.3 Limitations***

No limitations identified.

## 3.0 Results

### *3.1 Baseline Habitats*

Table 1 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 1: Baseline Biodiversity Value*

| Habitat | Area / Length | Description | Condition Assessment | Strategic Significance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Developed land; sealed surface – u1b5 (buildings) | 0.033ha | Two residential dwellings and a car port are located within the site. | N/A – Other | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Developed land; sealed surface – u1b (hardstanding) | 0.02ha | Concrete paving slabs surround the residential buildings on site. | N/A – Other | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface – u1c | 0.123ha | A gravel driveway runs through the woodland. | N/A – Other | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Vegetated garden – 828 | 0.048ha | Amenity garden areas associated with residential dwellings are present to the east of the site. | Condition Assessment N/A | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Other coniferous woodland – w2c | 0.657ha | The site hosts an area of coniferous woodland. A review of historic imagery indicates the woodland is well established, with records suggesting this formed part of a conifer plantation since at least the 1800s. The woodland is not listed as ancient.<br>The woodland hosts one main age class, comprising mature trees. Tree mortality totals ~10% of the woodland, with standing and lying deadwood present and anecdotal conversations on the site indicating numerous trees fall annually. No veteran trees are | **Poor** – scores 24/39 criteria.<br><br>Assessed using the 'woodland' habitat condition assessment. | Medium strategic significance. Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | present. ~20% of the woodland hosts areas of temporary open space, owing to a driveway which runs through the woodland, and clearings from fallen trees.<br>Species are largely non-native, comprising dominant European larch *Larix decidua,* and pine *Pinus sp.,* occasional oak *Quercus robur,* and rare holly *Ilex aquifolium*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and birch *Betula sp.*<br>No invasive species were present in the woodland. | | |
| Modified grassland – g4 | 0.086ha | An amenity lawn associated with residential dwellings are present to the east of the site. These are actively managed via regular mowing, resulting in a short sward of ~5cm. No signs of compaction or damage are present, resulting in areas of bare ground totalling <10% of the site. The grassland extends to a larger lawn to the south of the site. | **Poor** – scores 5/7 criteria but fails essential criteria A.<br><br>Assessed using the 'grassland low' habitat condition assessment. | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Allotments - 616 | 0.005ha | Four allotment beds are located to the north of the grassland. These appear to be lightly managed and were overgrown with ruderal vegetation at the time of visiting. | **Poor** – scores 1/3 criteria.<br><br>Assessed using the 'urban' habitat condition assessment. | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Ponds (non-priority) - 41 | 0.021ha | A pond is located on the eastern edge of the woodland, to the south of the site. The pond is unlined and is not artificially connected to other waterbodies in the vicinity. The water quality is poor, with high turbidity. No aquatic vegetation was observed, with ruderal species scattered along the banks. The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. In accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Matrix, the pond was assessed to have a moderate condition value. | **Moderate** – scores 6/7 criteria.<br><br>Assessed using the 'ponds' habitat condition assessment. | Medium strategic significance. Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. |

### *3.2 Post Development Habitats*

Table 2 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 enhancement of woodland and addition of neutral grassland throughout the site.

*Table 2: Post Development Biodiversity Value*

| Habitat | Area / Length | Description | Target Condition | Strategic Significance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Developed land; sealed surface – u1b5 (buildings) | 0.033ha retained<br>0.085ha created | Retention of current buildings on site and the creation of 9 ecoliving homes. | N/A – Other | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Developed land; sealed surface – u1b (hardstanding) | 0.02ha retained<br>0.041ha created | Retained hardstanding to the north of the site and created areas of hardstanding outside the newly created homes. | N/A – Other | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface – u1c | 0.123ha retained<br>0.051ha created | Retained gravel driveway throughout the woodland and the creation of additional gravel parking spaces and walkways. | N/A – Other | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Vegetated garden – 828 | 0.048ha retained<br>0.165ha created | Retained garden to the east of the site and created gardens to the rear of the each of the new dwellings. | Condition Assessment N/A | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Other coniferous woodland – w2c | 0.112ha enhanced | Retained and enhanced woodland to the west and the north of the site. Woodland will be enhanced through the addition of shade tolerant native species planting at ground level, addition of individual trees in temporary open spaces and creation of surrounding grassland habitat. | **Moderate** – expected to 29/39.<br><br>Assessed using the 'woodland' habitat condition assessment. | Medium strategic significance. Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other neutral grassland – g3c | 0.188ha created | Neutral grassland will be created within the temporary open spaced of the woodland to increase ground flora community and overall biodiversity within the woodland. Due to shading of surrounding woodland, the grassland will likely achieve poor condition, however shade tolerant species can be planted to increase condition. | **Poor –** expected to score 3/7 criteria and failed essential criteria A.<br><br>Assessed using the 'grassland medium, high and very high' habitat condition assessment. | Medium strategic significance. Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. |
| Bare ground – 510 | 0.015ha created | Bare ground will be created adjacent to each of the new dwellings on site which will contains wooden decking. | **Poor –** expected to pass 1/3 criteria.<br><br>Assessed using the 'urban' habitat condition assessment. | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Individual trees – 32 | 0.1018ha created | Individual native trees will be planted within areas of neutral grassland throughout the site. | **Moderate –** expected to pass 4/6 criteria.<br><br>Assessed using the 'individual trees' habitat condition assessment. | Medium strategic significance. Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. |
| Modified grassland – g4 | 0.06ha created | Modified grassland will be created throughout the site in areas of high foot traffic e.g. surrounding the pond, walkways and allotments. | **Poor** – expected to pass 5/7 criteria.<br><br>Assessed using the 'grassland low' habitat condition assessment. | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Allotments - 616 | 0.02ha created | The existing allotments will be repurposed and expanded. | **Good** – expected to pass all criteria.<br><br>Assessed using the 'urban' habitat condition assessment. | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Introduced shrub - 847 | 0.0055ha created | A small area of perennial and evergreen shrubs will be created to the south of the site. | Condition assessment N/A | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |
| Pond (non-priority) - 41 | 0.021ha retained<br>0.003ha created | Retained pond on the site with an additional created smaller pond north of this. | **Moderate** – no change expected, created pond expected to meet the same criteria. | Medium strategic significance. Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy. |
| Non-native and ornamental hedgerows – h2b | 0.3km created | Hedgerows will be created throughout the site separating areas of garden from the surrounding habitats. | **Poor –** automatically poor within statutory biodiversity metric. | Low strategic significance. Area/compensation not in local strategy. |

***3.3 Change in Biodiversity Value of the Site***

Full details are provided in the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The headline results are presented in Appendix 6.

**Areas of Habitat**

The baseline habitat value of the site is 1.78 units, comprising buildings, hardstanding and unsealed surface (no value) with 0.1 units of vegetated garden, 1.31 units of other coniferous woodland, 0.01 units of allotments, 0.17 units of modified grassland and 0.18 units of ponds.

The post development habitat value of the site is 2.35 units, comprising the creation and retention of buildings, hardstanding and unsealed surface (no value), enhancement of 0.57 units of other coniferous woodland, creation of 0.32 units of vegetated garden, creation of 0.77 units of neutral grassland, creation of 0.03 units of bare ground creation of 0.34 units of individual trees, creation of 0.12 units of modified grassland, creation and retention of 0.2 units of ponds, creation of 0.12 units of allotments and 0.01 units of introduced shrub.

This results in a net change in biodiversity of 32.50% (i.e. a net gain).

**Hedgerows**

There are no hedgerows currently present on the site, therefore the baseline hedgerow value of the site is 0 units.

The post development hedgerow value of the site is 0.29 units, comprising the creation of ornamental hedgerows throughout the site.

As there is no baseline hedgerow value, the statutory biodiversity metric cannot calculate the percentage net gain on the site, therefore this is displayed as N/A, however, the addition of any hedgerows on the site will results in a 100% net gain.

## 4.0 Discussion

The current proposed plan results in a 32.50% net gain in habitat units and 100% net gain in hedgerow units (from a baseline of zero). This is more than the 10% target of biodiversity net gain. The proposed development is therefore anticipated to surpass the minimum target of 10% biodiversity net gain and thus is compliant with legislation (Environment Act 2021).

### *4.1 Additional Landscaping*

To maximise the biodiversity value of the site itself, the following alterations to the current landscaping proposals could be considered:

- Further enhancement of the woodland through planting of native tree species and creation of a good condition understorey including scrub and a recognizable NVC community.
- Creation of additional native hedgerows on the site that achieve at least moderate condition will enhance the area for a variety of species and provide further connectivity between habitats on site. Recommended suitable hedgerow species include; dogwood, holly and blackthorn.

Should these alterations be incorporated this BNG Assessment will need to be updated to accurately reflect the change in biodiversity value of the site pre- and post-development.

### *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.

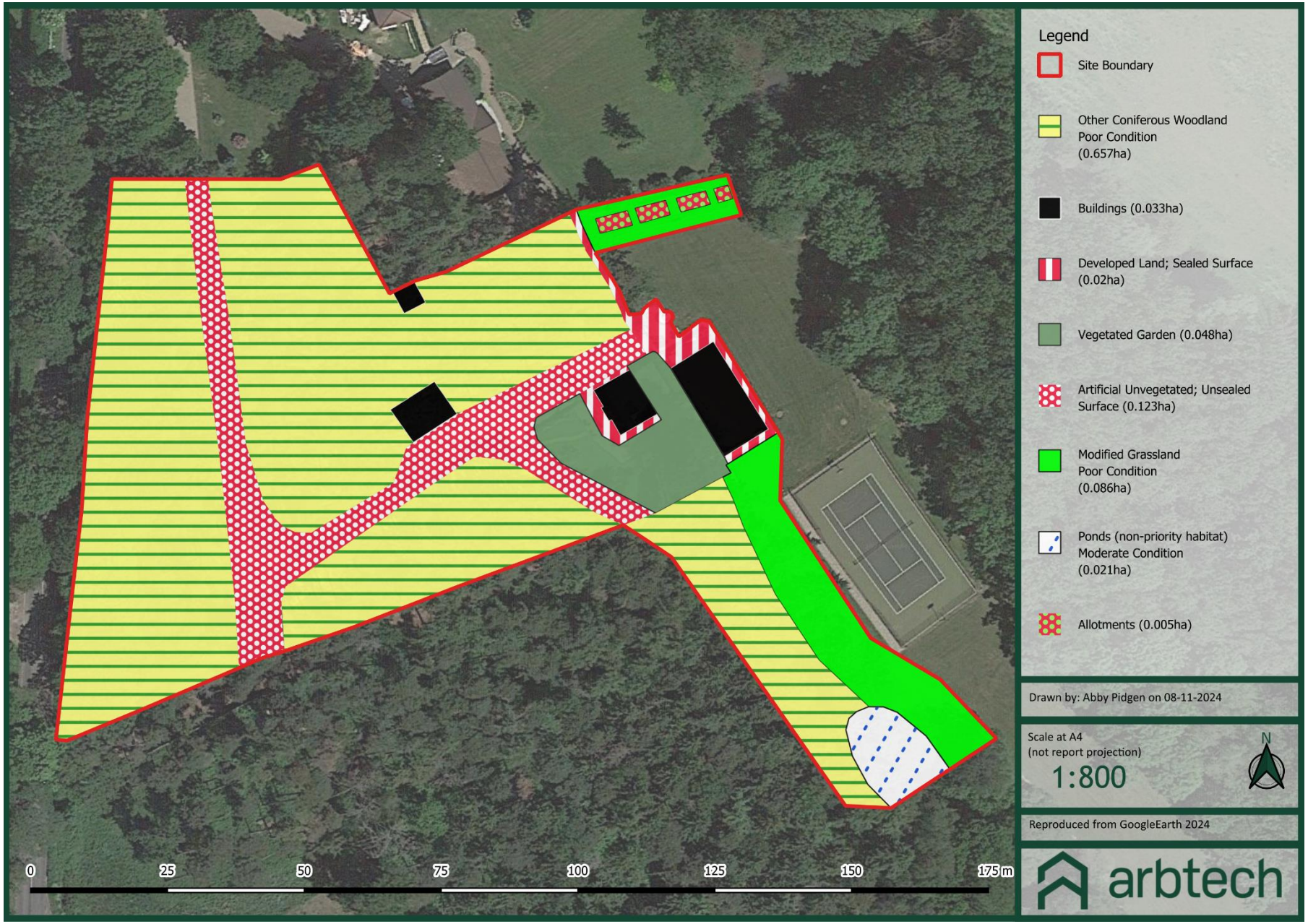
## 5.0 Bibliography


- 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).
- St Albans City and District Council Local Plan (Reviewed 2020) https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/current-local-plan
- The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group, July 2023)

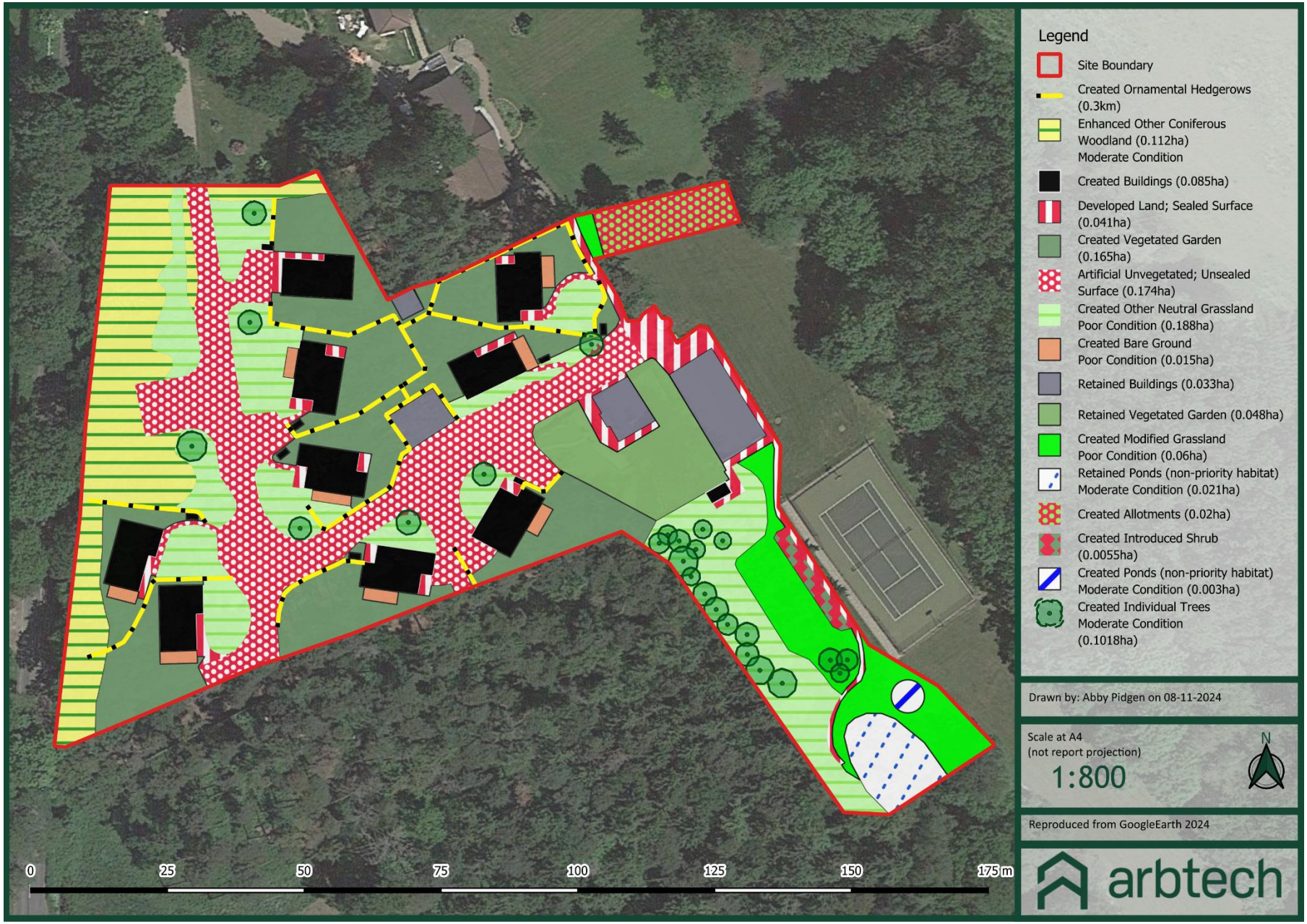
## Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan

## Appendix 2: Site Location Plan

## Appendix 3: Baseline Habitat Plan



## Appendix 4: Post Development Habitat Plan



# Appendix 5a: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets – Baseline

**Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type**

**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types**

**Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland**
**Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland**
**Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands**
**Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland**
**Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland**
**Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved**
**Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed**
**Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods**
**Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods**
**Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood**
**Woodland and forest - Wet woodland**

**Habitat Description**

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)

IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being input into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **On-site or off-site, site name and location** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | Emma Platts 10/08/24 |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Basline |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Other coniferous woodland |

**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 | One age class present |
| 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 | No browing pressure |
| C | **Invasive plant species** | No invasive species[3] present in woodland. | Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, and other invasive species[3] <10% cover. | Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] ≥10% cover. | 3 | No invasive species |
| 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 | Mainly non-native |
| 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]. | 1 | Mostly non-native species |
| 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]. | 2 | 21-40% open temporary space |
| 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 | No classes |
| 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 | Tree mortality 10% |
| 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 | No NVC |
| 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 | One storey present |
| 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 | No veteran trees present |
| 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]. | 3 | Deadwood present in more than 50% survey plots |
| 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]. | 2 | Some damaged ground present |
| | | | | **Total Score (out of a possible 39)** | 24 | |

| Condition Assessment Result | Condition Assessment Score | Result Achieved |
|---|---|---|
| Total score >32 (33 to 39) | Good (3) | Poor |
| Total score 26 to 32 | Moderate (2) | |
| Total score <26 (13 to 25) | Poor (1) | |

**Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type**

**Habitat Type**

**Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)**
**Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)**
**Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)** [Use this condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools, use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes]
**Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond** [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental ponds, use Lake condition sheet for Ornamental lakes]

**Habitat Description**

Pond to the south east of the site

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

For ponds (non-priority) – see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **On-site or off-site, site name and location** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Baseline |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Pond |

| | 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. | No | High turbidity |
| 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. | Yes | Scrub understory and woodland surrounding habitat |
| C | Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed *Lemna* spp. or filamentous algae. | Yes | No aquatic vegetation seen |
| D | The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework. | Yes | Not artifically connected |
| E | Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams[2], pumps or pipework. | Yes | Pond can naturally fluctate |
| F | There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species[3]. | Yes | No non-native species observed |
| G | The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities. | Yes | No fish present |
| **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. | | |
| I | The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub. | | |
| | **Number of criteria passed** | 6 | Moderate |

| Condition Assessment Result | Condition Assessment Score | Score Achieved ×/✓ |
|---|---|---|
| **Results for woodland ponds which require assessment of 7 core criteria** | | |
| Passes 7 criteria | Good (3) | |
| Passes 5 or 6 criteria | Moderate (2) | x |
| Passes 4 or fewer criteria | Poor (1) | |

| 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** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Baseline |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Modified Grassland |
| **Habitat Description** | | | |
| Modified grassland on the site | | | |

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.**<br><br>Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per $m^2$ (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet. | No | Only 8 species present throughout with <6 present per m2 |
| B | Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed. | No | Consitantly 5cm or less |
| C | Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present).<br><br>Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type. | 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 damamge evident |
| E | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2]. | Yes | No bare ground present |
| F | Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* 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 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 ×/✓ |
|---|---|---|
| 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;<br>OR<br>Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A) | Poor (1) | x |

| Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Habitat Types** | | | |
| **Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral**<br>**Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs**<br>**Urban - Allotments**<br>**Urban - Biodiverse green roof**<br>**Urban - Bioswale**<br>**Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards**<br>**Urban - Facade-bound green wall**<br>**Urban - Ground based green wall**<br>**Urban - Intensive green roof**<br>**Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land**<br>**Urban - Rain garden**<br>**Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)**<br>**Urban - Vacant or derelict land**<br>**Urban - Bare ground** | | | |
| **Habitat Description** | | | |
| Allotments on site | | | |
| See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats: | | | UKHab – UK Habitat Classification |
| **On-site or off-site, site name and location** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Baseline |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Allotments |

| | Condition Assessment Criteria | Criterion passed (Yes or No) | Notes (such as justification) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Core Criteria - must be assessed for **all urban habitat types**: | | | |
| A | Vegeta ion structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area. | No | Sporadic ruderal vegetation |
| B | The habitat parcel contains different plant species hat are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year. | No | Sporadic ruderal vegetation |
| 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].<br><br>**Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).** | Yes | No invasive species present |
| Additional Criterion - must be assessed for **Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land** only: | | | |
| D | The parcel shows spa ial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS:<br><br>- At least four early successional communi ies (a) to (i);<br><br>Communi ies: (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 mos ly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to he 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-na ive wildflowers.<br>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 dep h of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared wi h sedums and wildflowers.<br><br>**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)** | | |
| | **Number of criteria passed** | | 1 |

| Condition Assessment Result | Condition Assessment Score | Score Achieved ×/✓ |
|---|---|---|
| Results for habitats requiring assessment of **3 core criteria** only **(all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs)**: | | |
| • Passes all 3 core criteria;<br>AND<br>• Meets the requirements for Good condi ion wi hin criterion C. | Good (3) | |
| • Passes 2 of 3 core criteria;<br>OR<br>• Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition wi hin criterion C. | Moderate (2) | |
| • Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria. | Poor (1) | x |

# Appendix 5b: Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets – Proposed

| Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types** | | | |
| **Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland**<br>**Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland**<br>**Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands**<br>**Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland**<br>**Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland**<br>**Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved**<br>**Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed**<br>**Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods**<br>**Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods**<br>**Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood**<br>**Woodland and forest - Wet woodland** | | | |
| **Habitat Description** | | | |
| | | | |
| ukhab – UK Habitat Classification<br>This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)<br>IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being input into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators. | | | |
| **On-site or off-site, site name and location** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Enhanced |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Other coniferous woodland |

| 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. | 2 | Two age classes present within 30 year timeframe |
| 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 | No browing pressure expected |
| C | **Invasive plant species** | No invasive species[3] present in woodland. | Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, and other invasive species[3] <10% cover. | Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] ≥10% cover. | 3 | No invasive species expected |
| 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 | Mainly non-native but some native planting expected |
| 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]. | 2 | Planting of native species to increase native canopy cover |
| 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]. | 2 | 21-40% open temporary space |
| 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]. | 2 | Two age classes expected within 30 year timeframe |
| 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 | Tree mortality <10% |
| 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. | 2 | NVC community planting expected |
| 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]. | 2 | Two storeys likely present within 30 year timeframe |
| 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 | No veteran trees present or expected within 30 year timeframe |
| 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]. | 3 | Deadwood expected to remain in more than 50% of plots |
| 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]. | 2 | Some damaged ground present due to locality of homes within woodland. |
| | | | | **Total Score (out of a possible 39)** | 29 | |

| Condition Assessment Result | Condition Assessment Score | Result Achieved |
|---|---|---|
| Total score >32 (33 to 39) | Good (3) | Moderate |
| Total score 26 to 32 | Moderate (2) | |
| Total score <26 (13 to 25) | Poor (1) | |

| Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types** | | | |
| **Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland**<br>**Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland**<br>**Grassland - Lowland meadows**<br>**Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland**<br>**Grassland - Other neutral grassland**<br>**Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430)** [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.]<br>**Grassland - Upland acid grassland**<br>**Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland**<br>**Grassland - Upland hay meadows**<br>**Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland** | | | |
| **On-site or off-site, site name and location** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Creation |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Other Neutral Grassland |
| **Habitat Description** | | | |
| | | | |
| 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]<br>**Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.** | No | Likely not a good representration due to overshading |
| 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 | Sward height likely consistatnly short due to overshading |
| C | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[2]. | Yes | No bare ground expected |
| D | Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%. | Yes | No bracken expected |
| 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.<br>If any invasive non-native plant species[4] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[5]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed. | Yes | Physical damage not expected |
| **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).<br>**Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.** | No | Species composition likely low due to overshading |
| | **Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)** | No | |
| | **Number of criteria passed** | 3 | Poor |

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

**Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type**

**Habitat Types**

**Individual trees – Urban trees**
**Individual trees – Rural trees**
Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.

**Please see separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of Rural trees.**

**Habitat Description**

**Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment):**
Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching.

**Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only):**
Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies must overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **On-site or off-site, site name and location** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Creation |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Rural Tree |

| | **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 | All 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 | Tree canopy expected to be continuous |
| C | The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1]. | No | Species dependent |
| 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 human damage. |
| E | Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark. | No | Likely no features present within 30 year timeframe |
| F | More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath. | Yes | Predominately above other natural grassland |
| | **Number of criteria passed** | 4 | |

| **Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)** | **Condition Assessment Score** | **Score Achieved ×/✓** |
|---|---|---|
| Passes 5 or 6 criteria | Good (3) | |
| Passes 3 or 4 criteria | Moderate (2) | x |
| Passes 2 or fewer criteria | Poor (1) | |
| Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type. | | |

**Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type**

**Habitat Types**

**Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral**
**Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs**
**Urban - Allotments**
**Urban - Biodiverse green roof**
**Urban - Bioswale**
**Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards**
**Urban - Facade-bound green wall**
**Urban - Ground based green wall**
**Urban - Intensive green roof**
**Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land**
**Urban - Rain garden**
**Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)**
**Urban - Vacant or derelict land**
**Urban - Bare ground**

**Habitat Description**

See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats: UKHab – UK Habitat Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **On-site or off-site, site name and location** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Creation |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Bare Ground |

| | **Condition Assessment Criteria** | **Criterion passed (Yes or No)** | **Notes (such as justification)** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Core Criteria - must be assessed for **all urban habitat types**: | | |
| A | Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area. | No | Bare ground |
| B | The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year. | No | Bare ground |
| 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].<br>**Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).** | Yes | No invasive species expected |
| | 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:<br>- At least four early successional communities (a) to (i);<br>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.<br>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.<br>**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)** | | |
| | **Number of criteria passed** | 1 | |

| **Condition Assessment Result** | **Condition Assessment Score** | **Score Achieved ×/✓** |
|---|---|---|
| Results for habitats requiring assessment of **3 core criteria** only **(all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs)**: | | |
| • Passes all 3 core criteria;<br>AND<br>• Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. | Good (3) | |
| • Passes 2 of 3 core criteria;<br>OR<br>• Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. | Moderate (2) | |
| • Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria. | Poor (1) | x |

| 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** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Created |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Modified Grassland |
| **Habitat Description** | | | |
| Created modified grassland on site | | | |

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.**<br><br>Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per $m^2$ (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet. | No | High foot traffic areas, species compostion expected to be low |
| 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 | Expected to be short due to high foot traffic |
| C | Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present).<br><br>Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type. | Yes | No scrub expected |
| 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 damamge expected |
| E | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2]. | Yes | No bare ground expected |
| F | Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%. | Yes | No bracken expected |
| G | There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]). | Yes | No invasive species expected |
| | **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;<br>OR<br>Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A) | Poor (1) | x |

| Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Habitat Types** | | | |
| **Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral**<br>**Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs**<br>**Urban - Allotments**<br>**Urban - Biodiverse green roof**<br>**Urban - Bioswale**<br>**Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards**<br>**Urban - Facade-bound green wall**<br>**Urban - Ground based green wall**<br>**Urban - Intensive green roof**<br>**Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land**<br>**Urban - Rain garden**<br>**Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)**<br>**Urban - Vacant or derelict land**<br>**Urban - Bare ground** | | | |
| **Habitat Description** | | | |
| Created allotments on site | | | |
| See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats: | | | UKHab – UK Habitat Classification |
| **On-site or off-site, site name and location** | Onsite | **Survey date and Surveyor name** | |
| **Limitations (if applicable)** | | **Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)** | Created |
| **Grid reference** | TL 20620 05372 | **Habitat parcel reference** | Allotments |

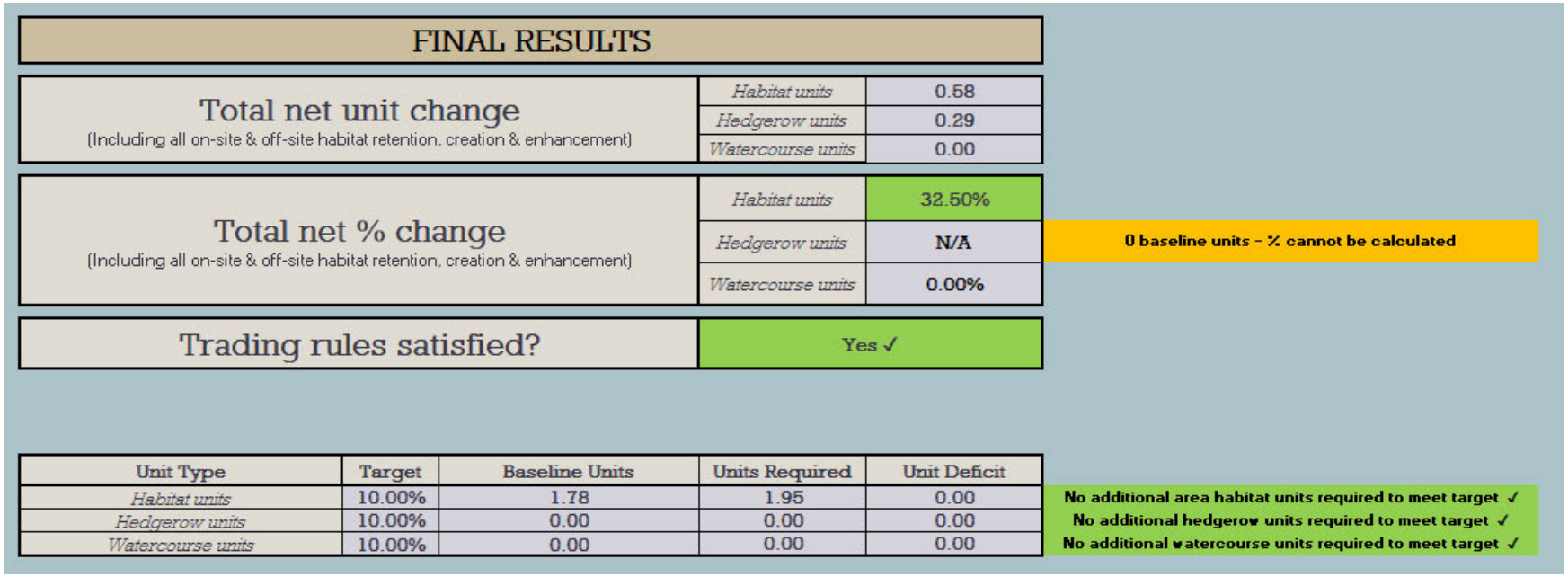
| | Condition Assessment Criteria | Criterion passed (Yes or No) | Notes (such as justification) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Core Criteria - must be assessed for **all urban habitat types**: | | | |
| A | Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area. | Yes | Planted vegetation expected to meet this criteira. |
| B | The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year. | No | Planted vegetation expected to vary to meet this criteria. |
| 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].<br><br>**Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).** | Yes | No invasive species expected |
| 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:<br><br>- At least four early successional communities (a) to (i);<br><br>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.<br>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.<br><br>**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)** | | |
| | **Number of criteria passed** | | 1 |

| Condition Assessment Result | Condition Assessment Score | Score Achieved ×/✓ |
|---|---|---|
| Results for habitats requiring assessment of **3 core criteria** only **(all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs)**: | | |
| • Passes all 3 core criteria;<br>AND<br>• Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. | Good (3) | x |
| • Passes 2 of 3 core criteria;<br>OR<br>• Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. | Moderate (2) | |
| • Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria. | Poor (1) | |

## Appendix 6: Headline BNG Results

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

Proposed:



| FINAL RESULTS | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement) | *Habitat units* | 0.58 |
| | *Hedgerow units* | 0.29 |
| | *Watercourse units* | 0.00 |
| Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement) | *Habitat units* | 32.50% |
| | *Hedgerow units* | N/A |
| | *Watercourse units* | 0.00% |
| Trading rules satisfied? | Yes ✓ | |

0 baseline units – % cannot be calculated

| Unit Type | Target | Baseline Units | Units Required | Unit Deficit | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Habitat units* | 10.00% | 1.78 | 1.95 | 0.00 | No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓ |
| *Hedgerow units* | 10.00% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓ |
| *Watercourse units* | 10.00% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓ |