

# Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

**Survey Site:**

Land North of Lavant Drive, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2AW

**Client:**

Perseus (Havant) Limited

**Assessment date:**

31/07/2026 (Updated: 19/08/26)

**Project:**

This report has been produced in support of a detailed planning application that is described as “Construction of a care home (within Class C2) with access, car parking, landscaping and other associated works.” (hereafter referred to as the “proposed development”). A plan showing the proposals is provided in **Appendix 1**.

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## Industry Guidelines and Standards

This report has been written with due consideration to:

- British Standard 42020 (2013). Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development.
- British Standard 8683:2021 (2021). Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. 2nd edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2017). Guidelines on Ecological Report Writing. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2020). Guidelines for Accessing, Using and Sharing Biodiversity Data in the UK. 2nd Edition. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.
- Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Construction Industry Research and Information Association & Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2019). Biodiversity Net Gain – Good Practice Principles for Development.

## Proportionality

The work involved in preparing and implementing all ecological surveys, impact assessments and measures for avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement should be proportionate to the predicted degree of risk to biodiversity and to the nature and scale of the proposed development. Consequently, the decision-maker should only request supporting information and conservation measures that are relevant, necessary and material to the application in question. Similarly, the decision-maker and their consultees should ensure that any comments and advice made over an application are also proportionate. This approach is enshrined in Government planning guidance, for example, Section 19 of the National Planning Policy Framework for England. The desk studies and field surveys undertaken to provide a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) might in some cases be all that is necessary.

(BS 42020, 2013)

## Executive Summary

Arbtech Consulting Ltd. was instructed by Perseus (Havant) Limited to undertake a baseline Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment for a development at Land North of Lavant Drive, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2AW (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The assessment was required to inform an application for “Construction of a care home (within Class C2) with access, car parking, landscaping and other associated works” (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

Full details are provided in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The headline results are described below.

- The baseline biodiversity unit score: **Area-Based Habitat Units: 4.51; Hedgerow Units: N/A; Watercourse Units: N/A.**
- The post-development biodiversity unit score: **Area-Based Habitat Units: 1.11; Hedgerow Units: 0.51; Watercourse Units: N/A.**

This results in the following change in biodiversity value of the site:

- **Area Based Habitat Units: -75.40%**
- **Hedgerow Units: Automatic Net Gain (0 baseline units)**
- **Watercourse Units: N/A**
- **Trading Rules:**
  - **Area-Based Habitat Units: Not satisfied**
  - **Hedgerow Units: Satisfied**
  - **Watercourse Units: N/A**

In order to achieve a compliant net gain (10%) and to satisfy the habitat trading rules, 3.86 additional habitat units are required, including:

- An additional 0.51 medium distinctiveness grassland units.
- An additional 3.25 medium distinctiveness scrub units.
- An additional 0.09 area-based habitat units to satisfy the remaining deficit.

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## 1.0 Introduction and Context

### 1.1 Introduction

Arbtech Consulting Ltd. was instructed by Perseus (Havant) Limited to undertake a baseline Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment for a development at Land North of Lavant Drive, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 2AW (hereafter referred to as “the site”). The assessment was required to inform an application for “Construction of a care home (within Class C2) with access, car parking, landscaping and other associated works” (hereafter referred to as “the proposed development”).

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

- DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Arbtech Consulting Ltd. 2026).
- The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) (Arbtech Consulting Ltd. 2026).

### 1.2 Site Context

The site is located at National Grid Reference SU 71982 07092 and has an area of 0.55ha. The site sits within the large town of Havant, with Oak Park Community Clinic ~40m to the south, and the Parkway Centre located ~40m to the north-west. The site is characterised by unmanaged grassland and mixed scrub, with individual trees and an area of hardstanding present onsite. Further unmanaged land is present to the north and to the east. Further afield lies residential buildings, hospital infrastructure, allotments, and commercial structures. A site location plan is provided in **Appendix 2**.

### 1.3 BNG Informative

BNG is a specific, measurable outcome of project activities that deliver demonstrable and quantifiable benefits to biodiversity compared to the baseline situation. In order to achieve BNG, a project must be able to demonstrate that it has followed all 10 of the Principles of Biodiversity Net Gain (as outlined in the *British Standard 8683:2021 Process for Designing and Implementing Biodiversity Net Gain*).

The legalised Environment Act (2021) requires developments in England to demonstrate a measurable net gain in biodiversity and sets a target of a minimum of +10% BNG for development. It also stipulates that a management plan with a minimum 30-year term should be adopted to ensure biodiversity net gain can be delivered. Biodiversity Net Gain became mandatory for qualifying new developments (non-exempt) on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric is the latest version of the metric tool used to calculate BNG. It enables the calculation of habitat value pre- and post-development in order to determine the overall change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposed development. The Biodiversity Metric has separate BNG assessments for areas of habitat, hedgerows and watercourses.

The biodiversity value of a site should be maximised. However, it may not always be possible to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain within a site and therefore the Statutory Biodiversity Metric can also account for off-site habitat creation, where land is available. Alternatively, developers can seek to provide an agreed financial contribution to an appropriate third party (such as the Local Authority, the UK Government or another landowner) to deliver the required biodiversity net gain elsewhere on their behalf.

## 2.0 Methodology

### 2.1 Baseline Biodiversity Value

The baseline habitat detail was informed by the PEAPRA. The baseline habitat plan is provided in **Appendix 3**.

#### *Habitat Classification*

The PEAPRA classified the habitats on site according to UK Habitat Classification User Manual version 2.0 (UK Habitat Classification Working Group 2023).

#### *Habitat Area/Length*

The area or length of each habitat was calculated using qGIS software. In calculating the area or length of each habitat, habitats which occur as two or more isolated parcels across the site were combined, where they were deemed to be of a similar composition and condition. Areas of individual trees were calculated using the Tree Helper tool within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Class sizes for trees are set out in Table 13 of the Draft Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023).

#### *Habitat Condition*

Habitat condition was assessed using the relevant condition assessment sheets found in the Draft Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023).

### 2.2 Post Development Biodiversity Value

The post development habitat detail was informed by the development plan and landscaping plan, which is provided in **Appendix 1**. The habitat coverage anticipated post-development is illustrated on the plan in **Appendix 4**.

#### **Habitat Classification**

Proposed habitats were translated to their equivalents in the UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (The UK Habitat Classification Working Group 2023).

#### **Habitat Area/Length**

The area or length of each proposed habitat was calculated using qGIS software. In calculating the area or length of each habitat, habitats which occur as two or more isolated parcels across the site were combined, where they were deemed to be of similar composition and condition. Distinctions were made between habitats to be retained (i.e. left as found in baseline), enhanced (i.e. improved condition) or newly created.

### **Habitat Condition**

Habitat condition was assessed using the relevant condition assessment sheets found in the Draft Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Natural England, 2023).

### **2.3 Strategic Significance**

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire was published on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2025. As a result, strategic significance has been determined in accordance with parameters outlined within the LNRS.

### **2.4 Irreplaceable Habitats**

No irreplaceable habitats were recorded within the baseline that require custom compensation arrangements.

### **2.5 Retrospective Assessment**

No element of the baseline habitat condition required a retrospective condition assessment.

### **2.6 Limitations and Assumptions**

No limitations to note.

### 3.0 Results and Evaluation

#### 3.1 Baseline Habitats

**Table 1** details the baseline habitats present within the site along with their area/length, condition, and strategic significance.

*Table 1: Baseline Biodiversity Value*

| <b>Habitat</b>                                     | <b>Area/<br/>Length</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                          | <b>Condition<br/>Assessment<br/>(refer to<br/>Appendix 5)</b> | <b>Strategic Significance</b>                       | <b>Unit<br/>Value</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Area-based Habitats</b>                         |                         |                                                                                             |                                                               |                                                     |                       |
| <b>Scrub:</b> Mixed scrub                          | 0.4371<br>ha            | Area covered by mixed scrub as identified through the PEA.                                  | Moderate.                                                     | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 3.50                  |
| <b>Grassland:</b> Other neutral grassland          | 0.1142<br>ha            | Area covered by other neutral grassland as identified through the PEA.                      | Moderate.                                                     | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.91                  |
| <b>Urban:</b><br>Developed land;<br>sealed surface | 0.0037<br>ha            | Area covered by developed land; sealed surface and buildings as identified through the PEA. | N/A                                                           | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.00                  |
| <b>Individual trees:</b><br>Urban tree (small)     | 0.0122<br>ha            | Three small individual trees located onsite as identified through the PEA.                  | Moderate.                                                     | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.10                  |

### 3.2 Post Development Habitats

**Table 2** details the post development habitats present within the site along with their area/length, condition, and strategic significance.

*Table 2: Post Development Biodiversity Value*

| <i>Habitat (UK Habs)</i>                     | <i>Area (ha)/<br/>length (km)</i> | <i>Description</i>                                                                                    | <i>Condition<br/>Assessment<br/>(refer to<br/>Appendix 6)</i> | <i>Strategic Significance</i>                       | <i>Unit<br/>value</i> |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Area-Based Habitats</b>                   |                                   |                                                                                                       |                                                               |                                                     |                       |
| <b>Urban;</b> Buildings                      | 0.1958 ha                         | Area covered by buildings as shown on the proposed development plan.                                  | N/A                                                           | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0                     |
| <b>Urban:</b> Developed land; sealed surface | 0.1945 ha                         | Areas of hardstanding as shown on the proposed development plan.                                      | N/A                                                           | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0                     |
| <b>Urban;</b> Introduced shrub               | 0.0544 ha                         | Areas of introduced shrub planting as shown on the proposed development plan.                         | N/A                                                           | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.10                  |
| <b>Grassland;</b> Modified grassland         | 0.0178 ha                         | Area covered by modified grassland as shown on the proposed development plan.                         | Poor                                                          | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.03                  |
| <b>Grassland;</b> Other neutral grassland    | 0.0717 ha                         | Area covered by other neutral grassland as shown on the proposed development plan.                    | Moderate                                                      | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.48                  |
| <b>Scrub;</b> Mixed scrub                    | 0.0228 ha                         | Area covered by mixed scrub as shown on the proposed development plan.                                | Moderate                                                      | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.15                  |
| <b>Individual trees;</b><br>Urban trees      | 0.1059 ha                         | 26 no. individual trees as shown on the proposed development plan.                                    | Moderate                                                      | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.32                  |
| <b>Linear Habitats</b>                       |                                   |                                                                                                       |                                                               |                                                     |                       |
| <b>Hedgerow:</b><br>Ornamental hedgerow      | 0.155 km                          | Stretches of ornamental hedgerow planting across the site, as shown on the proposed development plan. | Poor                                                          | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.15                  |

|                                  |          |                                                                                                |      |                                                     |      |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|------|
| <b>Hedgerow:</b> Native hedgerow | 0.187 km | Stretches of native hedgerow along site boundaries, as shown on the proposed development plan. | Poor | Area not included in Hampshire LNRS target mapping. | 0.36 |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|------|

### 3.3 Change in Biodiversity Value of the Site

Full details are provided in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The headline results are described below.

- The baseline biodiversity unit score: **Area-Based Habitat Units:** 4.51; **Hedgerow Units:** N/A; **Watercourse Units:** N/A.
- The post-development biodiversity unit score: **Area-Based Habitat Units:** 1.11; **Hedgerow Units:** 0.51; **Watercourse Units:** N/A.

This results in the following change in biodiversity value of the site:

- **Area Based Habitat Units:** **-75.40%**
- **Hedgerow Units:** **Automatic Net Gain (0 baseline units)**
- **Watercourse Units:** N/A
- **Trading Rules:**
  - **Area-Based Habitat Units:** **Not satisfied**
  - **Hedgerow Units:** **Satisfied**
  - **Watercourse Units:** N/A

## 4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 4.1 Discussion

There is a total of 4.51 area-based habitat units present onsite, comprised of 3.50 mixed scrub units, 0.91 other neutral grassland units, 0.10 small individual tree units, and developed land; sealed surface (no value). There is a total of 1.11 area-based habitat units generated post-development, comprising of 0.10 introduced shrub units, 0.03 modified grassland units, 0.40 other neutral grassland units, 0.24 mixed scrub units, and 0.32 individual tree units. This results in a net loss of -75.40% and fails to satisfy the trading rules for scrub and grassland, owing to their loss. Due to the absence of baseline linear units, there is an automatic net gain for linear units.

In order to achieve a compliant net gain (10%) and to satisfy the habitat trading rules, 3.86 additional habitat units are required, including:

- An additional 0.51 medium distinctiveness grassland units.
- An additional 3.25 medium distinctiveness scrub units.
- An additional 0.09 area-based habitat units to satisfy the remaining deficit.

### 4.2 Scope for Enhancement on Site

#### *Area-based habitats*

It is currently anticipated that there is limited scope to provide the enhancements required to achieve a compliant net gain within the site. This is due to the high baseline value of the mixed scrub and other neutral grassland and the extent of the habitat removal to facilitate the development. As such, it is anticipated that the BNG strategy will aim to maximise the on-site gain insofar as is feasible in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy and BNG principles, prior to seeking off-site compensation.

There is scope to enhance the scheme to improve the post-development area-based habitat unit creation, including the below broad recommendations:

- Creation of larger areas of mixed scrub.
- Creation of larger areas of other neutral grassland.

It is recommended that these landscape enhancements are considered and applied to the proposals where feasible.

***Hedgerow units***

There is currently an automatic net gain in hedgerow units, owing to the absence of hedgerows featuring on the baseline.

**4.3 Off-Setting**

It is recommended that the above on-site enhancement recommendations are implemented insofar as is feasible prior to opting for any off-site offsetting in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy and BNG principles. It is anticipated that a compliant net gain will not be feasible through on-site enhancements. As such, additional units will need to be generated off-site. This can either be achieved through off-site habitat creation on land available to the developer (subject to the appropriate site surveys and assessments), through the purchase of Statutory Biodiversity Credits, or through the purchase of units from a third-party broker. The latter is typically the most cost-effective solution. Guidance on how to purchase off-site units can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-off-site-biodiversity-gains-as-a-developer>.

**4.4 Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan**

A Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will need to be produced for the site to comply with guidance. The HMMP will provide best practice prescriptions for the implementation, management, and monitoring of the proposed on-site habitat creation for a minimum term of 30 years to ensure the site is developed in accordance with this BNG Assessment. It is anticipated that the HMMP will be produced post planning consent, and its production will be secured by way of condition. The HMMP will detail the definitive strategy selected to achieve a compliant BNG and will be supported by an updated Statutory Biodiversity Metric where necessary.

## 5.0 Bibliography

- Arbtech Consulting Ltd. (2026). Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Land North of Lavant Drive, PO9 2AW.
- Arbtech Consulting Ltd. (2026). PEA PRA. Land North of Lavant Drive, PO9 2AW.
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- Natural England (2023). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric (November 2023). <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>
- UK Habitat Classification Working Group (2023). UK Habitat Classification – Habitat Definitions V2.0.

## Appendix 1: Proposed Development Plan



## Appendix 2: Site Location Plan



### Appendix 3: Baseline Habitat Survey Plan



## Appendix 4: Post-Development Habitat Plan



## Appendix 5: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessments

### Mixed scrub (h3h) condition assessment.

|          | Criteria Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Criteria Passed? |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). At least 80% of scrub is native; There are at least three native woody species <sup>2</sup> ; And no single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover). | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>B</b> | Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>D</b> | The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>E</b> | There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>N</b>         |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Total 4/5</b> |
|          | Condition <b>moderate</b> due to passing 4 of 5 criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |

**Other neutral grassland (g3c) condition assessment.**

|          | Criteria Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Criteria Passed? |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.           | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>B</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.                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, 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.                                                                                                                                  | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>D</b> | Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>E</b> | Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition 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 (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA5) are present, this criterion is automatically failed. | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>F</b> | There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (Schedule 9 species cannot contribute towards this count).                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Y</b>         |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Total 4/6</b> |
|          | Condition <b>moderate</b> due to passing 4 of 6 criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |

**Scattered trees (T6, T8, T9) condition assessment.**

|          | Criteria Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Criteria Passed? |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>B</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).                                                                                         | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>D</b> | There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height. | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>E</b> | Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.                                                                                                                                                     | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>F</b> | More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Y</b>         |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Total 4/6</b> |
|          | Condition <b>moderate</b> due to passing 4 of 6 criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |

## Appendix 6: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessments

### Modified grassland (g4) condition assessment.

|          | Criteria Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Criteria Passed? |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include 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> ). 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 in the previous sentence), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>B</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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>D</b> | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>E</b> | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>F</b> | Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>G</b> | There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Y</b>         |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Total 4/7</b> |
|          | Condition <b>poor</b> due to passing 4 of 7 criteria. Essential criteria (A) not met; condition capped at poor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                  |

**Other neutral grassland (g3c) condition assessment.**

|          | Criteria Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Criteria Passed? |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.           | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>B</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.                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, 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.                                                                                                                                  | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>D</b> | Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>E</b> | Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition 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 (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA5) are present, this criterion is automatically failed. | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>F</b> | There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (Schedule 9 species cannot contribute towards this count).                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>N</b>         |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Total 3/6</b> |
|          | Condition <b>moderate</b> due to passing 3 of 6 criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |

**Mixed scrub (h3h) condition assessment.**

|          | Criteria Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Criteria Passed? |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). At least 80% of scrub is native; There are at least three native woody species <sup>2</sup> ; And no single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover). | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>B</b> | Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>D</b> | The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>E</b> | There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>N</b>         |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Total 3/5</b> |
|          | Condition <b>moderate</b> due to passing 3 of 5 criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  |

**Scattered trees (CREATED) condition assessment.**

|          | Criteria Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Criteria Passed? |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>B</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).                                                                                         | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>D</b> | There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height. | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>E</b> | Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.                                                                                                                                                     | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>F</b> | More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>N</b>         |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Total 3/6</b> |
|          | Condition <b>moderate</b> due to passing 3 of 6 criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |

**Native hedgerow (h2a) condition assessment.**

|          | Criteria Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Criteria Passed? |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>A</b> | 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).)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>A</b> | Width >1.5 m average along length. (The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).)                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>B</b> | 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).)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>B</b> | 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).)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Y</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | >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.) | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>C</b> | Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground. (The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>N</b>         |
| <b>D</b> | >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and recently introduced species. (Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website, as well as the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Y</b>         |

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                  |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
|          | BSBI website where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website.)                                                                                                                                            |                  |
| <b>D</b> | >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 (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).) | <b>N</b>         |
|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Total 3/8</b> |
|          | Condition <b>poor</b> due to passing 3 of 8 criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                  |