

Lancashire Dairy Farm, Whitelees Road, Littleborough OL15 8DU

## **PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN**

February 2025

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd Reference: 2024-413

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd  
Building N2  
Chorley Business and Technology Centre  
East Terrace  
Euxton Lane  
Euxton  
Chorley  
PR7 6TE

Tel: 01772 750502

[mail@erap.co.uk](mailto:mail@erap.co.uk)  
[www.erap.co.uk](http://www.erap.co.uk)



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## Document Control

| Survey Type:                                                                                        | Surveyors                                                                           | Survey Date(s)                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| UK Habitat Classification Survey (including Condition Assessments of habitats) for On-site Habitats | Brian Robinson                                                                      | 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025  |
| Reporting                                                                                           | Personnel                                                                           | Date                           |
| <b>Author</b>                                                                                       | Brian Robinson B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM<br>Senior Ecologist                              | 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 |
| <b>Signature(s)</b>                                                                                 |  |                                |
| <b>Checked by</b>                                                                                   | Rachel Brown B.Sc. (Hons)                                                           | 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 |
| <b>Revised and issued by</b>                                                                        | Brian Robinson B.Sc. (Hons) MCIEEM                                                  | 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 |
| <b>Report issued to</b>                                                                             | Vision Design Group                                                                 |                                |
| <b>Version Number</b>                                                                               | 1                                                                                   |                                |

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and Rationale

- 1.1.1 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd was commissioned by Vision Design Group to carry out an assessment of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) at land at Lancashire Dairy Farm, 123 Whitelees Road, Littleborough OL15 8DU (hereafter the 'site'). The Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference at the centre of the site is SD 93258 16374.
- 1.1.2 The assessment was requested in connection with a planning application proposing the construction of four new silos and extend an existing yard within the site.
- 1.1.3 This BNG assessment has been prepared to provide an assessment of the biodiversity value of the baseline of the site, an assessment of the value of post-development habitats based on the site proposals and landscape strategy, and provides guidance in relation to the requirements to attain a net gain in accordance with *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development* (CIEEM, 2016).
- 1.1.4 This report also advises on how compliance with Chapter 15, paragraph 193(d) of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024)<sup>1</sup> can be achieved, which states '*opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate*'.

### 1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 An aerial image of the site is appended at **Figure 1**. The total site area is **0.5414 hectares<sup>2</sup>**.
- 1.2.2 The habitats present within the site are described and assessed in *2024-413 Lancashire Dairy Farm, Whitelees Road, Littleborough OL15 8DU: Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2025), hereafter referred to as the 'ecology report'.
- 1.2.3 A summary of the habitats present within the site is presented at **Section 3.1** of this report.

### 1.3 Proposed Development Description

- 1.3.1 The assessment has been requested to inform a planning application for the construction of four new silos and extend an existing yard within the site. The proposals are presented at *Whitelees Road, Littleborough: Landscape Proposals Dwg. No 7605.1* (TBA Landscape Architecture, 2025), hereafter the 'proposals plan'.

### 1.4 Scope of Study

- 1.4.1 This report has been prepared to accompany a completed assessment of BNG using *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool* (Natural England, 2023). The completed Microsoft Excel spreadsheet assessment is presented as a separate document, named '*ERAP Ltd 2024-413 Lancashire Dairy Farm Statutory Biodiversity Metric 17.02.25*', hereafter referred to as the 'BNG Metric'.

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter the NPPF

<sup>2</sup> As measured by ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd; detail on the methods used to measure the area of the site are presented at **Section 2.0**. It has been considered suitable in this instance, due to the small size of the site and the habitat compartments within the site, to measure the baseline and post-intervention habitats in hectares to an accuracy of 4 decimal places (i.e. a m<sup>2</sup> level of accuracy).

- 1.4.2 It is intended that this report provides a transparent assessment to demonstrate the calculation of net gain, based on the reasonable parameters assumed for the proposals (refer to **Section 2.3**). This approach has been applied on a number of other sites ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd has assisted with and has been accepted by the relevant Local Planning Authorities (LPA) and their ecological advisors to enable a planning application to progress.

## 2.0 METHOD OF SURVEY

### 2.1 Habitat Assessment and Mapping

#### Baseline Habitats

- 2.1.1 A Phase 1 Habitat Survey including an assessment in accordance with the UKHab and condition assessments of the habitats present was carried out by Brian Robison on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The weather was dry but overcast, with a light breeze (Beaufort scale 2) and an air temperature of 1°C
- 2.1.2 On site habitat mapping was assisted via use of GPS technology and QField on-site mapping software, using ESRI World Imagery and *Existing and Proposed Site Plan: Lancashire Farm Dairies Drawing Number VDG-2327-DWG-1000 Rev 1* (Vision Design Group, 2024) as base plans. The latter plan was provided to ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd as a .pdf which was converted to a .dxf file and resized to match ESRI World Imagery.
- 2.1.3 Each of the habitats within the site has been assessed in accordance with the UKHab to determine each habitat type present. This has allowed a reliable classification of habitats in accordance with those used by the BNG Metric.
- 2.1.4 The UKHab has been designed to function at two scales: fine scale (25m<sup>2</sup> or 5 metres length) and large scale (400m<sup>2</sup> or 20m<sup>2</sup> length). It has been considered for the purposes of this survey (where the UKHab has been used to inform the BNG calculation of a relatively small area) that a finer scale of 5m<sup>2</sup> is appropriate for the classification of habitats.
- 2.1.5 A plan showing the baseline habitats present within the site in accordance with UKHab symbology is appended at **Figure 2**.
- 2.1.6 Condition Assessments for each of the habitats present within the site have been completed in accordance with *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology* (Natural England, November 2023) and are appended at **Section 7.1**.

#### Post-development Habitats

- 2.1.7 The post development habitats have been calculated using the proposals plan. This plan has been provided to ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd as a .pdf; the .pdf has been converted to a dxf and resized to match the baselines.
- 2.1.8 A plan showing the proposed habitats in accordance with UKHab symbology is appended at **Figure 3** and target condition assessments for each of the proposed habitats are appended at **Section 7.2**.

### 2.2 Survey and Reporting Limitations

- 2.2.1 All measurements have been either estimated whilst on site or measured using QGIS.

- 2.2.2 The survey was completed when plant species may be in a state of senescence; the surveyor is experienced in identifying plant species from their vegetative characteristics however, and a reliable assessment of the habitats present was possible.

## 2.3 Evaluation Methods and Rules Applied

### Habitats and Assessment

- 2.3.1 Habitats have been assessed to determine whether they meet those described in *UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Priority Habitat Descriptions* (Maddock, A (ed), 2008); these lists are used to help draw up the statutory lists of Priority Habitats, as required under Section 41 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006*. Where suitable, the ecological value of the habitats present have been assessed using the terms outlined in *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine* (CIEEM, 2018).
- 2.3.2 QGIS has been used to calculate the total area / length of each baseline habitat present within the site and the area / length of the proposed habitats at the site.
- 2.3.3 Each habitat and individual trees have been assessed to determine whether they are 'irreplaceable habitat', defined in NPPF as '*Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. They include ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen*'. The further detail presented in *The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024* (GOV.UK, 2023) has also been referred to.
- 2.3.4 Existing individual trees and proposed urban trees have been measured using their specification on the landscape proposals plans and the Tree Helper provided within the BNG Metric.

### Relevant Guidance

- 2.3.5 Government advice on wildlife, as set out in the NPPF and associated government circulars has been taken into consideration.

### Assumptions

- 2.3.6 Reasonable assumptions have been made in relation to the condition assessments for the proposed habitats at the site; the proposed condition assessment for each habitat is appended at **Section 7.2**. Long-term management of the proposed habitats is required to secure the proposed condition.

## 3.0 SURVEY RESULTS

### 3.1 Site Description

- 3.1.1 Refer to **Figure 2**. The site is described in the ecology report as follows:
- 3.1.2 'The approximately 0.54 hectares site is located within suburban surroundings and comprises buildings and hardstanding, with areas of amenity grassland, ornamental shrubs and planted trees. Four hedgerows (Hedgerows 1 to 4) are located within (or partially within) the site.'

## 3.2 Assessment of Baseline Habitats

3.2.1 **Tables 3.1 to 3.3** provide a summary of the habitats present, their condition assessment result and their area within the site. Condition assessments for each habitat are appended at **Section 7.1**.

3.2.2 Note that there is no equivalent habitat for individual trees in Phase 1 Habitat Survey terminology.

**Table 3.1: Summary of Baseline Area Based Habitats within the Site**

| Habitat Reference                      | UK Habitat Classification Type                                            | BNG Habitat Equivalent                 | Phase 1 Habitat Equivalent                         | Condition Assessment Result | Area (ha)     |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Habitat 1:</b><br>Amenity grassland | g4 modified grassland with the secondary code 106 mown.                   | Grassland - Modified grassland         | J1.2 Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland | Poor                        | 0.1328        |
| <b>Habitat 2:</b><br>Introduced shrub  | u1 built up and urban areas with the secondary code 847 introduced shrub. | Urban - Introduced shrub               | J1.4 Introduced shrub                              | Condition Assessment N/A    | 0.0022        |
| <b>Habitat 3:</b><br>Flower bed        | u1 built up and urban areas with the secondary code 846 flower bed.       | Urban - Vegetated garden               | J1.4 Introduced shrub                              | Condition Assessment N/A    | 0.0012        |
| <b>Habitat 4:</b><br>Buildings         | u1b5 buildings.                                                           | Urban - Developed land; sealed surface | J5 - Other habitat - individual buildings          | N/A - Other                 | 0.0212        |
| <b>Habitat 5:</b><br>Hardstanding      | u1b developed land; sealed surface.                                       | Urban - Developed land; sealed surface | J4 Bare ground                                     | N/A - Other                 | 0.3840        |
| <b>Total:</b>                          |                                                                           |                                        |                                                    |                             | <b>0.5414</b> |

**Table 3.2: Summary of Individual Trees within the Site**

| Habitat Reference                                                              | UK Habitat Classification Type                            | BNG Habitat Equivalent        | Condition Assessment Result | Area (ha) <sup>3</sup> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Habitat 6.1:</b><br>Trees 5 and 6 (Large size, good condition)              | secondary code 203 Mature tree over g4 modified grassland | Individual trees – urban tree | Good                        | 0.0733                 |
| <b>Habitat 6.2:</b><br>Tree 4 (Medium size, moderate condition)                | Secondary code 200 Tree over g4 modified grassland        | Individual trees – urban tree | Moderate                    | 0.0163                 |
| <b>Habitat 6.3:</b><br>Trees 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 (Small size, moderate condition) | Secondary code 200 Tree over g4 modified grassland        | Individual trees – urban tree | Moderate                    | 0.0204                 |
| <b>Total:</b>                                                                  |                                                           |                               |                             | <b>0.1100</b>          |

<sup>3</sup> Due to the way individual trees are calculated by the metric they do not contribute to the total habitat area calculation, but are additional to it.

**Table 3.3: Summary of Baseline Hedgerow Habitats within Site**

| Habitat Reference                | UK Habitat Classification Type                                      | BNG Habitat Equivalent                             | Phase 1 Habitat Equivalent                  | Condition Assessment Result | Length (km) |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Habitat 7:</b><br>Hedgerow 1  | h2a6 other native hedgerow with the secondary code 200 tree.        | Hedgerow - Native hedgerow with trees              | J2.1.2 Intact hedge, native species-poor    | Good                        | 0.01        |
| <b>Habitat 8:</b><br>Hedgerow 2  | h2a5 species-rich native hedgerow with the secondary code 200 tree. | Hedgerow – Species-rich native hedgerow with trees | J2.3.1 Hedge and trees, native species-rich | Good                        | 0.03        |
| <b>Habitat 9:</b><br>Hedgerow 3  | h2a5 species-rich native hedgerow with the secondary code 200 tree. | Hedgerow - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees | J2.3.1 Hedge and trees, native species-rich | Moderate                    | 0.01        |
| <b>Habitat 10:</b><br>Hedgerow 4 | h2a6 other native hedgerow with the secondary code 200 tree.        | Hedgerow - Native hedgerow                         | J2.1.2 Intact hedge, native species-poor    | Good                        | 0.03        |
| <b>Total</b>                     |                                                                     |                                                    |                                             |                             | <b>0.08</b> |

3.2.3 The baseline BNG score for the site is provided at **Section 5.0**.

## 4.0 POST DEVELOPMENT HABITATS

### 4.1 Consideration of Mitigation Hierarchy and Target Condition Assessments

- 4.1.1 The proposals seek to retain the trees, hedgerows and the majority of the grassland within the site. It is considered that the proposals are in accordance with the principles of the mitigation hierarchy.
- 4.1.2 Condition Assessments for each of the retained, enhanced and proposed habitats as specified on the landscape proposals are presented at **Section 7.2**. A long-term habitat management plan with an appropriate monitoring regime is required to secure the condition of these habitats in the long-term.

### 4.2 Consideration of Proposed Habitats

- 4.2.1 The proposals plan demonstrates that 0.0244 hectares of the 0.5414 hectares site (i.e. 4.5%) will be developed to additional hardstanding and the proposed silos. Of the remaining 0.5170 hectares (95.5%) it is proposed to enhance the amenity grassland to ‘moderate’ condition; the remainder of the area-based habitats within the site will be retained.
- 4.2.2 The proposals will retain all of the existing trees, and an additional 11 trees will be planted as part of the proposals. The existing hedgerows will be retained, and two additional lengths of hedgerow will be planted as part of the proposals.

**Table 4.1: Summary of Area-based Habitats to be Retained and Created at the Site**

| Habitat Type                                    | BNG Equivalent Habitat                 | Target Condition         | Area (ha)     | Sub-totals (ha) |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Retained Habitats</b>                        |                                        |                          |               |                 |
| <b>Habitat 2:</b><br>Introduced shrubs          | Urban – Introduced shrub               | Condition Assessment N/A | 0.0022        |                 |
| <b>Habitat 3:</b><br>Flower bed                 | Urban – Introduced shrub               | Condition Assessment N/A | 0.0012        |                 |
| <b>Habitat 4:</b><br>Buildings                  | Urban – Developed land, sealed surface | N/A- Other               | 0.0182        |                 |
| <b>Habitat 5:</b><br>Hardstanding               | Urban – Developed land, sealed surface | N/A- Other               | 0.3756        | <b>0.3972</b>   |
| <b>Enhanced Habitats</b>                        |                                        |                          |               |                 |
| <b>Habitat 1:</b><br>Amenity grassland          | Grassland – Modified grassland         | Poor to Moderate         | 0.1198        | <b>0.1198</b>   |
| <b>Proposed Habitats</b>                        |                                        |                          |               |                 |
| <b>Habitat A:</b><br>New hardstanding and silos | Urban – Developed land, sealed surface | N/A - Other              | 0.0244        | <b>0.0244</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                                    |                                        |                          | <b>0.5414</b> |                 |

**Table 4.2: Summary of Individual Trees to be Retained and Created at the Site**

| Habitat Reference                                                             | BNG Habitat Equivalent        | Target Condition | Area (ha) <sup>4</sup> | Sub-totals (ha) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Retained Habitats</b>                                                      |                               |                  |                        |                 |
| <b>Habitat 6.1</b><br>Trees 5 and 6 (Large size, good condition)              | Individual trees – urban tree | Good             | 0.0733                 |                 |
| <b>Habitat 6.2</b><br>Tree 4 (Medium size, moderate condition)                | Individual trees – urban tree | Moderate         | 0.0163                 |                 |
| <b>Habitat 6.3</b><br>Trees 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 (Small size, moderate condition) | Individual trees – urban tree | Moderate         | 0.0204                 | <b>0.1100</b>   |
| <b>Proposed Habitats</b>                                                      |                               |                  |                        |                 |
| <b>Habitat B:</b><br>Urban trees (11, small size)                             | Urban – urban trees           | Moderate         | 0.0448                 | <b>0.0448</b>   |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                  |                               |                  | <b>0.1548</b>          |                 |

<sup>4</sup> Small urban trees have a diameter at breast height (DBH) of up to 30cm, medium urban trees have a DBH of 30 to 60cm, large urban trees have a DBH of 60 to 90cm and very large trees have DBH of more than 90cm. Due to the way individual trees are calculated by the metric they do not contribute to the total habitat area calculation, but are additional to it.

**Table 4.3: Summary of Hedgerow Habitats to be Retained and Created at the Site**

| Habitat Type                               | BNG Equivalent Habitat                             | Target Condition | Length (km) | Sub-totals (km) |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>Retained Habitats</b>                   |                                                    |                  |             |                 |
| <b>Habitat 7:</b><br>Hedgerow 1            | Hedgerow - Native hedgerow with trees              | Good             | 0.01        |                 |
| <b>Habitat 8:</b><br>Hedgerow 2            | Hedgerow – Species-rich native hedgerow with trees | Good             | 0.03        |                 |
| <b>Habitat 9:</b><br>Hedgerow 3            | Hedgerow - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees | Moderate         | 0.01        |                 |
| <b>Habitat 10:</b><br>Hedgerow 4           | Hedgerow - Native hedgerow                         | Good             | 0.03        | <b>0.08</b>     |
| <b>Proposed Habitats</b>                   |                                                    |                  |             |                 |
| <b>Habitat C:</b><br>Proposed new hedgerow | Hedgerow – Species-rich native hedgerow            | Moderate         | 0.03        | <b>0.03</b>     |
| <b>Total</b>                               |                                                    |                  | <b>0.11</b> |                 |

## 5.0 HEADLINE RESULTS, EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 The headline results of the BNG Metric are presented at **Table 5.1** below.

**Table 5.1: Results of Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool**

|                                                |                   |        |        |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|
| <b>On-site Baseline</b>                        | Habitat units     | 1.45   |        |
|                                                | Hedgerow units    | 0.96   |        |
|                                                | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |
| <b>On-site Post Intervention</b>               | Habitat units     | 1.72   |        |
|                                                | Hedgerow units    | 1.16   |        |
|                                                | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |
| <b>On—site net change (units % percentage)</b> | Habitat units     | 0.28   | 19.28% |
|                                                | Hedgerow units    | 0.20   | 20.92% |
|                                                | Watercourse units | 0.00   | 0.00%  |
| <b>Total Net Unit Change</b>                   | Habitat units     | 0.28   |        |
|                                                | Hedgerow units    | 0.20   |        |
|                                                | Watercourse units | 0.00   |        |
| <b>Total Net % Change</b>                      | Habitat units     | 19.28% |        |
|                                                | Hedgerow units    | 20.92% |        |
|                                                | Watercourse units | 0.00%  |        |

|                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Trading Rules Satisfied?</b> | <b>Yes</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------|

| Unit Type         | Target | Baseline Units | Units Required | Unit Deficit | Comment                                                  |
|-------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Habitat units     | 10%    | 1.45           | 1.59           | 0.00         | No additional area habitat units required to meet target |
| Hedgerow units    | 10%    | 0.96           | 1.06           | 0.00         | No additional hedgerow units required to meet target     |
| Watercourse units | 10%    | 0.00           | 0.00           | 0.00         | No additional watercourse units required to meet target  |

5.2 A net gain for area-based and hedgerow habitats is demonstrated by the BNG Metric, and the metric's trading rules are satisfied.

- 
- 5.3 Note that any habitats managed within the site by the client will be subject to a long-term habitat management plan.
- 5.4 It is essential that, in addition to the result of the BNG Metric, the assessment of biodiversity net gain takes into account the measures to be accommodated and implemented at the site to secure gains and betterment for biodiversity that the BNG Metric cannot take account of.
- 5.5 At this site it is advised that the following measures are also considered as part of the assessment of biodiversity net gain:
- a. Incorporation of opportunities for roosting bats at the site as, although the habitats are suitable for use by foraging bat species such as *Pipistrellus* species, there are no significant opportunities for roosting bats at the site currently (this is considered to provide additionality);
  - b. Incorporation of opportunities for use by nesting birds at the developed site. This includes a net increase in opportunities for nesting birds at the site;
  - c. Eradication / control of invasive plant species from the site including the stand on Montbretia; and
  - d. Preparation and implementation of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (or similar) to secure long-term management of the retained and created habitats in accordance with conservation targets and objectives.

## 6.0 REFERENCES

- CIEEM, 2016. *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development*, Winchester: CIEEM.
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## 7.0 APPENDIX: CONDITION ASSESSMENTS AND FIGURES

### 7.1 Condition Assessments of Baseline Habitats

**Table 7.1: Condition Assessments for Habitat 1: Amenity Grassland**

| Habitat Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | A  | B  | C   | D   | E   | F   | G   | Total No. of Criterion Passed | Condition Assessment Result <sup>1</sup> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Habitat 1: Amenity grassland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 5                             | Poor (fails criterion A)                 |
| <b>Good:</b> Passes 6 or 7 criteria including essential criterion A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <b>Moderate:</b> Passes 4 or 5 criteria including essential criterion A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <b>Poor:</b> Passes 3 or fewer criteria OR passes 4 to 6 criteria, but failing criterion A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <b>Condition Assessment Criteria</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>A.</b> There are 6 to 8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in below). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</p> <p>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 m2 (excluding those listed below), 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.</p> <p><i>Plant Species:</i> 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>).</p> |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>B.</b> Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>C.</b> Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area (some scattered scrub such as Bramble may be present).</p> <p>Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>D.</b> Physical damage 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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>E.</b> Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.</p> <p>For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>F.</b> Cover of Bracken less than 20%.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>G.</b> There is an absence of invasive non-native species as listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended).</p> <p>This is assessed 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</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |

7.1.1 Condition Assessments are not required for Habitat 2: Introduced Shrub and Habitat 3: Flower bed (both are automatically set to 'Condition Assessment N/A'). Condition Assessments for Habitat 3 Buildings and Habitat 4: Hardstanding are not required; both are automatically set to 'N/A – Other'.

**Table 7.2: Condition Assessments for Habitats 6.1 to 6.3: Individual Trees**

| Tree Reference                          | Common Name  | UKHab Description                          | Ancient or Veteran? | DBH (cm) | BNG Size Category | A   | B   | C   | D   | E   | F   | Condition Assessment Result |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1                                       | Sycamore     | 200 tree over modified grassland g4        | No                  | 30       | Small             | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Moderate - 3 conditions met |
| 2                                       | Sycamore     | 200 tree over modified grassland g4        | No                  | 30       | Small             | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Moderate - 3 conditions met |
| 3                                       | Goat Willow  | 200 tree over modified grassland g4        | No                  | 30       | Small             | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Moderate - 4 conditions met |
| 4                                       | Ash          | 200 tree over modified grassland g4        | No                  | 40       | Medium            | Yes | Yes | No  | No  | Yes | Yes | Moderate - 4 conditions met |
| 5                                       | Ash          | 203 mature tree over modified grassland g4 | No                  | 80       | Large             | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Good – 5 conditions met     |
| 6                                       | Ash          | 203 mature tree over modified grassland g4 | No                  | 80       | Large             | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Good - 5 conditions met     |
| 7                                       | Wild Cherry  | 200 tree over modified grassland g4        | No                  | 24       | Small             | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Moderate - 4 conditions met |
| 8                                       | Silver Birch | 200 tree over modified grassland g4        | No                  | 30       | Small             | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | Yes | Moderate - 4 conditions met |
| <b>Good:</b> Passes 5 or 6 criteria     |              |                                            |                     |          |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |                             |
| <b>Moderate:</b> Passes 3 or 4 criteria |              |                                            |                     |          |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |                             |
| <b>Poor:</b> Passes 2 or fewer criteria |              |                                            |                     |          |                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |                             |

| Condition Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>B.</b> Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up less than 10% of total area and no individual gap being more than 5 metres wide. Individual trees automatically pass this criterion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>C.</b> The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature). See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees, available from:<br><i>Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England</i> (publishing.service.gov.uk) and <i>Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions</i> (www.gov.uk).<br>Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual trees through meeting just one of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E. |
| <b>D.</b> 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>E.</b> Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>F.</b> More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

**Table 7.3: Condition Assessments for Habitats 7 to 10: Hedgerows 1 to 4**

| Habitat Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | A1  | A2  | B1  | B2  | C1  | C2  | D1  | D2  | E1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | E2             | Total No. of Group Failures | Total No. of Criteria Failures | Condition Assessment Result |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hedgerow 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes            | 0                           | 1                              | Good                        |
| Hedgerow 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No             | 0                           | 2                              | Good                        |
| Hedgerow 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | No             | 1                           | 3                              | Moderate                    |
| Hedgerow 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No  | Yes | Yes | N/A - no trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | N/A - no trees | 0                           | 1                              | Good                        |
| Hedgerows Without Trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Hedgerows With Trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                |                             |                                |                             |
| Good: No more than 2 failures in total; AND no more than 1 in any functional group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Good: No more than 2 failures in total; AND no more than 1 failure in any functional group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                |                             |                                |                             |
| Moderate: 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 & C2 = Moderate condition).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Moderate: 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 & E1 = Moderate condition).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                |                             |                                |                             |
| Poor: 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 & B2 = Poor condition).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Poor: 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 & B2 = Poor condition).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                             |                                |                             |
| Condition Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                |                             |                                |                             |
| <b>A1. Height:</b><br>>1.5m average along length<br>The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.<br>Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of 4 years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).                                      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <b>A2. Width:</b><br>>1.5m average along length.<br>The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.<br>Outgrowths (e.g. Blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height.<br>Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of 4 years (if undertaken according to good practice)                                                     |                |                             |                                |                             |
| <b>B1. Gap - hedge base.</b><br>Gap between ground and base of canopy is less than 0.5m, for more than 90% of length (unless line of trees).<br>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 (e.g. a Hazel dominated hedgerow or where the hedgerow is affected by shading from other vegetation such as woodland, see page 65 of <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook</i> . |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <b>B2. Gap - hedge canopy continuity.</b><br>Gaps make up less than 10% of total length and no canopy gaps are greater than 5m. Gates and access points are not subject to the greater than 5m criterion.<br>This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small).<br>Access points and gates contribute to the overall ‘gappiness’, but are not subject to the greater than 5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate). |                |                             |                                |                             |
| <b>C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | <b>C2. Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation.</b><br>Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils do not dominate more than 20% cover of the ground area of undisturbed ground.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                |                             |                                |                             |

| Condition Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>More than 1m width ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for more than 90% of the hedgerow length, as measured from outer edge of the hedgerow, and is present on at least 1 side of the hedgerow.</p> <p>This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge 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.</p> | <p>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, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>D1. Invasive and neophyte species.</b></p> <p>More than 90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) 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, as well as the BSBI website where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' 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.</p>                              | <p><b>D2. Current damage.</b></p> <p>More than 90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damaged caused by human activities.</p> <p>This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.</p> <p>This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).</p>                             |
| Additional group – ONLY if trees are present                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p><b>E1. Tree Class</b></p> <p>There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient<sup>8</sup>), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 to 50m of hedgerow. This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>E1. Tree health</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.</p> |

## 7.2 Target Condition Assessments of Retained, Enhanced and Created Habitats

7.2.1 It has not been considered necessary to provide target Condition Assessments for the retained Habitats 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 (i.e. the retained individual trees) or the retained Habitats 7 to 10 (i.e. Hedgerows 1 to 4); these will be retained at their current condition, as presented in the tables above.

**Table 7.4: Target Condition Assessment for Enhanced Habitat 1: Amenity Grassland**

| Habitat Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | A         | B  | C  | D   | E   | F   | G   | Total No. of Criterion Passed | Condition Assessment Result <sup>1</sup> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Habitat 1: Amenity grassland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No to Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | 5                             | Moderate                                 |
| <b>Good:</b> Passes 6 or 7 criteria including essential criterion A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <b>Moderate:</b> Passes 4 or 5 criteria including essential criterion A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <b>Poor:</b> Passes 3 or fewer criteria OR passes 4 to 6 criteria, but failing criterion A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <b>Condition Assessment Criteria</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>A.</b> There are 6 to 8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in below). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</p> <p>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 m2 (excluding those listed below), 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.</p> <p><i>Plant Species:</i> 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>).</p> |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>B.</b> Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>C.</b> Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area (some scattered scrub such as Bramble may be present).</p> <p>Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>D.</b> Physical damage 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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>E.</b> Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.</p> <p>For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>F.</b> Cover of Bracken less than 20%.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |
| <p><b>G.</b> There is an absence of invasive non-native species as listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended).</p> <p>This is assessed 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</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |    |    |     |     |     |     |                               |                                          |

7.2.2 Condition Assessments for the retained Habitat 2: Introduced Shrub and Habitat 3: Flower bed are not required (both are automatically set to 'Condition Assessment N/A'). Condition Assessments for the retained Habitat 3 Buildings and Habitat 4: Hardstanding are not required; both are automatically set to 'N/A – Other'.

7.2.3 Habitat A: proposed new hardstanding and silos does not need a Condition Assessment as this habitat is automatically set at 'N/A – Other'.

**Table 7.5: Condition Assessments for Habitat B: Proposed Trees**

| Tree Reference                   | Species | A   | B   | C  | D   | E  | F   | Size Category | Total No. of Criterion Passed | Condition Assessment Result             |
|----------------------------------|---------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Habitat B: New trees (11 trees). | Yes     | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | Yes | Small         | 4                             | Moderate                                |
|                                  |         |     |     |    |     |    |     |               |                               | <b>Good:</b> Passes 5 or 6 criteria     |
|                                  |         |     |     |    |     |    |     |               |                               | <b>Moderate:</b> Passes 3 or 4 criteria |
|                                  |         |     |     |    |     |    |     |               |                               | <b>Poor:</b> Passes 2 or fewer criteria |

| Condition Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A.</b> The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>B.</b> Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up less than 10% of total area and no individual gap being more than 5 metres wide. Individual trees automatically pass this criterion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>C.</b> The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature). See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees, available from:<br><i>Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England</i> (publishing.service.gov.uk) and <i>Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions</i> (www.gov.uk).<br>Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual trees through meeting just one of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E. |
| <b>D.</b> 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>E.</b> Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>F.</b> More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

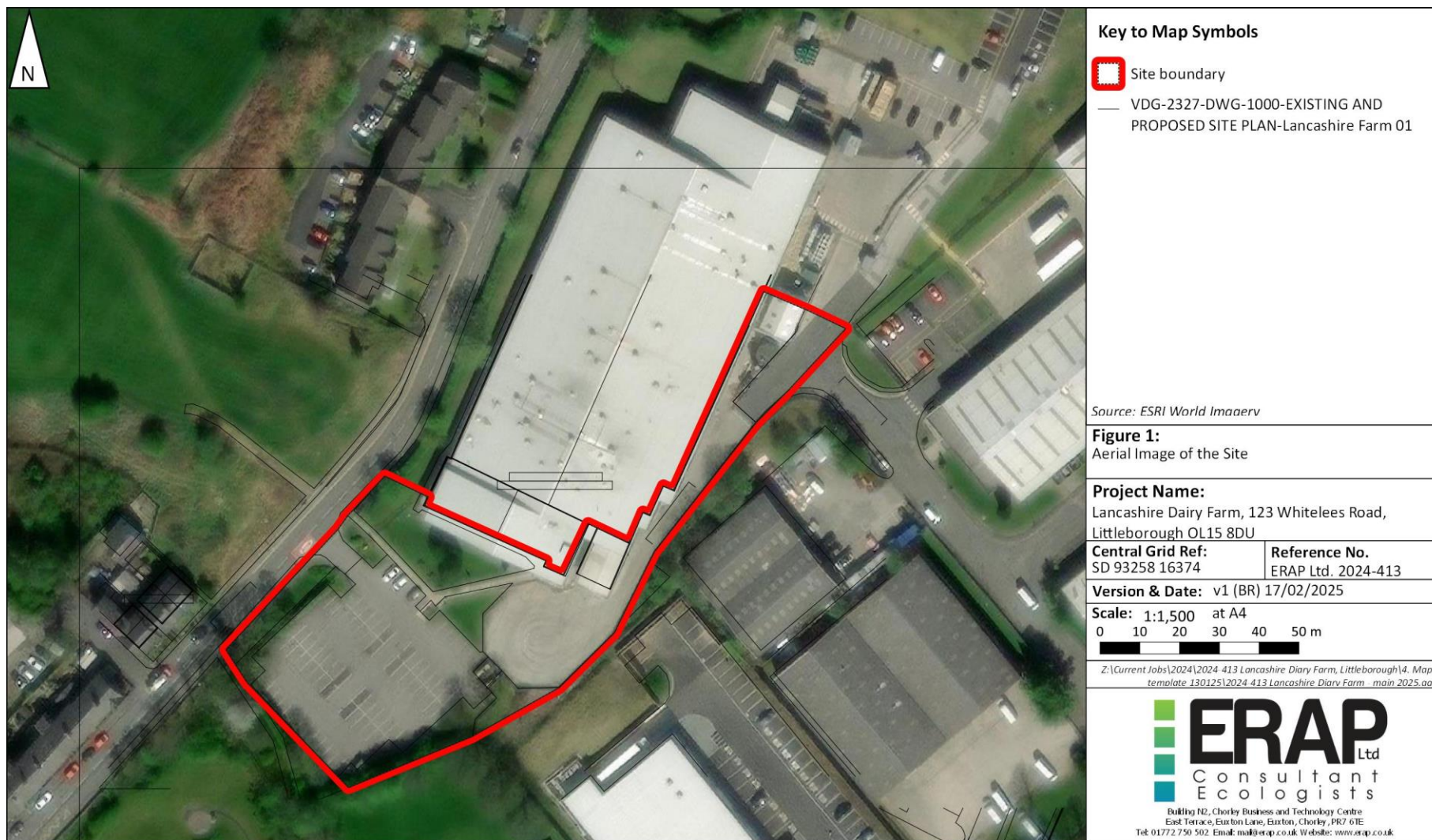
**Table 7.6: Target Condition Assessment for Proposed New Hedgerows**

| Habitat Reference                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | A1 | A2 | B1  | B2  | C1  | C2 | D1  | D2  | E1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | E2             | Total No. of Group Failures | Total No. of Criteria Failures | Condition Assessment Result |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Habitat C: Proposed new hedgerows                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | N/A – no trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | N/A – no trees | 1                           | 3                              | Moderate                    |
| Hedgerows Without Trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | Hedgerows With Trees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                |                             |                                |                             |
| Good: No more than 2 failures in total; AND no more than 1 in any functional group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | Good: No more than 2 failures in total; AND no more than 1 failure in any functional group.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                |                             |                                |                             |
| Moderate: 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 & C2 = Moderate condition).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | Moderate: 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 & E1 = Moderate condition).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                |                             |                                |                             |
| Poor: 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 & B2 = Poor condition).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | Poor: 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 & B2 = Poor condition).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                |                             |                                |                             |
| Condition Assessment Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                |                             |                                |                             |
| <b>A1. Height:</b><br>>1.5m average along length<br>The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.<br>Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of 4 years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).                                                                        |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | <b>A2. Width:</b><br>>1.5m average along length.<br>The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.<br>Outgrowths (e.g. Blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height.<br>Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of 4 years (if undertaken according to good practice)                                                     |                |                             |                                |                             |
| <b>B1. Gap - hedge base.</b><br>Gap between ground and base of canopy is less than 0.5m, for more than 90% of length (unless line of trees).<br>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 (e.g. a Hazel dominated hedgerow or where the hedgerow is affected by shading from other vegetation such as woodland, see page 65 of <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook</i> .                                   |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | <b>B2. Gap - hedge canopy continuity.</b><br>Gaps make up less than 10% of total length and no canopy gaps are greater than 5m. Gates and access points are not subject to the greater than 5m criterion.<br>This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small).<br>Access points and gates contribute to the overall ‘gappiness’, but are not subject to the greater than 5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate). |                |                             |                                |                             |
| <b>C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation.</b><br>More than 1m width ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for more than 90% of the hedgerow length, as measured from outer edge of the hedgerow, and is present on at least 1 side of the hedgerow.<br>This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | <b>C2. Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation.</b><br>Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils do not dominate more than 20% cover of the ground area of undisturbed ground.<br>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, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.                                                                                                       |                |                             |                                |                             |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Condition Assessment Criteria</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p>recognises the value of the hedge 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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>D1. Invasive and neophyte species.</b><br/> More than 90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and recently introduced species.<br/> 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, as well as the BSBI website where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' 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.</p> | <p><b>D2. Current damage.</b><br/> More than 90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damaged caused by human activities.<br/> This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.<br/> This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).</p>                               |
| <p><b>Additional group – ONLY if trees are present</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>E1. Tree Class</b><br/> There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient<sup>8</sup>), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 to 50m of hedgerow. This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>E1. Tree health</b><br/> 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.<br/> This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.</p> |

## 7.3 Figures

**Figure 1: Aerial Image of the Site**



**Figure 2: UKHab Plan of Baseline Habitats**



**Figure 3: UKHab Plan of Proposed Post-intervention Habitats**

