

APPLIED ECOLOGY

Hillcrest and Tussocks, The Causeway, Therfield

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Client: Hanson Services Ltd

Project number: AEL2120

Date: August 2026

Document Information:

Version	Date	Version Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1.0	12/06/2024	Draft	RD	DP	DP
2.0	13/06/2024	Draft Final	RD/NB	DP	DP
3.0	14/06/2024	Final	RD/NB	DP	DP
4.0	26/08/2026	Final – Amended	AV	RD	DP

APPLIED ECOLOGY

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1 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 Applied Ecology (AE) was appointed by PJB Planning, on behalf of Hanson Services Ltd, to prepare Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculations in relation to a proposed residential development of land at Hillcrest and Tussocks, The Causeway, Therfield (“the Site”). The location of the Site is shown in **Figure 1.1**.
- 1.2 A baseline ecology survey has been undertaken by AE at the Site during the 2023 survey period, including habitat mapping and condition assessment. The results of this survey are presented in a separate and standalone report¹.
- 1.3 The calculations presented reflect interpretation of the Site Plan², as well as the previous Outline Landscape Proposals³ which are provided here in **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** respectively.

¹ Applied Ecology Ltd (2024) *Hillcrest and Tussocks, The Causeway, Therfield – Ecology Report*. Produced for Hanson Services Ltd.

² Kingston Studio (2025) *Site Plan* – Drawing no. 478.03.

³ Matt Lee Landscape Architecture (2024) *Outline Landscape Proposals* – Drawing no. 0.1.





Hillcrest and Tussocks, Therfield

Site location

 Site boundary

Figure 1.1

Map Scale @ A4: 1:5,000

Surveyed by: n/a

Survey date: n/a

Drawn by: RD

Checked by: DP

Status: Final



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2 Biodiversity Metric Calculations

Introduction

- 2.1 The biodiversity impact of the proposed development has been assessed using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool, which compares the relative biodiversity value of the habitats before and after development. The Metric assesses the impact on linear habitat features (such as hedgerows and ditches), and rivers independently. The full Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculator is provided as a separate Excel spreadsheet.

Baseline Conditions

- 2.2 The habitat baseline for the Site was recorded as part of the habitat survey in February 2023. The methodology adopted followed the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) system⁴, adapted to encompass habitats as used by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric – the Metric habitats largely align with UKHab definitions, but differ in some cases (e.g., hedgerows).
- 2.3 All habitat patches within the Site were classified and mapped as polygon features according to standard UKHab/Metric categories and assigned a condition according to Statutory Metric guidance⁵. See condition assessment criteria in **Appendix C**.
- 2.4 Habitat patches were mapped as polygon features, and linear features (such as hedgerows and ditches) as lines. Point features were recorded where there were notable isolated trees or scrub. Locations of trees were aligned to the Tree Survey⁶, and the trees were assigned to size categories based on the following Metric guidance:
- Small: >7.5–≤30 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH);
 - Medium: >30–≤60 cm DBH;
 - Large >60–≤90 cm DBH;
 - Very large: >90 cm DBH.
- 2.5 The baseline habitat map is shown by **Figure 2.1**.
- 2.6 Overall, the pre-development baseline habitat value of the Site was calculated as **3.13 habitat units** and **0.34 hedgerow units** as detailed in **Tables 2.1** and **2.2** below.

Table 2.1: Baseline habitats.

Habitat (UKHab)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area (ha)	Habitat unit value
Grassland: Modified grassland	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.374	0.75
Sparsely vegetated land: Ruderal/ephemeral	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.023	0.05
Urban: Bare ground	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.011	0.02
Urban: Developed land, sealed surface	Very Low (0)	N/A (0)	0.104	0.00

⁴ UKHab Ltd (2023) *UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* (at <https://www.ukhab.org>).

⁵ Available from [Statutory biodiversity metric tools and guides - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides) Accessed on 26/08/2026.

⁶ Tracey Clarke Tree Consultancy (2023) *Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement*. Report to Hanson Services Ltd, Ref TCTC-18755.



Habitat (UKHab)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area (ha)	Habitat unit value
Urban: Introduced shrub	Low (2)	N/A (1)	0.001	<0.01
Individual trees: Urban tree (3x small, 9x medium trees)	Medium (4)	Moderate (2)	0.159	1.27
Individual trees: Urban tree (3x small, 6x medium trees)	Medium (4)	Poor (1)	0.126	0.50

Table 2.2: Baseline hedgerows.

Hedgerow (UKHab)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow unit value
Native hedgerow	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.072	0.14
Native hedgerow with trees	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.023	0.09
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	Very Low (1)	Poor (1)	0.100	0.10

Development Impact and Post-intervention Habitats

- 2.7 Our interpretation of the Redline Boundary Plan is shown by **Figure 2.2** and shows the habitats that will be retained and new habitats to be created by the Development.
- 2.8 The post-intervention habitat types and areas were informed by the Site Plan, in addition to the previous Outline Landscape Proposals, using relevant guidance and professional judgement to assign suitable habitat creation and management where required to achieve the best possible outcomes in terms of post-development value.
- 2.9 The post-intervention habitat value of the Site was calculated as **2.07 habitat units** and **0.41 hedgerow units** as detailed in **Tables 2.3** and **2.4** below.

Table 2.3: Post-intervention habitats.

Habitats (UKHab)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Area (ha)	Habitat unit value
New habitats				
Urban: Developed land; sealed surface	V. Low (0)	n/a (0)	0.220	0.00
Urban: Vegetated garden	Low (2)	n/a (1)	0.185	0.36
Grassland: Other neutral grassland	Medium (4)	Moderate (2)	0.066	0.44
Grassland: Modified grassland	Low (2)	Moderate (2)	0.025	0.09
Urban: Introduced shrub	Low (2)	n/a (1)	0.017	0.03
Individual trees: Urban tree (1 x small tree)	Medium (4)	Moderate (2)	0.0041	0.01

Table 2.4: Post-intervention hedgerows.

Hedgerow (UKHab)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Length (km)	Hedgerow unit value
Retained hedgerows				
Native hedgerow	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.059	0.12
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	V. Low (0)	Poor (1)	0.038	0.04
Native hedgerow with trees	Medium (4)	Poor (1)	0.023	0.09
New hedgerows				



Native hedgerow	Low (2)	Poor (1)	0.075	0.14
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	V. Low (0)	Poor (1)	0.023	0.02

Outcome

- 2.10 The biodiversity net gain assessment (BNG) for the development at Hillcrest and Tussocks, The Causeway, Therfield results in a **net loss of -1.06 habitat units, equivalent to a net loss of -33.86%**, as well as a **net gain of +0.08 hedgerow units, equivalent to a net gain of +23.50%**.
- 2.11 As the Development is currently assessed to secure a biodiversity net loss, further ecological consideration may be required to satisfy the corresponding planning authority and additionally be in accordance with section 15 paragraph 185a of the National Planning Policy Framework⁷.
- 2.12 In order to deliver an overall minimum net gain of +10 habitat units, a further 1.37 habitat units would need to be created either via off-site habitat creation or the purchase of biodiversity units from an off-site provider.
- 2.13 However, due to losses from the baseline not adequately compensated for in the post-intervention landscaping, the development also delivers a habitat trading loss for Individual trees, a medium distinctiveness habitat, of -1.16 units. In order to comply with habitat trading rules (Rule 1 of the Metric), 1.16 units of Individual trees (or a higher distinctiveness habitat) must be created or purchased from a suitable provider. An additional 0.21 units of any habitat type should then be created or purchased to achieve the required 10% gain.

⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) – *National Planning Policy Framework* – Accessed 26/08/2026.



Hillcrest and Tussocks, Therfield

Baseline habitats

- Site boundary
- Grassland: Modified grassland (poor)
- Sparsely vegetated land: Ruderal / ephemeral (poor)
- Urban: Bare ground (poor)
- Urban: Developed land, sealed surface (n/a)
- Urban: Introduced shrub (n/a)
- Native hedgerow (poor)
- Native hedgerow with trees (poor)
- Non-native and ornamental hedgerow (poor)
- Large tree (poor)
- Medium tree (moderate)
- Medium tree (poor)
- Small tree (moderate)
- Small tree (poor)

Figure 2.1

Map Scale @ A4: 1:650

Surveyed by: RB, RH

Survey date: 16 Feb 2023

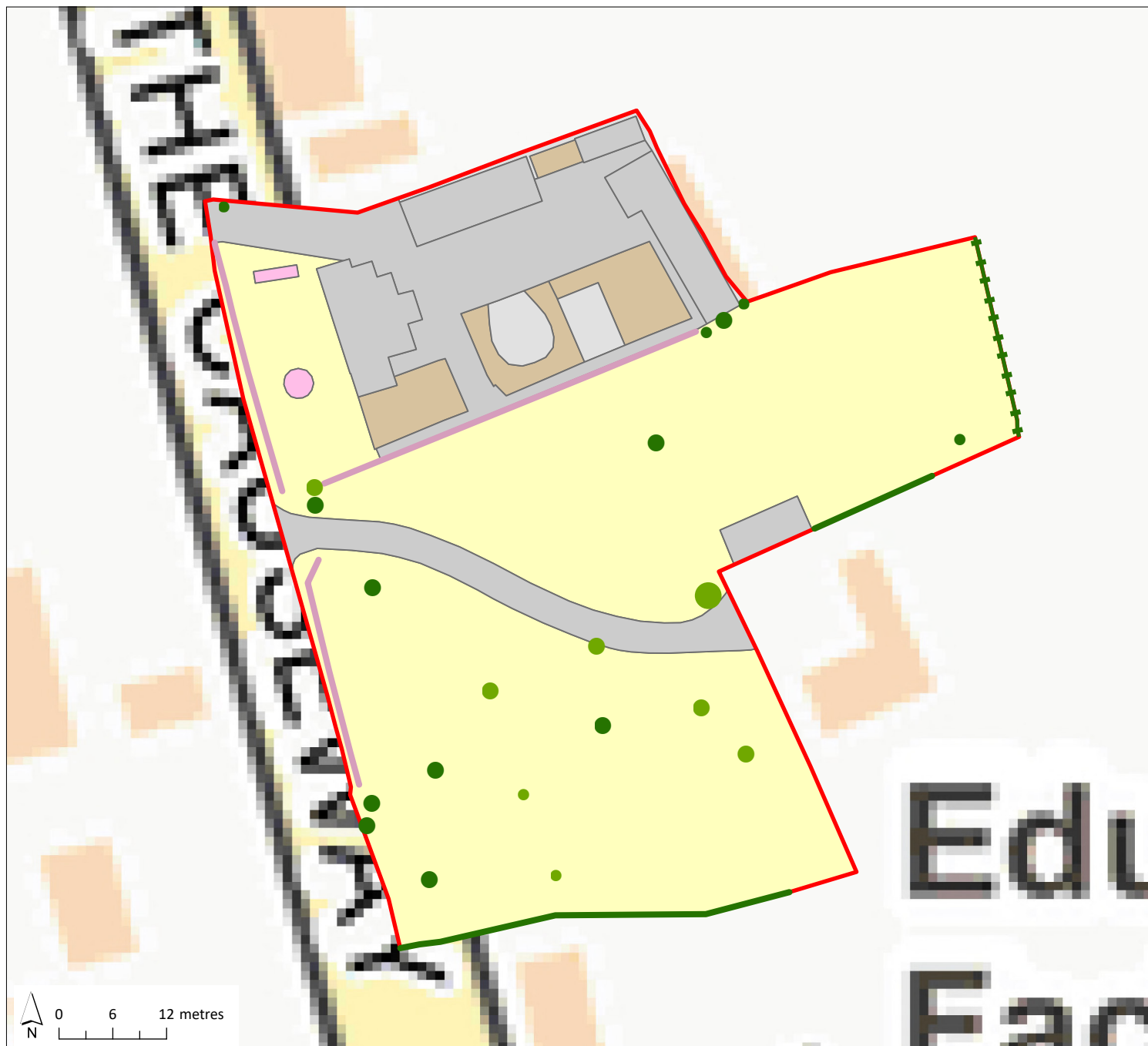
Drawn by: RD

Checked by: DP

Status: Final



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Hillcrest and Tussocks, Therfield

Post-development habitats

- Site boundary
- created - Grassland: Modified grassland (moderate)
- created - Grassland: Other neutral grassland (moderate)
- created - Urban: Developed land; sealed surface (n/a)
- created - Urban: Introduced shrub (n/a)
- created - Urban: Vegetated garden (n/a)
- retained - Native hedgerow (poor)
- retained - Native hedgerow with trees (poor)
- retained - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow (n/a)
- created - Native hedgerow (poor)
- created - Non-native and ornamental hedgerow (n/a)
- retained - medium tree (moderate)
- retained - medium tree (poor)
- retained - small tree (moderate)
- created - small tree (moderate)

Figure 2.2

Map Scale @ A4: 1:650

Surveyed by: n/a

Survey date: n/a

Drawn by: AV

Checked by: RD

Status: Final



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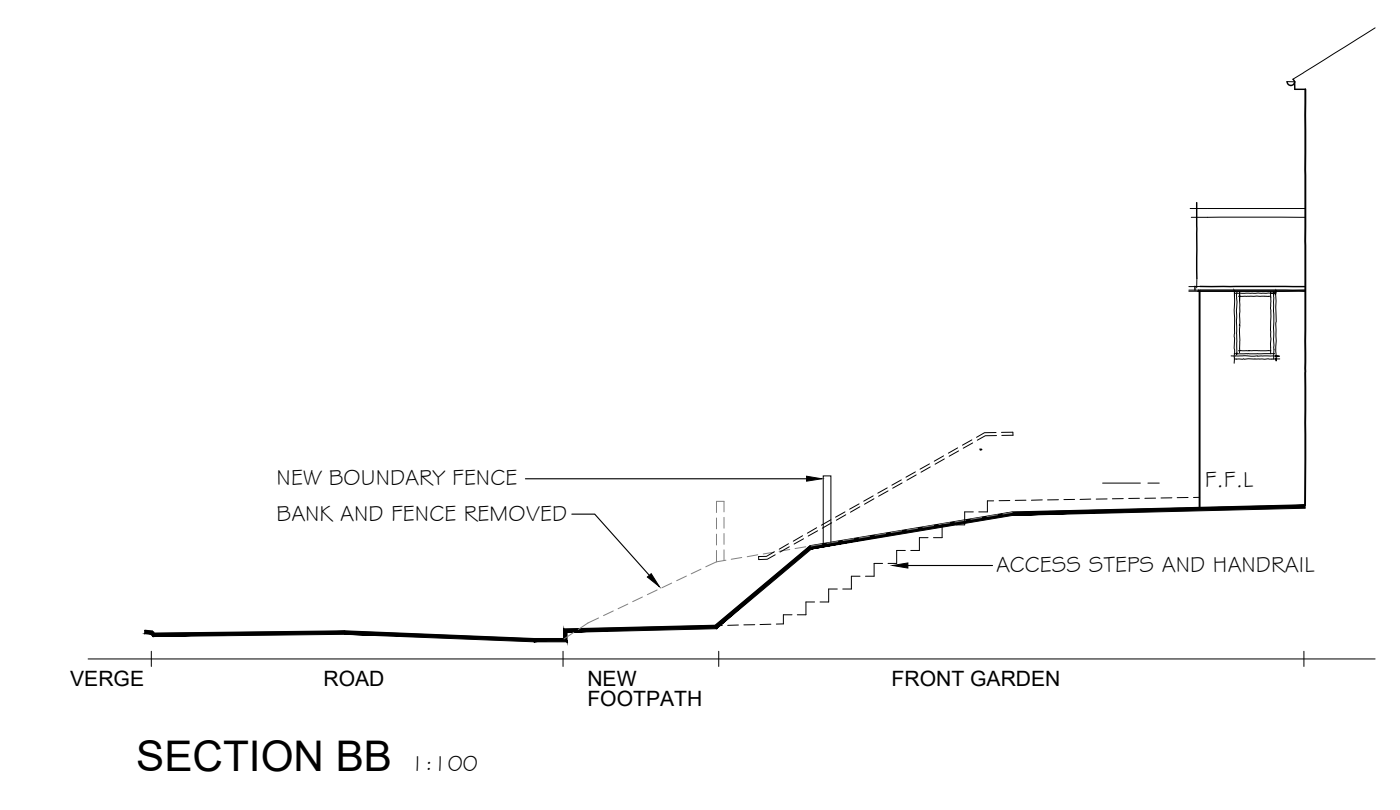
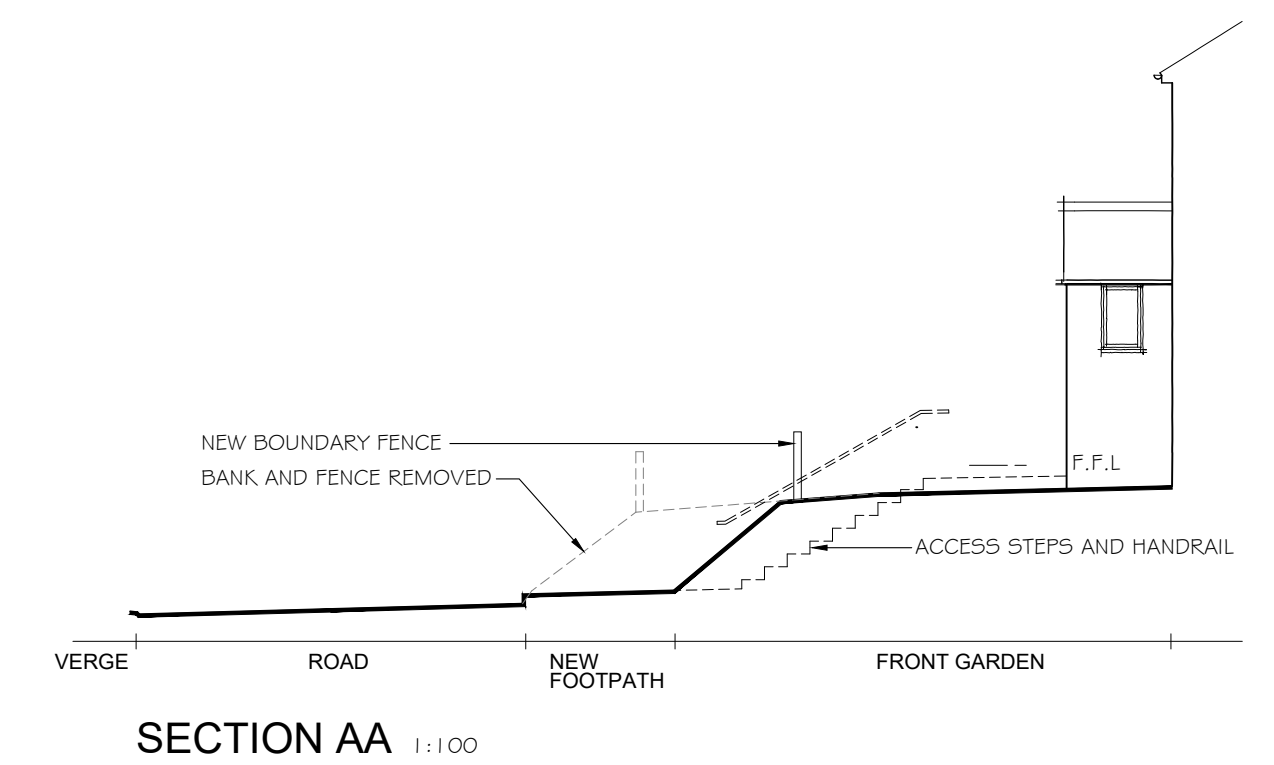
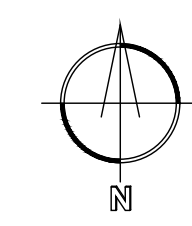


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Appendix A

Site Plan





K	21-08-26	PLAN UPDATED
J	21-07-25	PLAN UPDATED
I	15-11-24	PLAN UPDATED
H	14-11-24	PLAN UPDATED
G	14-10-24	PLAN UPDATED
F	03-06-24	PLAN UPDATED
E	20-03-24	PLAN UPDATED
D	09-02-24	PLAN UPDATED
C	04-10-23	PLAN UPDATED
B	03-10-23	PLAN UPDATED
A	29-09-23	PLOT 5 AMENDED

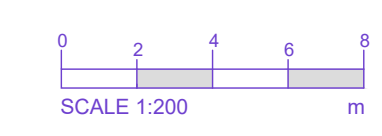
DO NOT SCALE THESE DRAWINGS. USE WRITTEN DIMENSIONS ONLY.
ALL DIMENSIONS TO BE CHECKED ON SITE PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.



SITE PLAN

HILLCREST & TUSSOCKS
THE CAUSEWAY
THERFIELD

DATE:	SEPT. 23	SCALE @ A1:	1:200	REVISION:	
DRAWING NO.	478.03				K



SITE PLAN 1:200

Appendix B

Outline Landscape Proposal



LEGEND

- Paving / Surfacing**
- First 10m from highway to be macadam to engineer's specification
 - Main access roads & footpaths to be asphalt surfacing to engineer's specification with tar spray and shingle finish
 - Table ramps to be Senna sets (3 sizes) in silver - grey colour
 - 240x120x80 single size Hydropave tegula paving in Slate colour by Tobermore laid to 45 degrees herringbone pattern with single block border to edges
 - Tobermore Hydropave Duo 208x173x60mm and 173x173x60mm block paving in 'Slate' colour with single block border to edges
 - Sienna setts (3 sizes) in silver-grey colour, by Tobermore, to front paths

Landscaping

- Existing trees / vegetation retained
- Existing hedgerow retained
- Proposed tree
- Amenity grass (flowering lawn mix)
- Wildflower grassland
- Proposed native species hedge to be maintained to 1.8m high
- Proposed native hornbeam hedge to be maintained to 1.1m high
- Proposed ornamental planting
- Topiary accent planting
- Climbing plant station

Features

- Garden fencing 1.8m high
- Timber picket fence 0.9m high, painted white
- Galvanised steel estate fencing 0.9m high, painted 'Cream' colour
- Automatic gates to driveways (see precedent images below)
- Timber gates 1.8m high
- ASHP Unit (Brick enclosed where situated in front of dwelling)
- Bin storage
- Bike storage
- 590mm high hardwood bollard with white reflector strip

PROPOSED TREE PLANTING

- Ac Acer campestre (Field Maple)
- Bp Betula pendula (Silver Birch)
- Sa Sorbus aucuparia (Mountain Ash)
- Mt Malus trilobata (Ornamental Apple)
- Note: All new trees to be planted at 16-18cm girth size.

HARD LANDSCAPE



Hydropave Tobermore Tegula 240 x160 x 80mm in slate colour, laid in herringbone pattern to courtyard areas



Hydropave Tegula Duo in 2 sizes to parking bays in slate colour



Sienna setts (3 sizes) in silver grey colour (front paths)



Kandla light grey calibrated riven Indian sandstone paving slabs (4 sizes) or similar approved, for rear garden areas (not shown)



Automatic gates to driveway of plot 5



Timber picket fencing 900mm high (painted white)



Estate fencing 900mm high (finished in Ivory colour) with traditional cast iron posts and finials



TREES



Field Maple (Acer campestre)



Silver Birch (Betula pendula)



Mountain Ash (Sorbus aucuparia 'Sheerwater Seedling')

HEDGEROWS AND LANDSCAPE PLANTING



Mixed species native hedgerow



Formal Hornbeam hedge (Carpinus betulus)

SOFT LANDSCAPE



Wildflower grassland



Climbing plants on some flank walls

BOUNDARY TREATMENTS AND FEATURES

D	Layout updated	16.05.24
Issue	Revision	Date



Project
Hillcrest & Tussocks

Client
Private Client

Title
OUTLINE LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

Date	Oct 23	Scale	1:200@A1
Job No.	PR271	Drawing No.	01
		Rev.	D

Appendix C

Habitat Condition Assessment Criteria



Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type	
Condition Assessment Criteria	
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.
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.
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ . Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).
Additional criteria – must be assessed for Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land only	
D1	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: At least four early successional communities (a) to (i); Communities : (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland, (i) pools.
D2	The parcel contains pools of water such as permanent and ephemeral waterbodies.
Additional Criteria – must be assessed for Bioswale and SuDS habitat types only:	
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife ⁴ .
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.
Additional criterion – must be assessed for Intensive green roofs only	
F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).
Additional criterion – must be assessed for Biodiverse green roofs only	
G	The roof has a varied depth of 80–150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers. Note – to achieve Good condition some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc are present.
Condition Assessment Result	
Condition Assessment Score	
Results for Green Roofs and Open mosaic on previously developed land (requiring assessment of four criteria only – core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type)	
Passes all 3 core criteria; AND Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (F or G).	Good (3)
Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)
Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.	Poor (1)
Results for Bioswale or SuDS (requiring assessment of 5 criteria – core criteria plus additional criteria specified for habitat type)	
Passes all 3 core criteria; AND Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (E).	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.	Poor (1)
Notes	



Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)..

Footnote 2 – Sources of information about detrimental non-native species can be found on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNS) website:

[Home » NNS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#) and Natural England Access to Evidence page should also be checked for up-to-date information:

[Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

For criterion C – For green roof habitat types only – buddleia *Buddleja davidii* should be assessed alongside Schedule 9 species. This species impairs the health of the local ecosystem and reduces the biodiversity potential of the roof. It is also a sign that a roof has not been planted and seeded correctly in subsequent years.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Use professional judgement. Sources of additional information about non-native wildlife can be found online at the GBNNS website:

[Alternative plants » NNS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type

Condition Assessment Criteria

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)
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all 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 sub-optimal condition ⁵ make up less than 5% of ground cover.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)

Condition Assessment Score

Passes 5 criteria.

Good (3)

Passes 3 or 4 criteria.

Moderate (2)

Passes 2 or fewer criteria.

Poor (1)

Notes

Footnote 1 – Professional judgment should be used alongside the UKHab description.

Footnote 2 – Native woody species as defined and listed in the Hedgerow Survey Handbook: DEFRA (2007) Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. 2nd ed. [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).

Footnote 3 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran species. Available from:

[Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

and

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 6 – Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type may include: non-native conifers, tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*, holm oak *Quercus ilex*, European turkey oak *Quercus cerris*, cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, snowberry *Symphoricarpos* spp., shallon *Gaultheria shallon*, American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton*



americanus, buddleia *Buddleja* spp., cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* spp., Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and hybrid bluebells *Hyacinthoides x massartiana*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

Condition Sheet: SPARSELY VEGETATED LAND Habitat Type	
Condition Assessment Criteria	
A	The parcel is a good representation of the sparsely vegetated habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific habitat type. Indicator species for the specific sparsely vegetated habitat type listed by UKHab are consistently present
B	The cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> , scrub and trees is less than 25%.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ¹ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ²) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition ³ make up less than 5% of vegetated ground cover
D	Vegetation cover of vascular and non-vascular plants is between 5 and 50%.
Condition Assessment Result	
Condition Assessment Score	
Passes 4 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement. Footnote 2 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Footnote 3 – Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, docks <i>Rumex</i> spp., brambles <i>Rubus</i> spp., common ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> and common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.	

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type	
Condition Assessment Criteria	
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are 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.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.
Condition Assessment Result	
Condition Assessment Score	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria.	Good (3)
Passes 3–5 criteria.	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria.	Poor (1)
Note that 'Fairly Good' and 'Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this habitat type.	
Footnote 1 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) And:	



[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions)

Footnote 2 – Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)

Condition Assessment Criteria

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 relevant 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.
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.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .
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%.
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal 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.

Additional criterion – must be assessed on 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 4 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only
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Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
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; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)

Notes

Footnote 1 – Professional judgment should be used alongside the UKHab description.

Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.

Footnote 3 – Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.

Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).



Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)	
Condition Assessment Criteria	
A	There are 6–8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.
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.
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present. Note – patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.
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.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴)
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	
Condition Assessment Score	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A.	Good (3)
Passes 4 or 5 criteria, including passing essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4–6 criteria excluding criterion A.	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>, broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i>, white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>. Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover. Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement. Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type
Condition Assessment Criteria
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.
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.
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams ² , pumps or pipework.
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species ³ .
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.
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.
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	
Condition Assessment Score	
Woodland ponds (assessment out of 7 criteria)	
Passes 7 criteria.	Good (3)
Passes 5 or 6 criteria.	Moderate (2)
Passes 4 or fewer criteria.	Poor (1)
Non-woodland ponds (assessment out of 9 criteria)	
Passes 9 criteria.	Good (3)
Passes 6–8 criteria.	Moderate (2)
Passes 5 or fewer criteria.	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 – A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat. Footnote 2 – This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>. Footnote 3 – Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021) Classification of aquatic alien species according to their level of impact [online]. Available from: UKTAG classification of alien species working paper v8.pdf (wfd-uk.org) - Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern <i>Azolla filiculoides</i>, Australian swamp stonecrop <i>Crassula helmsii</i>, parrot's feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>, floating pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> and Japanese knotweed <i>Reynoutria japonica</i>, giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> (on the bank). - Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>, zebra mussels <i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>, killer shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i>, demon shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus haemobaphes</i>, carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>. Footnote 4 – If the pond is seasonal (as in, it dries out in most summers) then emergent species alone are likely to be found.	

Condition Sheet: WETLAND Habitat Type	
Condition Assessment Criteria	
A	The water table is at, or near the surface throughout the year - this could be open water or saturation of soil at the surface. There is no artificial drainage, unless specifically to maintain water levels as specified above. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.
B	The parcel represents a good example of its specific habitat type – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description, with vascular and non-vascular characteristic indicator species consistently present. ¹



C	The water supplies (groundwater, surface water and or rainwater) to the wetland are of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.
D	Cover of scrub and scattered trees are less than 10%.
E	Cover of bare ground is less than 5%.
F	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁴ make up less than 5% of ground cover.
Additional criterion – must be assessed for Fen and Purple moor grass habitats only	
G	The reedbed has a diverse structure with between 60% and 80% reeds <i>Phragmites australis</i> . Other areas may include open water (at least 10%), species-rich fen and or wet woodland.
Additional criterion – must be assessed for Bog habitats only	
H	Sphagnum moss <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. and cottongrasses <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. are at least Frequent ⁵ . Cover of ericaceous dwarf shrubs ⁶ is less than 75%.
Additional criterion – must be assessed for Reedbed habitats only	
I	The reedbed has a diverse structure with between 60% and 80% reeds <i>Phragmites australis</i> . Other areas may include open water (at least 10%), species-rich fen and or wet woodland.
Additional criterion – must be assessed Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM habitats only	
J	All ditches recorded within the habitat achieve Good condition as assessed using the Ditch condition sheet.
Condition Assessment Result	
Condition Assessment Score	
Habitats requiring assessment of 6 criteria	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including criterion A.	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria but fails criterion A.	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria.	Poor (1)
Habitats requiring assessment of 7 criteria	
Passes 5 or 6 core criteria, including essential A and passes additional criterion G, H, I or J.	Good (3)
Passes 4–5 of 7 criteria or passes 6 of 7 criteria but fails criterion A or relevant additional criterion G, H, I or J.	Moderate (2)
Passes 3 or fewer criteria;	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnote 1 – Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description.	
Footnote 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.	
Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	
Footnote 4 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , docks <i>Rumex</i> spp., and common ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.	
Footnote 5 – According to the relative abundance DAFOR scale – Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional or Rare.	
Footnote 6 – Ericaceous dwarf shrubs include: crowberry <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> , cowberry <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> , bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> , cranberry <i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i> , heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> , cross-leaved heath <i>Erica tetralix</i> , and bell heather <i>Erica cinerea</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.	
Footnote 7 – For fens, specify what fen type is present using base-status and trophic status - alkaline, neutral, or acidic; eutrophic, mesotrophic or oligotrophic.	

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Types**Condition Assessment Criteria**

Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.



B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ present in woodland.	Rhododendron Rhododendron ponticum or cherry laurel Prunus laurocerasus not present, other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ³ >10% cover.
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.
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 .
F	Open space within woodland	10–20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ .	21–40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ .	"<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ .
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 .
H	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback ⁹ .	11% to 25% 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 .
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.
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 .
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing 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 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 deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .
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 .	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .



Condition assessment result	Condition Assessment Score
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)
Notes	
Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment methodology: EWBG (No date). Assessing your Woodland's Condition [online]. Available from: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylvia.org.uk)	
When applying this condition sheet, good practice would be to use the methodology associated with the EWBG toolkit.	
Footnote 1 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch <i>Betula</i> sp., cherry <i>Prunus</i> sp. or <i>Sorbus</i> sp.: 0–20 years (Young); 21–150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or <i>Sorbus</i> species; 0–20 years = Young; 21–60 years = Intermediate; >60 years = Old. A recognisable age-class should be a consistent recognisable layer across the woodland or stand being assessed. Presence of a few saplings would not indicate that the woodland has an 'age-class' of young trees.	
Footnote 2 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 2 for more information. Browsing pressure is considered to be significant where >20% of vegetation visible within each survey plot shows damage from any type of browsing pressure listed.	
Footnote 3 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 3 for more information. Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly.	
Check for the presence of all plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), particularly the following invasive non-native species: American skunk cabbage <i>Lysichiton americanus</i> ; Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> ; Japanese knotweed <i>Reynoutria japonica</i> ; cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> ; shallon <i>Gaultheria shallon</i> ; snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> ; variegated yellow archangel <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentatum</i> ; rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> ; and tree-of-heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> .	
Footnote 4 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 4 and Table 2 for more information. The number of different native tree or shrub species including young trees and shrubs. A list of commonly found native tree and shrub species is provided in Table 2. Not all species listed are native to all parts of the UK. Note a list of commonly found non-native tree species are also included and should be recorded if present.	
Footnote 5 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 5 and for more information. The abundance of native tree species in upper (>5 m) and understorey (up to 5 m) layers including young trees and shrubs.	
Footnote 6 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 6 for more information. Open space within woodland in this context is temporary open space in which trees can be expected to regenerate (for example, glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not possible or desirable (for example, tarmac, buildings, rivers). Area is at least 10 m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees.	
Footnote 7 – Given the increased ratio of edge habitat to woodland where the woodland is <10 ha.	
Footnote 8 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 8 for more information. This indicator measures regeneration potential of the woodland by considering three classes: seedlings; saplings; and young trees of 4–7 cm DBH. All three classes would fall in the 'young' category of the 'age distribution of trees' indicator, but the regeneration indicator gathers additional information by considering regeneration potential - if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration processes are happening.	
Footnote 9 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 9 for more information and Table 3 for a list of diseases and pests and their risk level.	
Footnote 10 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 10 directing to NVC key for more information. The 'UKHab to NVC translation table' in the UK Habitat Classification resources may also be useful to assess this."	
Footnote 11 – This criterion looks at structural diversity and is useful to understand in conjunction with the age of trees in a woodland. Vertical structure is defined as the number of canopy storeys present. Possible storey values are: 1) Upper; 2) Complex: recorded when the stand is composed of multiple tree heights that cannot easily be stratified into broad height bands (such as upper, middle or lower); 3) Middle; 4) Lower; and 5) Shrub layer. There might be no storeys where the woodland has been felled. See EWBG INDICATOR 11 for more information.	
Footnote 12 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 12 for more information. See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and: Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	
Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches on the forest floor and stumps (<1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and also deadwood on standing live trees. Diameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter of 20 cm.	



Footnote 14 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery, animal poaching or litter.

Condition Sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types			
Condition Assessment Criteria			
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria – the minimum requirements for ‘favourable condition’	Description
A1	Height	>1.5 m average along length.	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).
A1	Width	>1.5 m average along length.	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).
B2	Gap – hedger base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length.	This is the vertical ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).
B2	Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m.	This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall ‘gappiness’ but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).
C1	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for 90% of length: Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow.



			This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.
C2	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.
D1	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA3) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .
D2	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting)
Additional group – applicable to hedgerows with trees only			
E1	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20–50 m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.
E2	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.
Condition category requirements for hedgerows without trees			Condition Assessment Score
No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.			Good (3)
No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).			Moderate (2)
Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition)			Poor (1)



Condition category requirements for hedgerows with trees	Condition Assessment Score
No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group	Good (3)
No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	Moderate (2)
Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	Poor (1)
Notes Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. [online] Available on: layout (hedgelink.org.uk) Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows. [online] Available on: Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk) Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain. Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on: The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7) JNCC Resource Hub Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). Definitions: wild, native or alien? [online] Available on: Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (bsbi.org) Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora. [online] Available on: Acknowledgements Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk) Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on: Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org) Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	



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