

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

Rochdale Sports Club, Rochdale, Lancashire OL11 5BX

Client:

Rochdale Sports club

Assessment Date:

30th June 2025

Project:

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

The installation of padel courts

BNG assessment methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **BNG Methodology and Legislation – 2025.**

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

Version Control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Georgina Rennie BSc (Hons), MSc; Consultant Ecologist	30/06/2025
Final	1.0	Georgina Rennie BSc (Hons), MSc; Consultant Ecologist	01/06/2025
Amended	2.0	Georgina Rennie BSc (Hons), MSc; Consultant Ecologist	13/08/2025
Amended	3.0	Georgina Rennie BSc (Hons), MSc; Consultant Ecologist	01/09/2025
Amended	4.0	Georgina Rennie BSc (Hons), MSc. Consultant Ecologist	04/09/2025

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Site Location and Context

A baseline habitat map is provided in **Appendix 1**, a post development habitat map in **Appendix 2**, a proposed development plan in **Appendix 3**, headline BNG results in **Appendix 4**, and condition assessments in **Appendix 5**.

The site is centred at National Grid Reference SD 88622 13307 and has an area of approximately 0.24669 ha. The site comprises of managed modified grassland, bramble scrub and woodland. It is situated within the built-up urban town of Rochdale which comprises urban infrastructure and development including commercial buildings, residential settlements and scattered woodland and green spaces. The site makes up part of Rochdale Sports club which comprises grassland and woodland pockets which extend north and west to other areas of woodland within the local landscape This linear feature likely enhances the site by providing opportunities for dispersal foraging and refuge for bats, birds, badgers amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs etc.

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

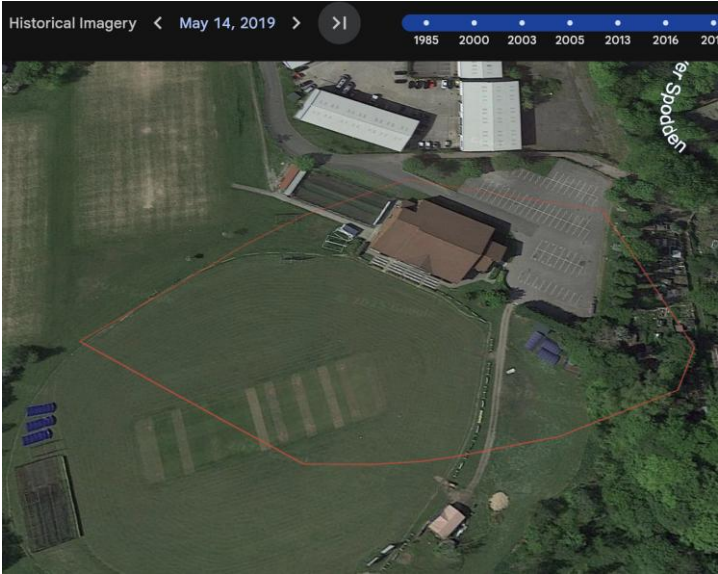
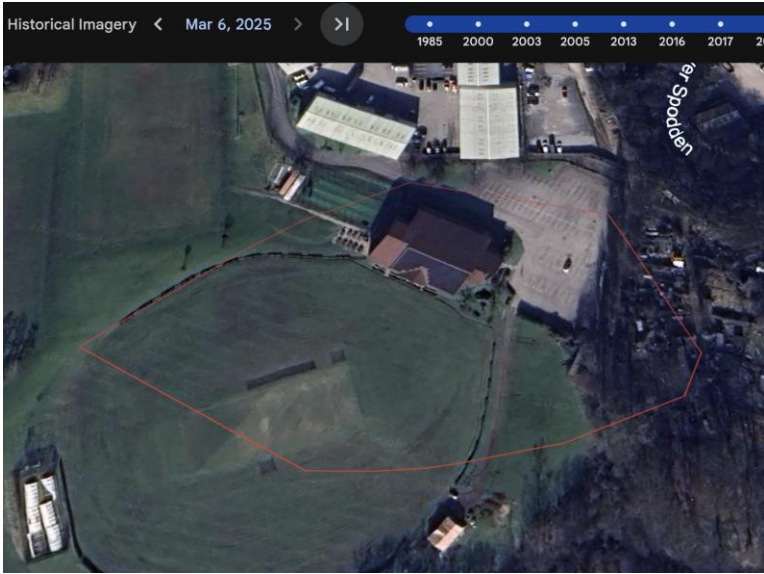
- ❖ Statutory BNG Metric – Rochdale sports club, OL11 5BX – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)
- ❖ Proposed Plan (06, 2025)
- ❖ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) - Rochdale sports club, OL11 5BX – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)
- ❖ Tree Survey Report - Rochdale sports club, OL11 5BX – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)

Executive Summary

The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+10.11%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (+18.04%). As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units.

All trading conditions have been satisfied.

Introduction

BNG Informative		
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations	30 th of June 2025
	The baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from the site as observed during the PEA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025). As evident in the screenshots of satellite imagery obtained from GoogleEarth dated 14 th March 2019 and 6 th March 2025, the site does not appear to have undergone any degradation. The habitats on site, and therefore biodiversity value of the site, is not considered to have undergone degradation since 30th January 2020.	
	 	
	Irreplaceable Habitat Statement	No irreplaceable habitats as listed under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations (2024) are currently present nor were present before 30 th January 2020.
Metric Version & Publication Date	Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool first published 29 th November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 23 rd July 2024.	
BNG Target Uplift	+10%	

National Character Area (NCA)	54 - Manchester Pennine Fringe
Strategic Significance	The Rochdale Borough Council follows the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Though this has not been published, a draft with all the necessary information has been published. T This was used to infer about habitat strategic significance.
Limitations	
There were no specific limitations to the assessment.	

Baseline

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Area-Based Habitats (A-1)				
Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Modified Grassland	0.19437	managed modified grassland of a short sward height measuring <10cm uniformly. There is a section to the south that has been left unmanaged with a sward height of ~60cm. Evidence of damage or bare ground was absent. Species present include annual meadowgrass <i>Poa annua</i> (D), crested dogs tail <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> (D), creeping bent <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> (D), ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (A), common daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i> (A), creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> (A), Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> (F), common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> (F), white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> (F), creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> (F), broad leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> (F), bush vetch <i>Vicia sepium</i> (O), herb Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i> (O), ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> (O), hairy buttercup <i>Ranunculus sardous</i> (R), common groundsel <i>Senecio vulgaris</i> (R), coltsfoot <i>Tussilago farfara</i> (R).	Poor: passes 6 of 7 criteria excluding essential criterion A. Assessed using the 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Medium Strategic Significance
Other broadleaved woodland	0.01992 onsite 0.165 offsite	To the southeastern site boundary there is a parcel of other broadleaved woodland which connects to the deciduous woodland adjacent to the site to the east (Fig.4). The site boundary covers a small parcel of the woodland. Species present include silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> (D), ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (D), oak <i>Quercus robur</i> (F), goat willow <i>Salix caprea</i> (F), guelder rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i> (R). There is a shrubby understory present that is a continuation of the bramble scrub.	Moderate: score of 29 out of 39 Assessed using the 'Woodland' habitat type condition sheet	High Strategic Significance
Bramble scrub	0.0269	The vegetation is dense and comprises of bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (D), common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> (A), cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> (F), creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> (O).	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	High Strategic Significance
Developed land; sealed surface - building	0.0055	Areas of hard standing and one building is present on site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Urban/rural tree	0.2963	T.09 – a dead elm tree of with a trunk diameter of 180 mm	Moderate: passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'individual trees' condition sheet.	High Strategic Significance

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Linear-Based Habitats (B-1)				
Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Non-native ornamental hedgerow	0.0200772 km	To the north of the site is an ornamental hedgerow comprising of Lawsons cypress with an abundance of bramble and nettles.	Poor. Automatic condition.	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (A-1)	Modified grassland	0.01186	Small areas around the created hardstanding will be retained.	Poor: passes 6 of 7 criteria excluding essential criterion A. Assessed using the 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Medium Strategic Significance
	Other broadleaved woodland	0.00077	Small area on the southern side of the created hardstanding will be retained	Moderate: score of 29 out of 39 Assessed using the 'Woodland' habitat type condition sheet	High Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Developed land; sealed surface - buildings	0.01526	New building, Cafeteria, and changing rooms	N/A	Low Strategic Significance
	Developed land; sealed surface – hardstanding	0.09338	Hard standing around the building and the padel courts	N/A	Low Strategic Significance
	Artificial unsealed surface – paddle courts	0.1192	New padel courts	N/A	Low Strategic Significance
	Mixed scrub	0.011	New mixed scrub to be created through planting of native shrub species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, hazel, and guelder rose.	Moderate: Passes 4 of 5 criteria. Assessed using the 'scrub' condition sheet.	High Strategic Significance
	Individual trees	0.0651	A total of 16 trees are to be planted. These will be oversailing areas of developed land, condition is assumed to be poor. It is recommended these trees be of native origin.	Poor: Passes 2 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'individual trees' condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance

Enhanced (A-3)	Mixed scrub	0.00514	To enhance bramble-dominated scrub to a mixed scrub in good condition, management should focus on increasing structural and species diversity. This can be achieved by selective thinning of dense bramble patches to create open areas for the natural regeneration or planting of native shrub species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, dog rose, hazel, and guelder rose.	Good: <i>Passes 5 of 5 criteria.</i> <i>Assessed using the 'scrub' condition sheet.</i>	High Strategic Significance
Enhanced offsite (D-3)	Other broad leaf woodland	0.165	The enhanced other broadleaved woodland is in moderate condition, with improvements needed to fully achieve good status. Ground flora diversity is limited and does not yet strongly reflect an ancient woodland plant community; targeted actions should aim to increase the presence of ancient woodland indicator species such as bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), wood anemone (<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>), dog's mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>), and primrose (<i>Primula vulgaris</i>). This can be supported by selective thinning to increase light penetration, controlling competitive species, and minimising trampling. Creating and retaining a greater volume of deadwood—both standing and fallen—will enhance habitat complexity, benefiting fungi, invertebrates, and woodland specialists. Reducing nutrient enrichment, for example by preventing runoff from adjacent land and minimising soil disturbance, will help ground flora recover and favour less competitive, specialist species. Together, these measures will promote a richer, more structurally diverse woodland community capable of meeting good condition criteria.	Good: score of 33 out of 39 Assessed using the 'Woodland' habitat type condition sheet	High Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site					
Linear-Based Habitats					
	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (B-2)	Native hedgerow	0.00708	New native hedgerow is to be planted.	Moderate .	High Strategic Significance

Change of Biodiversity Value

	Biodiversity Units		
	Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
Baseline	0.83	0.02	N/A
Post-Development	0.38	0.03	N/A
Net Change	-0.45	+0.01	N/A
Offsite Baseline	1.52	N/A	N/A
Offsite Post-Development	2.05	N/A	N/A
Net Change	+0.53	N/A	N/A
Overall Net Change	+10.11%	18.04%	N/A

Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

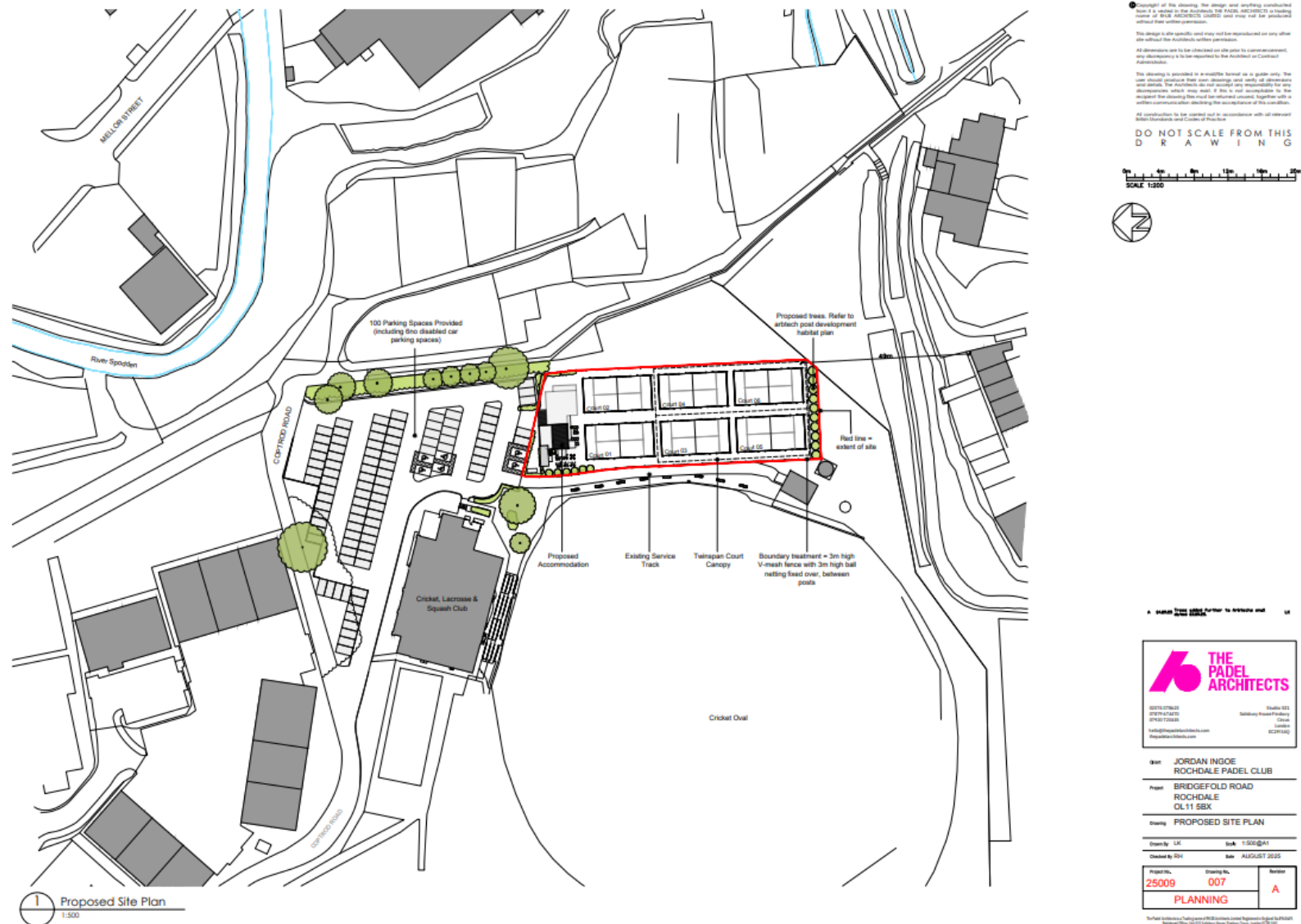
BNG Informative	
Results	The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+10.11%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (+18.04%). As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units. All trading conditions have been satisfied.
Pre-Commencement	A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.
BNG Mitigation Hierarchy	
Avoidance	Woodland offsite retained and enhanced
Minimisation	Scrub to be retained and enhanced
Mitigation	Planting of 16 trees
Offset	N/A

Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan





Appendix 4: Headline BNG Results

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.08
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	10.11%
	Hedgerow units	18.04%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Habitat units	10.00%	0.83	0.91	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.02	0.03	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Grasslands

Modified Grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria:		Condition passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A	There must be 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² , including at least 2 forbs. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	N	Fewer than 6 vascular plant species per m ² .
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Y	Regularly mown, uniform sward height present.
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	No scattered scrub present (less than 20% coverage).
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Y	Physical damage present in less than 5% of total grassland area.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y	Bare ground cover between 1% and 10%.
F	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	No bracken observed (less than 20% coverage).
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	Absence of invasive species.
Essential criterion achieved (Y/N)			N
Number of criteria passed			5
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓	
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 of criteria but failing criterion A	Poor (1)	✓	

Woodland

All Woodland Types EXCEPT Felled Woodland (fixed at good) and Wood-Pasture and Parkland; assessed using 'Woodland' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	2	Two age classes present.
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3	No evidence of significant browsing present in woodland.
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species >10% cover.	3	Absence of invasive species
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	3	5 native tree species present
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	3	Canopy and understorey both comprise >80% native species.
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted.	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category.	3	Woodland is less than 10ha; woodland clearing estimated to be <10%.
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	2	two classes present in woodland.

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
H	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	3	Tree mortality less than 10%
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	1	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community present.
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	2	Two storeys present.
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	1	No veteran trees are present in woodland.
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	2	25%-50% of woodland contains deadwood.
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	1	
Total Score (out of a possible 39)					29	
Condition Assessment Result				Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)				Good (3)		Moderate
Total score 26 to 32				Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)				Poor (1)		

Urban/Rural Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)	Notes/Justification
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	N	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Y	
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N	
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	
Number of criteria passed			2
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓	
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	Poor (1)		

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Individual Trees

Urban/Rural Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)					
		T01 S	T02 S	T03 S	T05 S	T06 S	T07 S
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	N	N	N	N	N
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N	N	N	N	N	N
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	N	N	N	N	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	N	N	N	N	N	N
Number of criteria passed		2	2	2	2	2	2

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓	
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	Poor (1)	✓	

Grasslands

Modified Grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria:		Condition passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A	There must be 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² , including at least 2 forbs. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	N	Fewer than 6 vascular plant species per m ² .
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Y	Regularly mown, uniform sward height present.
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	No scattered scrub present (less than 20% coverage).
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Y	Physical damage present in less than 5% of total grassland area.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y	Bare ground cover between 1% and 10%.
F	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	No bracken observed (less than 20% coverage).
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	Absence of invasive species.
Essential criterion achieved (Y/N)			N
Number of criteria passed			5
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓	
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		

Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 of criteria but failing criterion A	Poor (1)	✓	

Woodland

All Woodland Types EXCEPT Felled Woodland (fixed at good) and Wood-Pasture and Parkland; assessed using 'Woodland' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	2	Two age classes present.
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3	No evidence of significant browsing present in woodland.
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species >10% cover.	3	Absence of invasive species
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	3	5 native tree species present
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	3	Canopy and understorey both comprise >80% native species.
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted.	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category.	3	Woodland is less than 10ha; woodland clearing estimated to be <10%.

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	2	two classes present in woodland.
H	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	3	Tree mortality less than 10%
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	1	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community present.
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	2	Two storeys present.
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	1	No veteran trees are present in woodland.
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	2	25%-50% of woodland contains deadwood.
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	1	
Total Score (out of a possible 39)					29	

Condition Assessment Criteria					
Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
Condition Assessment Result			Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)			Good (3)		Moderate
Total score 26 to 32			Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)			Poor (1)		

Woodland

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	2	Two age classes present.
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3	No evidence of significant browsing present in woodland.
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species >10% cover.	3	Absence of invasive species
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	3	5 native tree species present
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	3	Canopy and understorey both comprise >80% native species.
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space: Unless woodland is <10ha, in	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. But if woodland <10ha has	3	Woodland is less than 10ha; woodland clearing estimated to be <10%.

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
		which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted.		<10% temporary open space, please see Good category.		
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	2	two classes present in woodland.
H	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	3	Tree mortality less than 10%
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	3	To be improved
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	2	Two storeys present.
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	1	No veteran trees are present in woodland.
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	3	Improved
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	2	To be improved

Condition Assessment Criteria					
Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
Total Score (out of a possible 39)				33	
Condition Assessment Result			Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)			Good (3)		Moderate
Total score 26 to 32			Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)			Poor (1)		

Scrub

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type.		Y	Proposed species closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type (mixed scrub), with at least 80% native scrubs, three native woody species, and no dominant species.
At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species, with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).		Y	Management anticipated to maintain a balance of all age classes.
Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.		Y	Management anticipated to remove non-native invasive species.
There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.		Y	Management anticipated to maintain a well-developed edge. Adjacent habitat proposed to be modified grasslands of good condition.
The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.		Y	Scrub to be planted with open areas to create natural openings. Such openings anticipated to be under management.
There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.		Y	
Number of criteria passed			5
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓

Hedgerow

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)	Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	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. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	Y	Hedgerow averages 10m in height.
A2. Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Y	Hedgerow averages 2m in width.

B1. Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	N	Gap between ground and base of canopy is >0.5m for more than 10% of length.
B2. Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall ‘gappiness’, but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Y	No canopy gaps.
C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	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.	N	Not passed
C2. Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	N	High abundance of cleavers in understorey (>20%).

D1. Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives observed.
D2. Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	Y	>90% of hedgerow and understorey is free of damage caused by human activities.