LC Ecological Services

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN REPORT

LAND AT WOODCROFT FARM
WATERLOOVILLE

APRIL 2024

ON BEHALF OF GRAINGER LTD

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 LC Ecological Services Limited (LCES), was commissioned by Grainger Ltd to undertake Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Metric calculations, which assess habitat losses and gains, resulting from the proposed residential development at Land at Woodcroft Farm (approximate central Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference: SU 681123)

1.2 The baseline habitat surveys were conducted with the UK Habitat Classification assessment methodology (UKHab Ltd. 2023). Condition assessments were undertaken using Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment methodology (2024).

1.3 Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric (2024) was used to determine the habitat and hedgerow units on and off site and ascertain net gain.

1.4 The on-site baseline habitats equate to 49.39 habitat units, and 11.13 hedgerow units.

1.5 The on-site post intervention habitats equate to 35.12 habitat units (at -28.89% net gain (i.e. loss)), and 12.50 hedgerow units (12.32% net gain).

1.6 The net habitat unit change equates to 14.27 habitat units (-28.89% net loss), and 1.37 hedgerow units (12.32% net gain), with all trading rules satisfied.

1.7 A net gain in biodiversity would be achieved through a combination of some on-site provision of habitats and off-site provision. The full details of the method to achieve the 10% net gain would be delivered through the submission of a biodiversity gain plan.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 LC Ecological Services Limited (LCES), was commissioned by Grainger Ltd to undertake Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Metric calculations, which assess habitat losses and gains, resulting from the proposed residential development at Land at Woodcroft Farm (approximate central Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SU 681123). A site location plan has been provided as appendix I.

2.2 The Grainger Ltd proposals include a residential development including the creation of up to 190 residential units. The proposed development will be within the confines of two existing fields measuring approximately 7.1 hectares in size, within an overall red line boundary covering an area of 8.60 hectares.

Site context and location

2.3 The proposed development lies to the north of Portsmouth, in the county of Hampshire. It is 1.6 kilometres from the South Downs National Park, 1.8 kilometres to Catherington Down Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and 4.7 kilometres to Lye Heath Marsh SSSI. To the north of the site lies James Copse and Outlier SINC, comprising Ancient Replanted Woodland. The habitats on site comprise both unmanaged and horse grazed grassland, broadleaved woodland, native hedgerows, and scrub.

Purpose of the report

2.4 The purpose of this report is to outline the following:

- To provide information for the baseline BNG calculations.
- To provide information for the on-site post-development BNG calculations.

3.0 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Chapter 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023) '*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*' sets out the Government's policies on biodiversity, landscape, and geological conservation. Relevant paragraphs within this chapter include:

- **Paragraph 180:** Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:
    - i. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils
    - ii. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.
    - iii. minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; and
    - iv. preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.
- **Paragraph 181:** Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national, and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.
- **Paragraph 185:** To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
    - a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national, and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration, or creation; and
    - b) promote the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- **Paragraph 186:** When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused.

b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons67 and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while 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.

- **Paragraph 187:** The following should be given the same protection as habitats sites:

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation.

b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and

c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

3.2 From 12th February 2024, delivery of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain will be mandatory for most developments, through the Environment Act 2021. Current regulations and guidance have been included here for context (DLUHC, 2023):

- **The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No.8 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024**: Establishes the official start date for the mandatory requirement of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for most types of new planning applications in England. It also outlines transitional provisions to ensure a smooth transition from the existing system to the new BNG requirement.
- **The Biodiversity Net Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024:** Specifies categories of development that are exempt from the BNG

requirement, such as projects deemed to have minimal impact on biodiversity. This regulation aims to ensure that BNG is focused on developments that have a significant impact on the natural environment.

- **The Biodiversity Gain (Town and Country Planning) (Modifications and Amendments) (England) Regulations 2024:** Amends existing planning regulations to incorporate provisions related to BNG, including requirements for planning applications, Biodiversity Gain Plans, and phased developments. This regulation aims to streamline the delivery of BNG and ensure it is effectively integrated into the planning process.

3.3 Schedule 14 of the Environment Act includes a general condition that will be applied to every planning permission requiring BNG that a biodiversity gain plan should be submitted and approved by the planning authority before the commencement of development. The details of how the mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain will be delivered will be set out in the biodiversity gain plan required by this condition.

3.4 Relevant planning policies within the East Hampshire District Council Draft Local Plan 2021-2040 include:

- Policy NBE2: Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation
- Policy NBE3: Biodiversity Net Gain

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Study Area

4.1 The application area is located around Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference SU 681123. The site location plan for the development proposals is shown as appendix I.

Sources of Information

4.2 A baseline botanical assessment was undertaken in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab Ltd, 2023)

4.3 The botanical survey and condition assessment was undertaken in November 2023 by LCES.

4.4 The BNG Metric was completed by David Caplin BSc. (Hons.), MSc. David provides expertise in land management and GIS. He has run training courses for ecologists in the use of GIS in conservation. He has gained experience in BNG in the last year, and is developing further experience with BNG, including new workflows and data accountability.

4.5 The following guidance was used:

- The UK Habitat Classification v2.0 (UKHab Ltd, 2023). Originally The UK Habitat Classification v1.1 (Butcher *et al*. 2020).
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan, Priority Habitat Descriptions (JNCC, 2018)
- The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. User Guide (Defra, 2024)
- The Statutory Biodiversity Metric -Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (Defra, 2024)

4.6 Habitats recorded on site were transposed into a digital map using QGIS (British National Grid EPSG 27700).

4.7 Habitats recorded on site were measured using the derived areas (Ellisoidial – EPSG 7001) and habitat areas are provided in hectares. Linear features were measured using the derived length (Ellisoidial – EPSG 7001) and the measurements provided in kilometres.

Limitations

4.8 Whilst every effort was made to record all vascular plant species present, it is inevitable that some species will have been overlooked, especially in areas of dense impenetrable vegetation. However, the number of missed species will have been reduced considerably by undertaking multiple surveys in summer and autumn.

4.9 The condition assessment was undertaken based on the results of the botanical surveys. The condition can only be determined on the day of the survey. Some of the criteria associated with the condition of the habitats could change such as sward height, physical damage, bare ground, and cover of undesirable species and thus impacting the overall score if assessed at a different time of the year.

4.10 The condition assessment was conducted at a less than favourable time of the year, but every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the condition assessment by cross referencing the condition assessment with the field notes taken at other times of the year.

4.11 The condition assessment sheets were completed using the version 4.0 which was the latest at the time of the survey. Since then, the statutory metric has been released. It is therefore recommended that the condition assessment is reassessed in the spring using the latest condition assessment sheets.

4.12 Whilst every effort has been made to accurately map the habitats on site there may be discrepancies associated with the projected coordinate reference system. However, the National Grid transformation is the most accurate with an accuracy level of less than 1 metre.

4.13 Minor assumptions have been made regarding the species composition of the proposed habitats as a proposed planting specification was not released at the time of writing this report. The habitats and conditions presented in the proposed/enhanced calculations represent what was assessed to be realistic and attainable.

5.0 BASELINE

5.1 A habitat map is provided as appendix III, whilst the habitat descriptions and species list are provided within the supporting Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) (LCES, 2024).

5.2 On-site baseline habitats have been identified and classified using UKHabs Version 2.0 (2023), and using GIS, the areas and lengths have been calculated. The metric automatically assigned a distinctiveness score based on the habitat recorded, whilst the condition assessment was made during the baseline survey and results provided in appendix IV. Table 1 details the results of the on-site baseline habitats.

Table 1: On-site baseline results for the Statutory Biodiversity Metric

Broad Habitat Type	Area/ Length	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.03ha	V.Low	N/A - Other	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Developed land; sealed surface	0.71ha	V.Low	N/A - Other	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy
Tall forbs	0.05ha	Low	Poor	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy
Bramble scrub	0.05ha	Medium	Condition Assessment N/A	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy
Mixed scrub	0.29ha	Medium	Good	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy
Other woodland; broadleaved	0.19ha	Medium	Moderate	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.69ha	High	Moderate	Formally identified in local strategy
Other neutral grassland	6.59ha	Medium	Poor	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy
Rural tree	0.382269 equiv. ha	Medium	Good	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.284km	Medium	Moderate	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy
Native hedgerow	0.174km	Low	Moderate	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy

Broad Habitat Type	Area/ Length	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance
Species rich native hedgerow with trees	0.170km	High	Good	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy
Species rich native hedgerow with trees	0.341km	High	Moderate	Location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy

5.3 The strategic significance is based on the habitats location and how it connects at a landscape scale. The strategic significance will be high if the habitat is identified within local plans, strategies or polices.

5.4 The on-site baseline habitats equate to 49.39 habitat units, and 11.13 hedgerow units, with no (zero) watercourse units.

5.5 A copy of the metric is provided alongside this document.

6.0 BNG Good Practice for Principles for Development

6.1 As part of the BNG process there are ten good practice principles that help to achieve BNG if they are followed. Each principle is described below and how the project has addressed each principle.

Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy

6.2 The design of the development has evolved over time and has tried to utilise the mitigation hierarchy by avoidance to any adverse impacts on habitats and species on site. The development has been designed to avoid impacts to trees and hedgerows where possible by using existing farm access tracks into the fields, however the development will result in the minor loss of small sections of hedgerows. The loss of hedgerow has been compensated by planting new species-rich hedgerows as well as the replanting of gaps in existing hedgerows on site.

6.3 Species which have been recorded on site have been included within the embedded mitigation where the development has accommodated suitable buffer zones around sensitive features.

6.4 The development has not resulted in any adverse impacts by following the mitigation hierarchy.

Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere

6.5 Habitats which are considered ‘irreplaceable’ are those which would be technically difficult to recreate, replace, or restore once destroyed. Habitats such as ancient woodland and veteran trees are considered irreplaceable due to the time it takes to reach such condition. Irreplaceable habitat includes factors which contribute to the condition of that habitat including age, environmental context, achievability to recreate and its geographical position within the landscape.

6.6 The site support hedgerows which are habitats of principal importance and includes the retention of mature trees and hedgerows within its design.

Be inclusive and equitable

6.7 Several design options have been discussed and shared with the design team to demonstrate how the project has evolved ensuring embedded mitigation has been included as part of the design to achieve a better outcome for BNG.

Address risks

6.8 All habitats have been calculated within the red line boundary, including habitats within the development footprint. No additional land for the construction phase and site compounds has been included within the calculator.

6.9 Habitats to be retained on site will be protected via the implementation of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

6.10 Habitats to be created will be done so by appointed contractors who have experience in habitat creation, with the guidance of the appointed ecologist.

Make a measurable Net Gain contribution

6.11 The proposed development has been measured against The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The development has reduced its overall impact throughout the design of the scheme and has identified the need to deliver a net gain in biodiversity through off-site mitigation.

6.12 The site, is currently managed for agricultural practices, and therefore through the proposed development, the habitats will be managed for biodiversity and will directly contribute towards nature conservation.

Achieving the best outcomes for biodiversity

6.13 The habitats on site include hedgerows and grassland field margins which are important habitats supporting foraging and commuting badger, and bats. The majority of these habitats are to be retained and enhanced where practicable to enhance their biodiversity value.

Be additional

6.14 The full details of off-site enhancements will be set out in the biodiversity gain plan. The provision of this plan will be required through a condition applied to the outline application.

6.15 As well as habitats being enhanced and created, measures including bat and bird boxes will be included. These however are not measurable as part of the BNG metric.

Create a Net Gain legacy

6.16 The development will generate long-term benefits for biodiversity on site, via the guaranteed management of the site. The management will be adaptative following regular monitoring to ensure the habitats reach the required conditions.

Optimise sustainability

6.17 The landscaping plan for the development aims to be as sustainable as possible, maximising retention of existing habitats, and minimising disturbance to wildlife.

Be transparent

6.18 Through the progression of the development the design team and client have all been made aware of the communications and outcomes of the BNG.

7.0 POST-DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

7.1 The proposals will involve the construction of two residential developments, one in each of the southern fields, along with supporting infrastructure, including access roads and recreation areas. Refer to Site proposals, appendix II.

7.2 The proposals aim to minimise the loss of biodiversity and achieve the best result in terms of Biodiversity Net Gain through the application of the mitigation hierarchy.

Baseline habitat loss

7.3 All loss is assumed to be permanent, any impacts from the construction phase that are located outside of the development footprint are assumed to be temporary and are not included within this calculation.

7.4 The proposals will result in the on-site loss of the following habitats:

- 0.01 hectares of bramble scrub
- 0.05 hectares of tall forbs
- 0.01 hectares of mixed scrub
- 4.33 hectares of other neutral grassland
- Approximately 0.01 kilometres line of trees
- Approximately 0.01 kilometres of native hedgerow
- Approximately 0.01 kilometres of Species rich native hedgerow with trees

7.5 The combined area of loss is 4.41 hectares. There is no off-site loss.

Proposed on-site habitat creation and enhancement.

7.6 The goal of the habitat creation on-site is to increase the condition, distinctiveness, and area of the post development habitats to ensure a net gain in biodiversity units. Where this is not possible, off-site mitigation will be used to offset any loss of habitat from the development.

7.7 Proposals for new habitat creation on-site include the following:

- 1.47 hectares of developed land; sealed surface (roads)
- 0.99 hectares of developed land; sealed surface (Houses and driveways)
- 1.8 hectares of vegetated garden
- 0.11 hectares of sustainable drainage system (SuDS)
- 0.05 hectares of other neutral grassland over area previously recorded as tall forbs.
- 100 individual small urban trees

7.8 Proposals for enhancement of existing on-site habitats include the enhancement of 0.161 kilometres of Native hedgerow up to good condition to off-set the loss of hedgerow arising from the proposals.

7.9 Overall there would be an on-site net loss of **-14.27** habitat units **(-28.89%)**, and a net gain of **+1.37** hedgerow units **(+12.32%)**.

Off-site habitat creation and enhancement.

7.10 To offset the potential negative impacts and habitat loss arising from the proposed development, off-site habitat enhancement will be used. The exact details of the off-site enhancement has not been confirmed at this stage. Options to use land comprising other neutral grassland in poor condition immediately north of the site have been considered as have options to purchase off-site habitat units via a third-party. A mix of these two options could also provide a net gain.

Headline Results

7.11 Figure 1 highlights the on-site results as a result of the proposals, demonstrating a -28.89% loss in habitat units, and a 12.32% gain in hedgerow units.

Figure 1: On-site headline results

On-site baseline	*Habitat units*	**49.39**	
	Hedgerow units	**11.13**	
	Watercourse units	**0.00**	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	**35.12**	
	Hedgerow units	**12.50**	
	Watercourse units	**0.00**	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	*Habitat units*	**-14.27**	**-28.89%**
	Hedgerow units	**1.37**	**12.32%**
	Watercourse units	**0.00**	**0.00%**

7.12 Figure 2 highlights the 12.32% net gain in hedgerow units delivered by the proposals. The figure also shows that without off-site mitigation the scheme would not achieve a 10% net gain in habitat units. A total of 19.21 habitat units are required to mitigate losses and provide 10% net gain. To satisfy the trading rules the habitat units would need to be mainly a medium or high distinctiveness grassland alongside some areas of scrub. This would be required to ensure all

trading rules have been satisfied, and there is over 10% net gain in both habitat units, and hedgerow units.

Figure 2: Overall headline result

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	-14.27	
	Hedgerow units	1.37	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	-28.89%	Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲
	Hedgerow units	12.32%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲		

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Habitat units	10.00%	49.39	54.33	19.21	
Hedgerow units	10.00%	11.13	12.25	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 ✓

7.13 The full details of how the scheme will met the requirements to deliver 10% biodiversity net gain will be set out in the biodiversity gain plan. The requirement for this document to be produced and approved by the Council prior to commencement of development will be secured by condition.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 Based on the current scheme, without additional off-site habitat enhancement, the residential development at Land at Woodcroft Farm would result in a loss of 28.89% (measured in habitat units) and a 12.32% net gain in hedgerow units.

8.2 To ensure the development achieves the mandatory requirement to deliver a 10% net gain further off-site mitigation will be required. At the present time options to provide the off-site mitigation require include the use of land immediately north of the application site and/or through the purchase of habitat units via on off-site provider. The final details of the mitigation will be set out in the biodiversity gain plan.

9.0 REFERENCES

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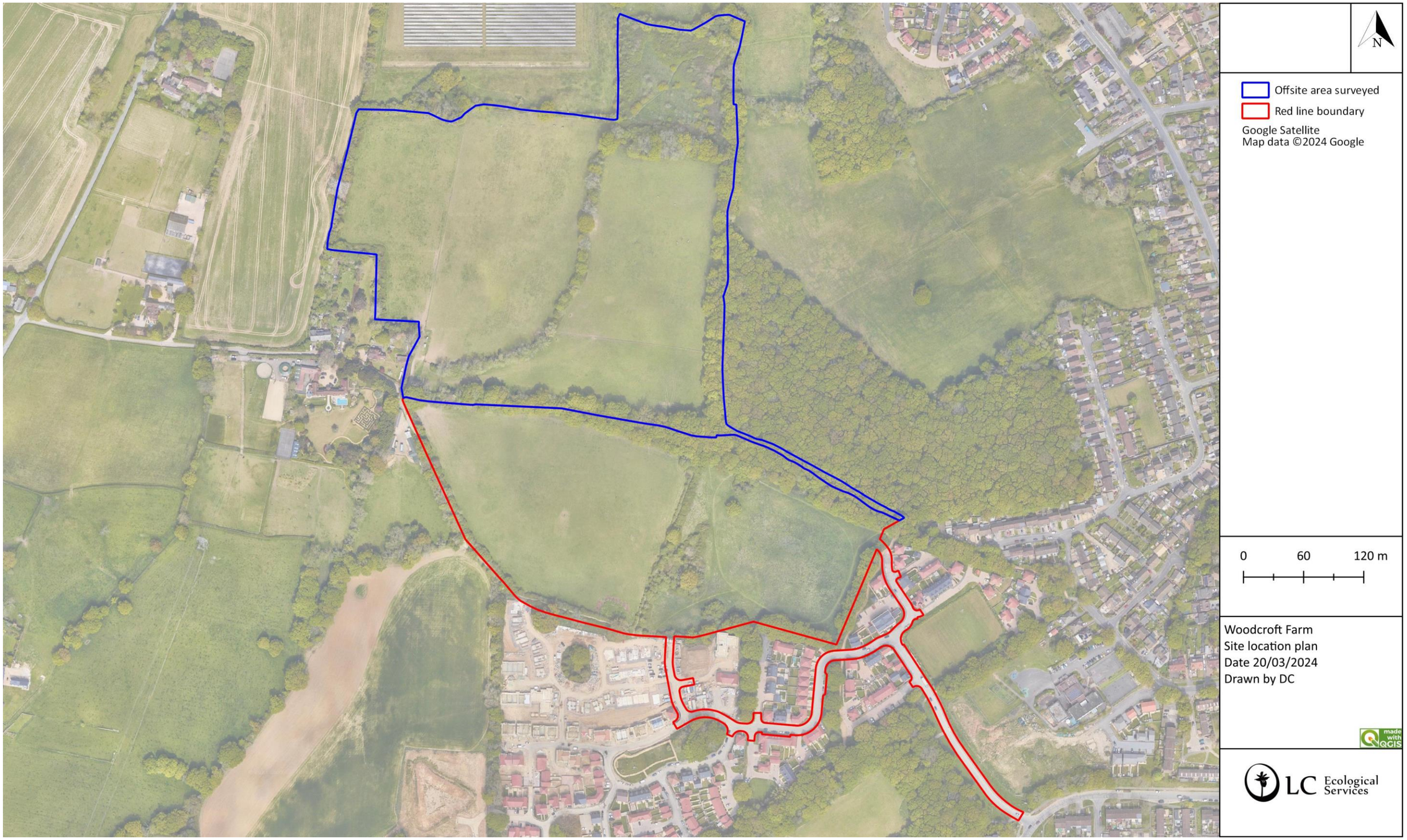
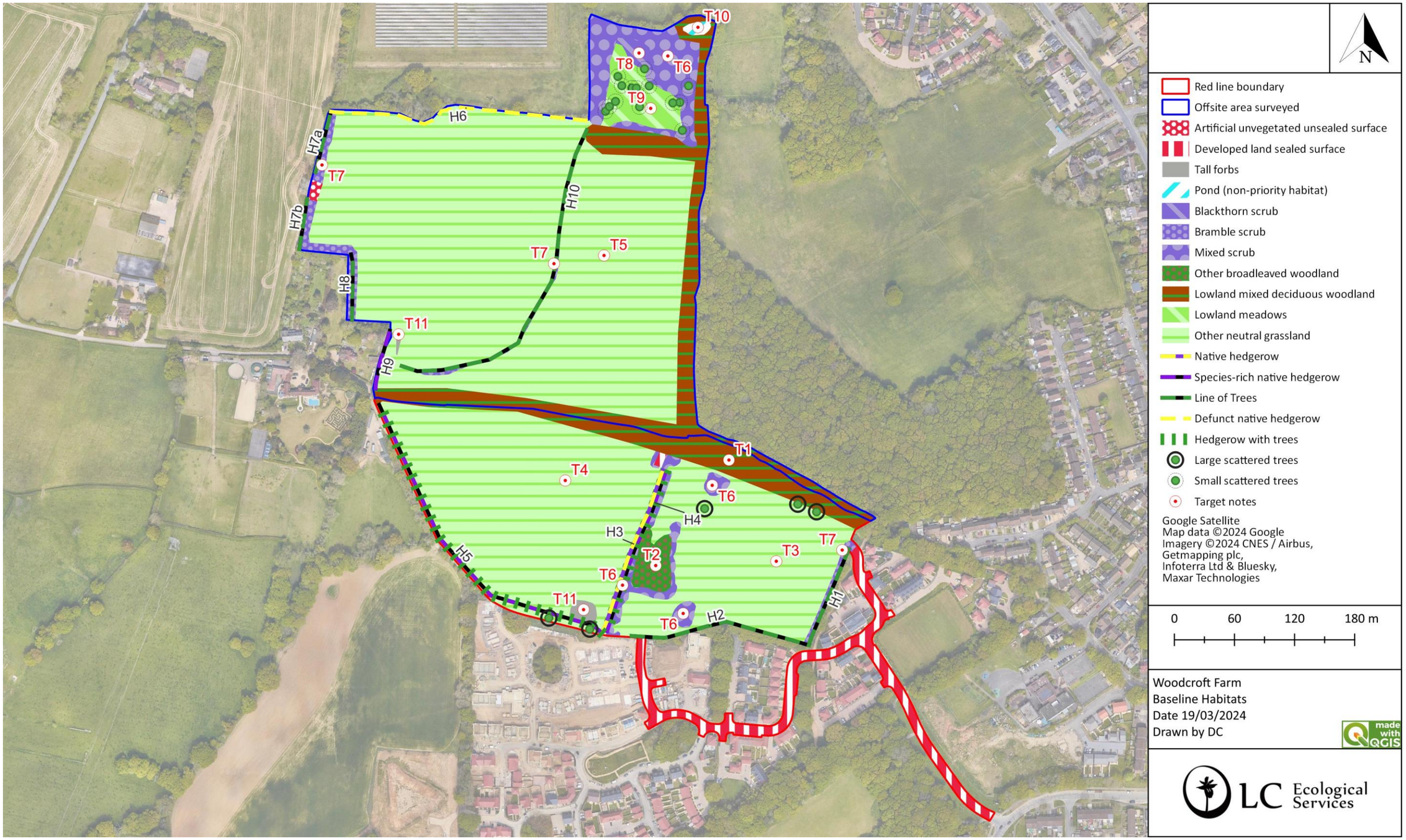
APPENDIX I: Site boundary



APPENDIX II: Site proposals

APPENDIX III: Existing habitat map



APPENDIX IV: Condition assessments

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

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)

Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland
Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland
Grassland - Lowland meadows
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland
Grassland - Other neutral grassland
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Note Tall herb habitat that does not meet the Annex 1 definition should be recorded as 'Other neutral grassland'] [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.]
Grassland - Upland acid grassland
Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland
Grassland - Upland hay meadows
Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland

Habitat Description

T3 - 1 x field Other neutral grassland (unmanaged, tussocky in places) T4 1 x field Other neutral grassland (horse grazed) T5 2 x fields Other neutral grassland (both horse grazed). T9 - Lowland meadow succeeding to scub, tussocky, unmanaged.

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

Site name and location	WOODCROFT	**On-site or off-site**	On site									
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)	Inappropriate time of the year for survey	**Habitat parcel reference**										
		T3	T4	T5	T9 - Lowland meadow							
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Grid reference**										
		SU682122	SU680122	SU681125	SU 68180 12686							

		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										**Notes (such as justification)**
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	N	N	N	N							
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	N	N	Y							
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[1].	Y	Y	Y	Y							
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	N	Y	N	N							
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition[2] and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types												
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m^2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	N	N	N	N							
	Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)	N	N	N	N							

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

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Habitat management of Lowland meadow (SNCI) is essential

Notes

Footnote 1 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.

Footnote 2 - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

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

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type

Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub
Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)
Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub

Habitat Description

T6 - 4 parcels of Mixed scrub (all equivalent condition). SU 68214 12197, SU 68229 12174, SU 68259 12297, SU 68220 12734 T7 - Blackthorn scrub within SNCI

For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:	Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)											
For other scrub types see:	ukhab – UK Habitat Classification											
Site name and location	WOODCROFT	**On-site or off-site**	On site									
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)	Inappropriate time of the year for survey	**Habitat parcel reference**										
		T6 - Mixed	T8 - Blackthorn									
		Grid reference										
		See description	SU681127									
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**										**Notes (such as justification)**
A	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. At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species[1], with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	Y	Y									
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran[2]) shrubs are all present.	Y	N									
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition[5] make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y	Y									
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Y	Y									
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Y	N									
	Number of criteria passed	5	3									

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/□**									
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	Y									
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		Y								
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)										

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)

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

Habitat Description

T1 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland. (All woodland connected) T2 - Other woodland; broadleaved - Small scrubby woodland within field

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here:

Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)

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

Site name and location	WOODCROFT	**On-site or off-site**	On site	**Habitat parcel reference**										
				T1	T2									
Limitations (if applicable)	Inappropriate time of the year for survey	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**		**Grid reference**										
				SU68 2123	SU 68202 12216									

Condition Assessment Criteria

	Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator										Notes (such as justification)
A	**Age distribution of trees**	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	3	3									
B	**Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage**	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	3	3									
C	**Invasive plant species**	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] >10% cover.	3	3									
D	**Number of native tree species**	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	3	3									
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species**	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	3	3									
F	**Open space within woodland**	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	3	3									
G	**Woodland regeneration**	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	3	2									

H	**Tree health**	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	3	2									
I	**Vegetation and ground flora**	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	2	1									
J	**Woodland vertical structure**	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	2	2									
K	**Veteran trees**	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	1	1									
L	**Amount of deadwood**	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	1	1									
M	**Woodland disturbance**	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	2	2									
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)	32	29									
Condition Assessment Result			**Condition Assessment Score**		**Result Achieved**										
Total score >32 (33 to 39)			Good (3)												
Total score 26 to 32			Moderate (2)		Y	Y									
Total score <26 (13 to 25)			Poor (1)												
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score															

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type

Habitat Type(s)

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

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

Habitat Description

Individual trees - 5 x Large mature trees south of woodland. 14 x young trees (approx 20 year old) within lowland meadow.

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

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

Site name and location	WOODCROFT	**On-site or off-site**	On site
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Limitations (if applicable)		**Habitat parcel reference**	South / Lowland mead
		Grid reference	

	Condition Assessment Criteria	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**										**Notes (such as justification)**
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	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	N									
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Y	N									
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.	Y	Y									
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	N									
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y									
	Number of criteria passed	6	3									

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

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type

Habitat Type

Where a parcel contains areas of higher distinctiveness habitats within it, then the area of higher distinctiveness habitat must be separated and recorded and assessed as such.

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

Habitat Description

Tall forbs - two parcels of equal condition - SU 68127 12177 & SU 67942 12443

See the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide for green roofs, and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats: ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

Site name and location	WOODCROFT	**On-site or off-site**	On site
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Limitations (if applicable)		**Habitat parcel reference**	T11
		Grid reference	See Habitat descripti

	Condition Assessment Criteria	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**										**Notes (such as justification)**
Core Criteria - must be assessed for **all urban habitat types**:												
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	N										
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	N										
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[1]) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement)[2] cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area[3]. **Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).**	Y										
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for **Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land** only:												
D1	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of at least four early successional communities (a) to (h) PLUS bare substrate. (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland.											
D2	The parcel contains pools of water such as permanent and ephemeral waterbodies.											
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for **Bioswale and SuDS** habitat types only:												
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife[4].											
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.											
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for **Intensive green roofs** only:												
F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).											
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for **Biodiverse green roofs** only:												

G	The roof has a varied depth of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers. **Note – to achieve Good condition, some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc are present.**											
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)		Y										
Number of criteria passed		1										
Condition Assessment Result	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/□**										
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only **(all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs)**:												
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Good (3)											
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)											
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.	Poor (1)	Y										
Results for **Green roofs** (requiring assessment of 4 criteria only - core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type):												
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (F or G).	Good (3)											
• Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR • Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)											
• Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.	Poor (1)											
Results for **Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale or SuDS** (requiring assessment of 5 criteria - core criteria plus additional criteria specified for habitat type):												
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group D or Group E)	Good (3)											
• Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR • Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)											
• Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.	Poor (1)											
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score												
Footnotes												

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type

Habitat Type(s)

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

Habitat Description

Woodland pond (non-priority habitat)

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

For ponds (non-priority) – see the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Technical Annex 2.

Site name and location	WOODCROFT	**On-site or off-site**	On site
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Limitations (if applicable)	Inappropriate time of the year for survey. High water levels - could not survey water plants accurately or safely. Will require re-survey	**Habitat parcel reference**	T10
		Grid reference	SU 68245 12757

	Condition Assessment Criteria	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	**Notes (such as justification)**
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland[1] and non-woodland):			
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	Y	
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	Y	
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed *Lemna* spp. or filamentous algae.	Y	
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Y	
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams[2], pumps or pipework.	Y	
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species[3].	Not known - could not survey close enough due to high water levels	
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Y	
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:			
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed)[4] cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.		
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.		
	Number of criteria passed	6	

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

Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria											
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)										
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)										
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)										
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score											

Footnote 1 - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.

Footnote 2 – This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver *Castor fiber*.

Footnote 3 - Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021) *Classification of aquatic alien species according to their level of impact* [online]. Available from:

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types

Habitat Type

Native hedgerow
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch
Native hedgerow with trees
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch
Species-rich native hedgerow
Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch

Habitat Description

H3 - Species-poor native hedgerow, H4 - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees. H5 - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees, H6 - Defunct (no condition score) H9 - Species-rich native hedgerow

See the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide Section 9.
Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.

Site name and location	WOODCROFT	**On-site or off-site**	On site
Limitations (if applicable)	Inappropriate time of the year for survey	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	

Condition Assessment Criteria

A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook[1] and Favourable Conservation Status document[2]. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.
Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Habitat parcel reference										
				H3	H4	H5	H9							
				Grid reference										
				SU 6819	SU681 122	SU680 122	SU679 124							
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**										**Notes (such as justification)**
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Y	Y	Y	Y							
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 (such as blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	N	N	N	Y							
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).	Y	Y	N	Y							
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	Y	Y	Y							

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	Y	N	N							
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles *Urtica* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	N	N	N	N							
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[3]) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website[4], as well as the BSBI website[5] where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'[6] contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website[7].	Y	Y	Y	Y							
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	Y	Y	Y	N							
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only														
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient[8]), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 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.		Y	Y								
E3.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		Y	Y								

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	**Category Requirements**	**Metric Score**
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; **AND** No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
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 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
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 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
	Score achieved:	H3 = 2, H8 = 2
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	**Category Requirements**	**Metric score**

Good	No more than 2 failures in total; **AND** No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
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 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
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 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
	Score achieved:	H4 = 3, H5 = 2

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type

Habitat Type(s)

Line of trees
Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch
Ecologically valuable line of trees
Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch

Habitat Description

See the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide Section 9.
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook[1]. For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook.
Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.

Site name and location	WOODCROFT	**On-site or off-site**	On site									
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)	Inappropriate time of the year for survey	**Habitat parcel reference**										
		H1	H2	H6a&b	H7	H9						
		Grid reference										
		SU 68374 12191	SU 68307 12151	SU678 126	SU67 8124	SU68 0124						

	Condition Assessment Criteria	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**										**Notes (such as justification)**
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice[2].	N	N	N	N	N						
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). 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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
	Number of criteria passed	4	4	4	4	4						

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/□**									
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)										
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)										

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes