

Lancashire Dairy Farm, 123 Whitelees Road, Littleborough OL15 8DU

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

March 2026

ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd Reference: 2026-037

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Document Control

Survey Type:	Surveyors	Survey Date(s)
UK Habitat Classification Survey (including Condition Assessments of habitats)	Amy Sharples B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. ACIEEM Senior Ecologist	23 rd February 2026
Reporting	Personnel	Date
Author	Amy Sharples B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. CEnv MCIEEM Senior Ecologist	4 th March 2026
Signature(s)		
Checked by	Rebecca Bayley B.Sc. (Hons) Graduate Ecologist	4 th March 2026
Revised and issued by	Amy Sharples	4 th March 2026
Report issued to	Phantom Construction Ltd	
Version Number	1	
Metric Version	Statutory Metric version 1.0.4 of the metric published 3 rd July 2025	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

- 1.1.1 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd was commissioned by Phantom Construction Ltd to carry out an assessment of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) 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 93317 16453.
- 1.1.2 The assessment was requested in connection with a planning application proposing to extend the existing building at the site, which involves the removal of one tree.
- 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 intervention habitats based on the site proposals, 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* (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024)¹ 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**.
- 1.2.2 The total site area is **1.1067 hectares²**.
- 1.2.3 The site supports an existing building with hardstanding and a small area of modified grassland which supports two trees.

1.3 Proposed Development Description

- 1.3.1 The assessment has been requested to inform a planning application for the extension of the existing building at the site. The proposals are presented at *083_PLN_202-Proposed Site Plan* (Define Architects, 2026), 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, 2025). The completed Microsoft Excel spreadsheet assessment is presented as a separate document, named '*ERAP Ltd 2026-037 Lancashire Dairy Farm Statutory Metric 0.4.03.26*', hereafter referred to as the 'BNG Metric'.

¹ Hereafter the NPPF

² 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 to measure the area habitats in hectares to four decimal places (i.e. to a m² 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 An assessment in accordance with the UKHab and condition assessments of the habitats present was carried out by Amy Sharples B.Sc. (Hons) M.Sc. ACIEEM on 23rd February 2026. The weather was overcast with a light air (Beaufort scale 1) and an air temperature of 10°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 *083_PLN_090-Site Location Plan* (Define Architects, 2026) as base plans. The plan has been provided to ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd as a .pdf file, which has been converted to a .dxf, inputted to QGIS and resized to match the ERSI 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 (25m² or 5 metres length) and large scale (400m² or 20m² 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 5m² is appropriate for the classification of habitats.
- 2.1.5 A plan showing the baseline habitats present within the site 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, July 2025) and are appended at **Section 7.2**.

Post Intervention Habitats

- 2.1.7 The post intervention habitats have been calculated using the proposals plan. The plan has been provided to ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd as a .pdf file, which has been converted to a .dxf, inputted to QGIS and resized to match ERSI World Imagery.
- 2.1.8 A plan showing the proposed post intervention habitats is appended at **Figure 3** and target condition assessments for each of the proposed habitats are appended at **Section 7.3**.

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 in winter when plant species may be in a dormant state; 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, 2024) has also been referred to.
- 2.3.4 The size of existing individual trees and the area of the new trees (small size) has been determined using 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.

Strategic Significance

- 2.3.6 The site does not lie within a Local Nature Recovery Strategy area, nor does the site have any statutory or non-statutory designation for nature conservation. For these reasons a strategic significance of 'Area / compensation not in local strategy / no local strategy' has been applied at the BNG Metric for the area habitat units and trees.

Assumptions

- 2.3.7 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 7.3**. Long-term management of the proposed habitats is required to secure the proposed condition.

3.0 BASELINE HABITATS

3.1 Site Description

- 3.1.1 Refer to **Figure 2**. The site supports an existing building and hardstanding with a small area of modified grassland which supports two trees.

3.2 Assessment of Baseline Habitats

- 3.2.1 **Tables 3.1** and **3.2** provide a summary of the habitats present, their condition assessment result and their area within the site. Photographs of the habitats are appended at **Section 7.1**. Condition assessments for each habitat are appended at **Section 7.2**.

Table 3.1: Summary of Baseline Area Habitats within the Site

Habitat Reference	UK Habitat Classification Type	BNG Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Result	Area (ha)
Habitat 1 Amenity grassland	g4 modified grassland with secondary code 200 tree	Grassland - Modified grassland	Low	Poor	0.0100
Habitat 2 Buildings	u1b5 buildings	Urban - Developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A – other	0.6600
Habitat 3 Hardstanding	u1b6 other developed land	Urban - Developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A – other	0.4367
Total:					1.1067

Table 3.2: Summary of Individual Trees within the Site

Habitat Reference	UK Habitat Classification Type	BNG Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Distinctiveness	Condition Assessment Result	Area (ha) ³
Habitat 4 Tree 1	Secondary code 200 tree within an area of g4 modified grassland	Individual trees – urban tree	Medium	Moderate	0.0041
Habitat 5 Tree 2	Secondary code 200 tree within an area of g4 modified grassland	Individual trees – urban tree	Medium	Moderate	0.041
Total:					0.0082

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

³ 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.

4.0 POST INTERVENTION HABITATS

4.1 Consideration of Mitigation Hierarchy and Target Condition Assessments

- 4.1.1 With the exception of the trees, all habitats are either v.low or low distinctiveness. One tree will be retained by the proposals and the loss of one tree will be mitigated for with the planting of three new trees at the site.
- 4.1.2 Condition Assessments for each of the retained, enhanced and proposed habitats as specified on the landscape proposals are presented at **Section 7.3**. 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 0.0540 hectares of Habitat 3: Hardstanding will be developed to facilitate the extension of the existing building. The extension of the existing building will require the removal of Habitat 4: Tree 1.
- 4.2.2 Habitat 1: Amenity grassland will be enhanced from 'poor' condition to 'moderate' condition. Habitat 2: Building and Habitat 5: Tree 2 will be retained.
- 4.2.3 Three new trees will be created within the site to mitigate for the loss of Habitat 4: Tree 1.

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

Habitat Type	BNG Equivalent Habitat	Habitat Distinctiveness	Target Condition	Area (ha)	Sub-totals (ha)
Retained Habitats					
Habitat 2 Buildings	Urban – Developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A – other	0.6600	
Habitat 3 Hardstanding	Urban – Developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A – other	0.3827	1.0427
Enhanced Habitats					
Habitat 1 Amenity grassland	Grassland – Modified grassland	Low	Poor to moderate	0.0100	0.0100
Proposed Habitats					
Habitat A New building	Urban – Developed land; sealed surface	V.low	N/A - other	0.0541	0.0540
				Total	1.1067

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

Habitat Reference	BNG Habitat Equivalent	Habitat Distinctiveness	Target Condition	Area (ha) ⁴	Sub-totals (ha)
Retained Habitats					
Habitat 5 Tree 2	Individual trees – Urban tree	Medium	Moderate	0.0041	0.0041
Proposed Habitats					
Habitat B New trees (3 small trees)	Individual trees – Urban tree	Medium	Moderate	0.0122	0.0122
				Total	0.0163

5.0 HEADLINE RESULTS, EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

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

Table 5.1: Results of Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool

On-site Baseline	Area habitat units	0.09	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site Post Intervention	Area habitat units	0.10	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units % percentage)	Area habitat units	0.02	21.62%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%
Combined Net Unit Change	Area habitat units	0.02	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total Net Unit Change	Area habitat units	0.02	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total Net % Change	Area habitat units	21.62%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	

Trading Rules Satisfied?	Yes
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Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	Comment
Area habitat units	10%	0.09	0.09	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target
Hedgerow units	10%	0.00	0.00	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

⁴ 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.

- 5.2 A net gain for area-based habitats is demonstrated by the BNG Metric provided Habitat 1: Amenity grassland and three new trees can be created.
- 5.3 Note that any habitats managed within the site will be subject to a long-term habitat management plan.

6.0 REFERENCES

- CIEEM, 2016. *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development*, Winchester: CIEEM.
- CIEEM, 2018. *Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*, Winchester: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.
- Define Architects, 2026. *083_PLN_090-Site Location Plan*, Manchester: Define Architects.
- Define Architects, 2026. *083_PLN_202-Proposed Site Plan*, Manchester: Define Architects.
- DEFRA, 2025. *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide*, London: DEFRA.
- GOV.UK, 2024. *The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-biodiversity-gain-requirements-irreplaceable-habitat-regulations-2024>
[Accessed 2026].
- Maddock, A (ed), 2008. *UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Priority Habitat Descriptions*. [Online]
Available at: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5718>
- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2024. *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: H.M.S.O.
- Natural England, 2025. *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool*. [Online]
Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720>
[Accessed 2026].
- Natural England, July 2025. *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology v1.0.2*, Peterborough: Natural England.
- UKHab Ltd, 2023. *The UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0* (at <https://www.ukhab.org>), Stockport: UKHab Ltd.

7.0 APPENDIX: PHOTOGRAPHS, CONDITION ASSESSMENTS AND FIGURES

7.1 Photographs

Table 7.1: Photographs of the Site



Photo 1: Habitat 1: Amenity grassland and Habitat 4: Tree 1



Photo 2: Habitat 1: Amenity grassland and Habitat 4: Tree 1



Photo 3: Habitat 1: Amenity grassland and Habitat 5: Tree 2



Photo 4: Habitat 2: Buildings and Habitat 3: Hardstanding

7.2 Condition Assessments of Baseline Habitats

7.2.1 Condition assessments are not required for Habitat 2: Buildings or Habitat 3: Hardstanding.

Table 7.2: Condition Assessments for Habitat 1: Amenity Grassland

Habitat Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result ¹
Habitat 1: Amenity grassland	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	4	Poor
Good: Passes 6 or 7 criteria including essential criterion A									
Moderate: Passes 4 or 5 criteria including essential criterion A									
Poor: Passes 3 or fewer criteria OR passes 4 to 6 criteria, but failing criterion A									

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. 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. 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. <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>).
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.
C. Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area (some scattered scrub such as Bramble may be present). Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.
D. 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.
E. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens. For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover
F. Cover of Bracken less than 20%.
G. There is an absence of invasive non-native species as listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended). 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

Table 7.3: Condition Assessments for Habitat 4: Tree 1 and Habitat 5: Tree 2

Tree Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	Size Category	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat 4: Tree 1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Small	4	Moderate
Habitat 5: Tree 2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Small	4	Moderate
									Good: Passes 5 or 6 criteria
									Moderate: Passes 3 or 4 criteria
									Poor: Passes 2 or fewer criteria

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species)
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.
C. 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: <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). 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.
D. There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.
E. Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.
F. More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath

7.3 Condition Assessments of Enhanced and Created Habitats

7.3.1 Condition assessment not required for Habitat A: New building.

Table 7.4: Condition Assessments for Enhanced Habitat 1: Amenity Grassland

Habitat Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result ¹
Enhanced Habitat 1: Amenity grassland	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	5	Moderate
Good: Passes 6 or 7 criteria including essential criterion A									
Moderate: Passes 4 or 5 criteria including essential criterion A									
Poor: Passes 3 or fewer criteria OR passes 4 to 6 criteria, but failing criterion A									

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. 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. 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. <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>).
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.
C. Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area (some scattered scrub such as Bramble may be present). Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.
D. 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.
E. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens. For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover
F. Cover of Bracken less than 20%.
G. There is an absence of invasive non-native species as listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended). 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

Table 7.5: Condition Assessments for Habitat B: New Trees

Tree Reference	A	B	C	D	E	F	Size Category	Total No. of Criterion Passed	Condition Assessment Result
Habitat B: New trees	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Small	4	Moderate
									Good: Passes 5 or 6 criteria
									Moderate: Passes 3 or 4 criteria
									Poor: Passes 2 or fewer criteria

Condition Assessment Criteria
A. The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species)
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.
C. 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: <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). 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.
D. There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.
E. Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.
F. More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath

7.4 Figures

Figure 1: Aerial Image of the Site

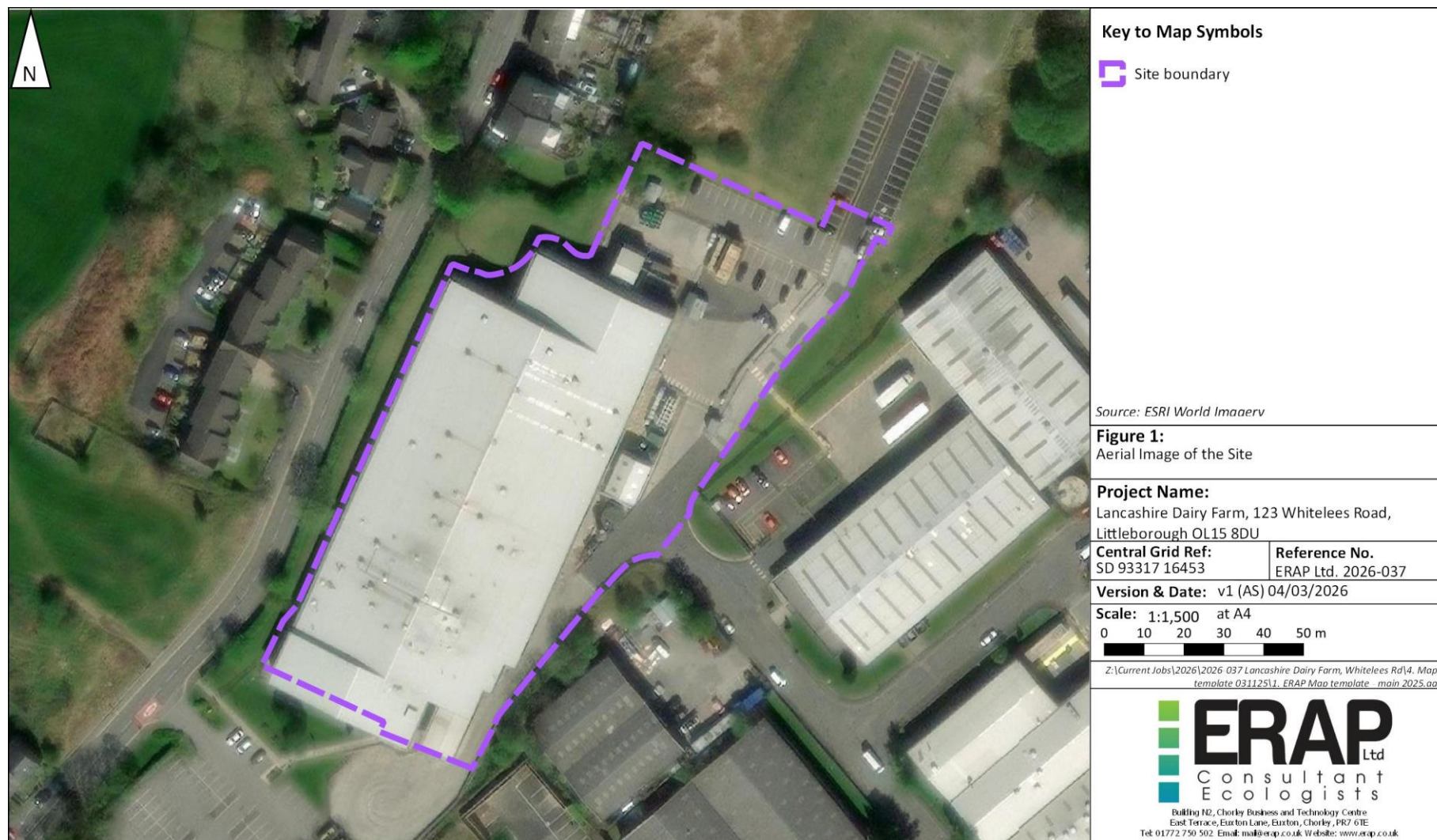


Figure 2: Plan of Baseline Habitats

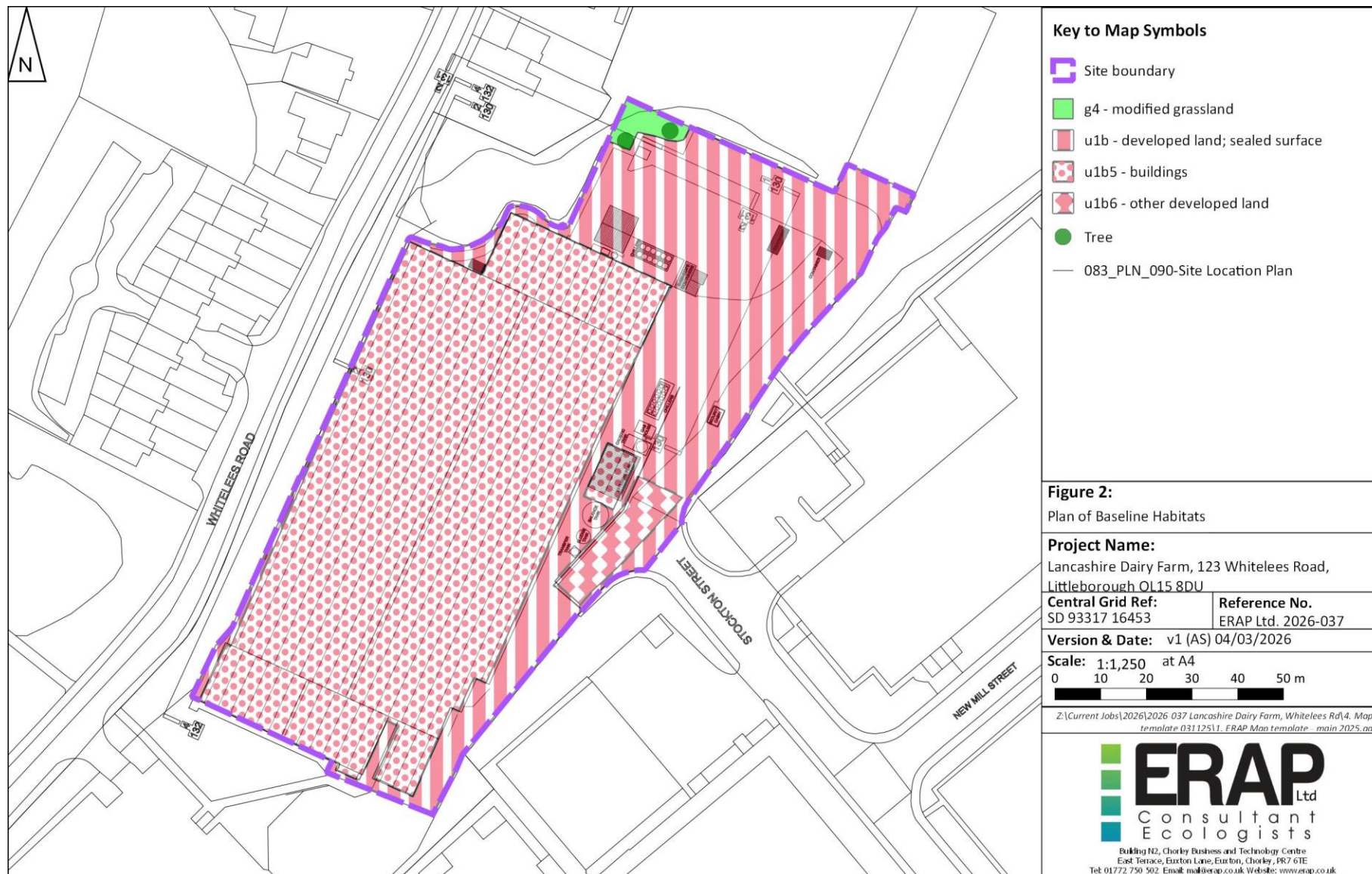


Figure 3: Plan of Proposed Post intervention Habitats

