

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

Goatacre Farm, Goatacre, Wiltshire, SN11 9JA

Client:

Sarah Clayton

Assessment Date:

3rd October 2025

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Wiltshire Council. The proposal is described as:

The demolition of all existing buildings and the construction of nine new dwellings.

BNG assessment methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **[BNG Methodology and Legislation – 2025.](#)**

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

Version Control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE, Consultant Ecologist	27/08/2025
Final	1.0	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE, Consultant Ecologist	27/08/2025
Amendments	2.0	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE, Consultant Ecologist	03/10/2025
Amendments	3.0	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE, Consultant Ecologist	30/10/2025

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Site Location and Context

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

The site is located at National Grid Reference SU 01815 76923 and has an area of approximately 0.58ha comprising an agricultural farm with buildings, hardcore, hardstanding, tall forbs, hedgerows and trees. It is immediately surrounded by a care home to the north, sheep & horse grazed field to the west, managed cricket recreational grounds to the south and Goatacre Lane & residential dwellings to the east. The wider landscape comprises the village of Goatacre (surrounding the site), A3102 (busy road) ~70m west, agricultural fields 75m west, Beacon Hill Brow Woodland ~350m west, MOD Lyneham ~420m north, Hargrove Wood ~450m, Ashen Copse ~920m north-east, Catcomb Wood ~1.35km and Swil Plantation ~1.4km south-east.

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

- ❖ Statutory BNG Metric – Goatacre Farm, SN11 9JA – V1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)
- ❖ Proposed Site Plan – Drawing number: 250522-02 (Fowler Architecture & Planning, 2025)
- ❖ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Roost Assessment (PEAPRA) - Goatacre Farm, SN11 9JA – V2 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)

Executive Summary

- ❖ The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+40.29%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (+61.27%). As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units.
- ❖ All trading conditions have been satisfied.
- ❖ A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.

Introduction

BNG Informative		
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations	29 th July 2025
	The baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from the site as observed during the PEAPRA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025). As evident in the screenshots of satellite imagery obtained from GoogleEarth dated 18 th September 2019 and 18 th May 2025, the site does not appear to have undergone any degradation. The habitats on site, and therefore the biodiversity value of the site, is not considered to have undergone degradation since 30th January 2020.	
	 	
Irreplaceable Habitat Statement	No irreplaceable habitats as listed under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations (2024) are currently present nor were present before 30 th January 2020.	

Metric Version & Publication Date	Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool first published 29 th November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 23 rd July 2024.		
BNG Target Uplift	+10%		
National Character Area (NCA)	117 – Avon Vales		
Strategic Significance	Wiltshire Council has yet to adopt a comprehensive LNRS. The following documents from its adopted Local Plan (including Supplementary Planning Documents, SPDs), were used to determine strategic significance: ❖ Policies Map		
	Habitat	Baseline / Post-Development	Justification
	N/A	N/A	N/A
Limitations			
There were no specific limitations to the assessment.			

Baseline

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Area-Based Habitats (A-1)				
Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Modified grassland	0.0509	The southern boundary of the site (~0.173ha) comprises a maintained modified grassland (recreational grounds and horse grazed fields). It was 1cm sward height and 40% bare ground. Species composition included perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> (D), white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> (A), common dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> (F), ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (O) and Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> (O). No scrub or bracken was identified within the grassland. The survey noted high levels of footfall on the grassland from regular use for cricket, site maintenance (mowing) and grazing.	Poor: passes 3 of 7 criteria excluding essential criterion A. Assessed using the 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Introduced shrub	0.0002	An area of introduced shrubs was identified in the modified grassland. Species included Chinese holly <i>Ilex cornuta</i> .	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Mixed scrub	0.0293	An area (~210m ²) of mixed scrub was present alongside the western boundary (saplings, young shrubs and mature). Species composition includes bramble (A), hawthorn (F) and blackthorn (O). The scrub does not have any invasive species, clearings/glades or a well-developed edge.	Moderate: passes 3 of 5 criteria. Assessed using the 'Scrub' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Tall forbs	0.0143	Areas of tall forbs (~200m ²) were present within the site. Species included common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> (D), rosebay willow herb <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> (O) and oxide daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> (R).	Moderate: passes 2 of 3 criteria including essential criterion C. Assessed using the 'Urban' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Bare ground	0.0211	An area (~130m ²) of bare ground was noted adjacent to the tall forbs from wild fowl footfall. No significant vegetation was noted within the area (singular common nettle stems appearing occasionally).	Poor: passes 1 of 3 criteria excluding including criterion C. Assessed using the 'Urban' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.1599	A large section of the site (~0.20 ha) consists of a hardcore/gravel road and track.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance

Developed land sealed surface	0.2119	Areas (~420m ²) of concrete path and buildings were present throughout the site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Urban trees	Poor: 0.0326	12no. trees were considered in the baseline. Of the 12no. extant trees, 8no. of which achieve 'poor' condition by passing 2 of 6 criteria, while the remaining 4no. achieve 'moderate' condition by passing 4 of 6 criteria. See the PEAPRA for more information.	Poor: passes 2 of 6 criteria 8no. small (G1)	Low Strategic Significance
	Moderate: 0.0163		Moderate: passes 4 of 6 criteria. 4no. small (T02, T03, T06 and T07)	Low Strategic Significance

Baseline Biodiversity Value: Off-Site**Area-Based Habitats (A-1)**

Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Modified grassland	0.0507	The southern boundary of the site (~0.173ha) comprises a maintained modified grassland (recreational grounds and horse grazed fields). It was 1cm sward height and 40% bare ground. Species composition included perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> (D), white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> (A), common dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> (F), ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (O) and Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> (O). No scrub or bracken was identified within the grassland. The survey noted high levels of footfall on the grassland from regular use for cricket, site maintenance (mowing) and grazing.	<i>Poor: passes 3 of 7 criteria excluding essential criterion A.</i> Assessed using the 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Introduced shrub	0.0007	An area of introduced shrubs was identified in the modified grassland. Species included Chinese holly <i>Ilex cornuta</i> .	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.0131	A large section of the site (~0.20 ha) consists of a hardcore/gravel road and track.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Developed land sealed surface	0.0024	Areas (~420m ²) of concrete path were present throughout the site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site**Linear-Based Habitats (B-1)**

Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Native hedgerow	0.056	Hedgerow H3 - A section of native hedgerow runs alongside the north-western boundary (approximately 15m length x 2m height x 1.5m wide). The hedgerow had no canopy gaps (<0.5m canopy to base gap) and no invasive species. Species composition included hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (A) and blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> (A). The hedgerow had hardcore on one side and grazed grassland on the other. The understorey consisted of bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (D), hawthorn (F), and blackthorn (O). Hedgerow H4 - A section of native hedgerow runs alongside the western boundary (approximately 15m length x 2m height x 1.5m wide). The hedgerow had some canopy gaps (~1m canopy to base gap) and no invasive species. Species composition included hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (A) and blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> (F). The hedgerow had hardcore on one side and grazed grassland on the other. The understorey consisted of bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (D), hawthorn (F), and blackthorn (O).	Moderate Assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.066	Hedgerow H1 was present on the north-eastern boundary. The hedgerow was approximately 32m length x 2m high x 1m wide. Species composition was dominated by Leyland cypress <i>Cupressus × leylandii</i>. Hedgerow H2 was present on the north-eastern boundary. The hedgerow was approximately 32m length x 4m high x 4m wide. Species composition was dominated by Leyland cypress.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' Poor ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (A-1)	Modified grassland	0.0135	Sections of existing modified grassland will be retained on the eastern boundary.	Poor	Low Strategic Significance
	Developed land sealed surface	0.0256	Areas of developed land will be retained on the eastern boundary.	N/A	Low Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Modified grassland	0.0133	New areas of modified grassland will be created within the communal management areas of the site.	Poor: will meet 5 out of 7 Criteria excluding essential criteria A.	Low Strategic Significance
	Mixed scrub	0.018	New areas of mixed scrub will be created within the communal management areas of the site.	Moderate: will meet 3 out of 5 Criteria excluding essential criteria A.	Low Strategic Significance
	Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.0833	New permeable road and paths around the dwellings.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Developed land sealed surface	0.1158	A new area of tarmac road will be created.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Introduced shrub	0.0159	New areas of introduced shrub will be created within the communal management areas of the site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Urban tree	0.0529	13 x small (moderate condition) trees will be planted within the communal management areas of the site.	Moderate: anticipated to pass 3 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition assessment sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
	Vegetated garden	0.2029	Areas of vegetated (private) garden will be created surrounding the dwellings.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the	Low Strategic Significance

				Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	
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Post-Development Biodiversity Value: Off-site
Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Modified grassland	0.0282	New areas of modified grassland will be created within the communal management areas of the site.	Poor: will meet 5 out of 7 Criteria excluding essential criteria A.	Low Strategic Significance
	Mixed scrub	0.0209	New areas of mixed scrub will be created within the communal management areas of the site.	Moderate: will meet 3 out of 5 Criteria excluding essential criteria A.	Low Strategic Significance
	Developed land sealed surface	0.002	A new area of tarmac road will be created.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Introduced shrub	0.0151	New areas of introduced shrub will be created within the communal management areas of the site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Urban tree	0.0326	8 x small (moderate condition) trees will be planted within the communal management areas of the site.	Moderate: anticipated to pass 3 of 6 criteria. Assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition assessment sheet.	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site					
Linear-Based Habitats					
	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (B-1)	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.066	The non-native hedgerow will be retained.	Poor	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: Off-site					
Linear-Based Habitats					
	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (B-2)	Native hedgerow	0.12	New sections of native hedgerow will be created.	Moderate Assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance

Change of Biodiversity Value

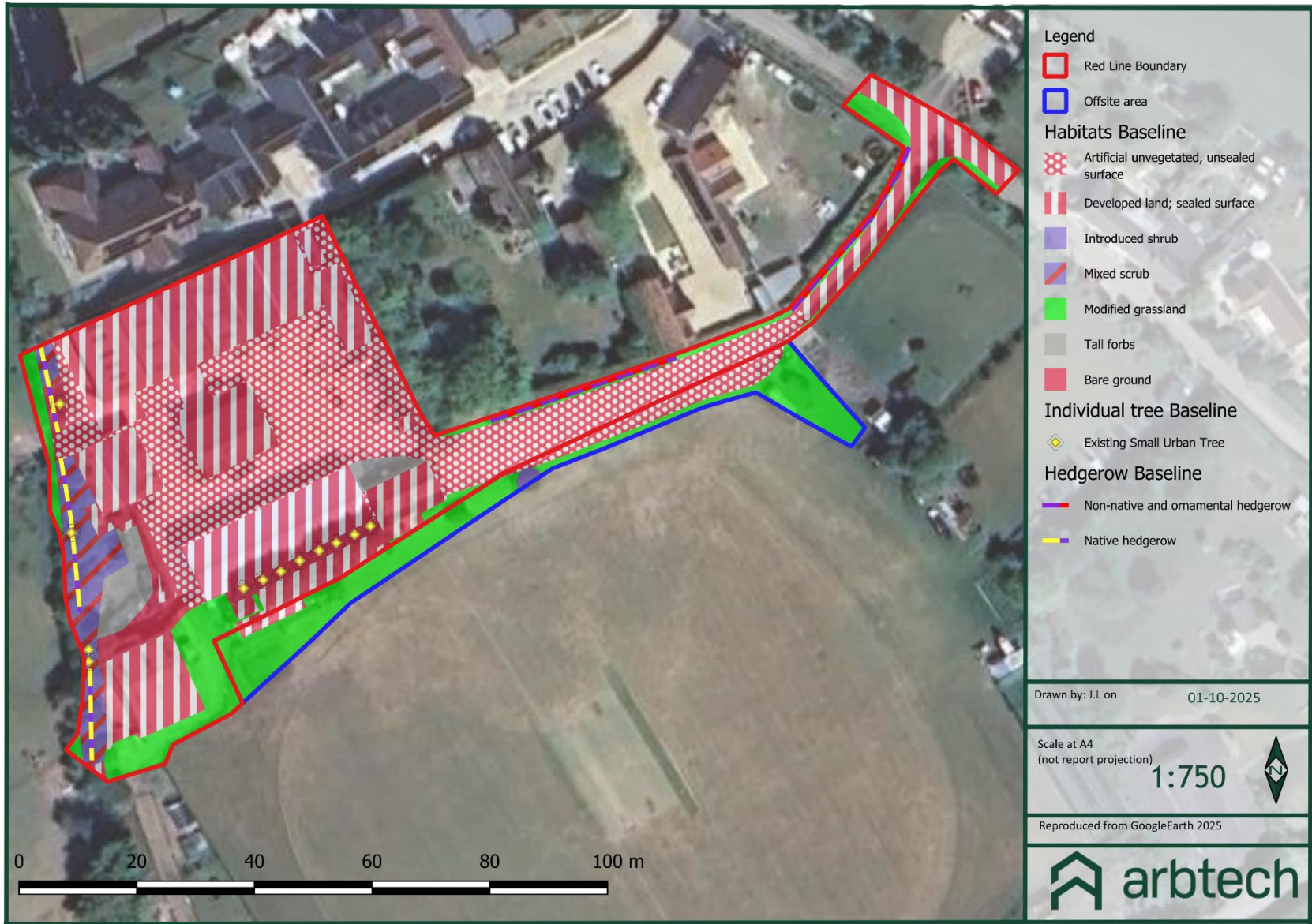
		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
On-Site	Baseline	0.70 units ❖ Modified grassland (0.10 units) ❖ Mixed scrub (0.23 units) ❖ Tall forbs (0.06 units) ❖ Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (no units) ❖ Bare ground (0.04 units) ❖ Developed land sealed surface (no units) ❖ Introduced shrub (no units) ❖ Urban tree (poor) (0.13 units) ❖ Urban tree (moderate) (0.13 units)	0.29 units ❖ Native hedgerow (0.22 units) ❖ Non-native and ornamental hedgerow (0.07 units)	❖ N/A
	Post-Development	0.76 units ❖ Retained modified grassland (0.03 units) ❖ Retained developed land sealed surface (no units) ❖ Created modified grassland (0.03 units) ❖ Created mixed scrub (0.27 units) ❖ Created artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (no units) ❖ Created developed land sealed surface (no units) ❖ Created introduced shrub (0.06 units) ❖ Created vegetated garden (0.39 units) ❖ Created urban tree (moderate) (0.26 units)	0.07 units ❖ Retained non-native and ornamental hedgerow (0.07 units)	❖ N/A
	Net Change	+0.06 units (+8.67%)	+0.07 units (-77.24%)	N/A
Off-Site	Baseline	0.10 units		N/A

		❖ Modified grassland (0.10 units) ❖ Introduced shrub (<0 units) ❖ Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface (no units) ❖ Developed land sealed surface (no units)	❖ N/A	❖
	Post-Development	0.32 units ❖ Developed land sealed surface (no units) ❖ Created introduced shrubs (0.03 units) ❖ Created mixed scrub (0.14 units) ❖ Created modified grassland (0.05 units)	0.40 units ❖ Created native hedgerow (0.40 units)	N/A ❖ N/A
	Net Change	+0.22 units (+214.35%)	+0.40 units N/A – no baseline units	N/A
	Overall Net Change	+0.28 units (+40.29%)	+0.18 units (+61.27%)	

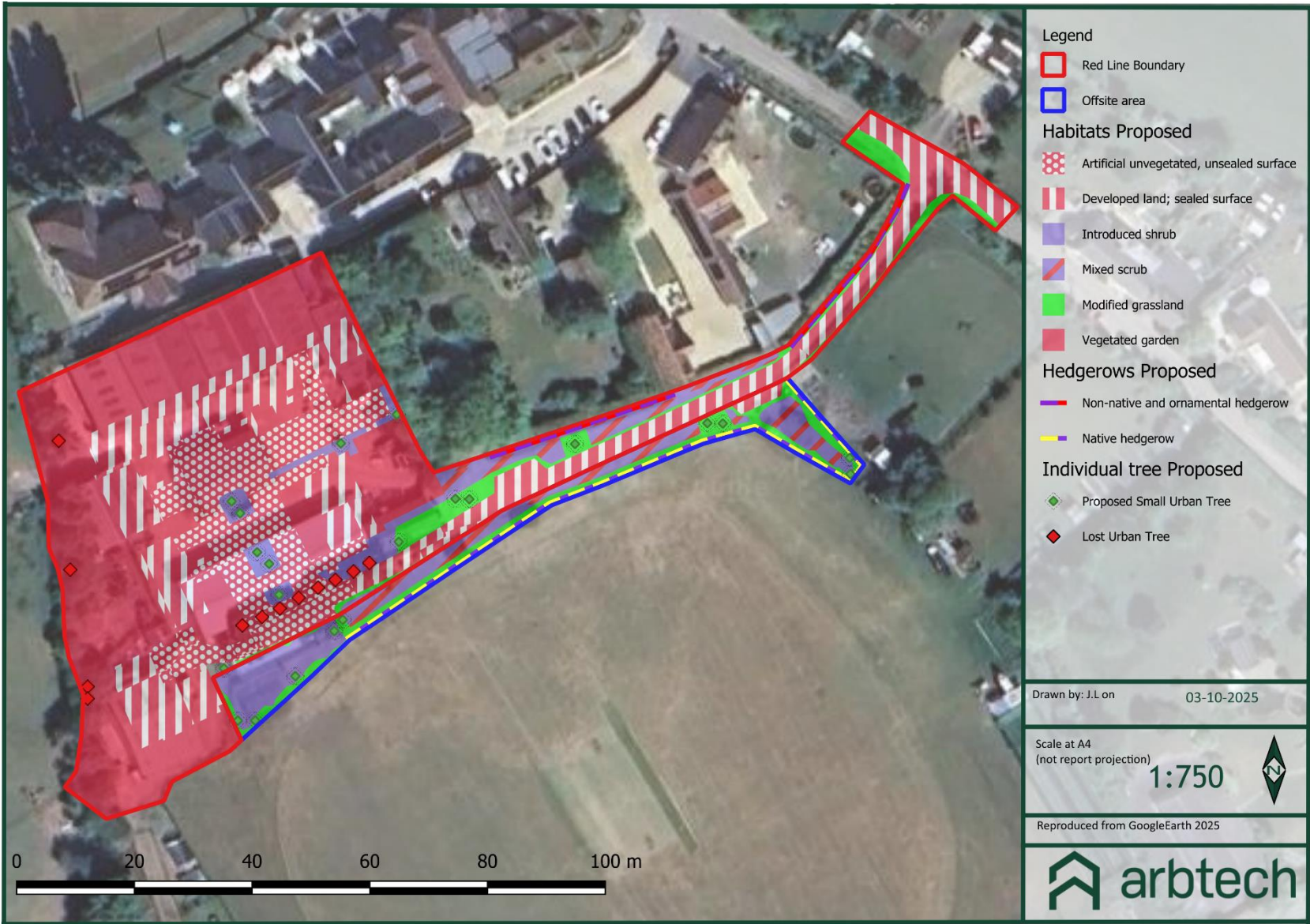
Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

BNG Informative	
Results and Next Steps	The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+40.29%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (+61.27%). As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units. All trading conditions have been satisfied. A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.
BNG Mitigation Hierarchy	
Avoidance	Impacts on priority habitats (hedgerows) have been minimised.
Minimisation	
Mitigation	The creation of a species-diverse scrub and the planting of thirteen trees have been provisioned on-site to help reduce net loss.
Offset	Instead of pursuing off-site biodiversity units, the clients have also committed to species-diverse scrub and the introduction of shrubs. Additionally, eight trees have been planted to satisfy trading rules and meet the 10% net gain requirement.

Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan



[illegible]

Appendix 4: Headline BNG Results

Goatacre Farm, Goatacre, Wiltshire, SN

Headline Results

Scroll down for final results ▲

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	0.70	
	Hedgerow units	0.29	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.76	
	Hedgerow units	0.07	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.06	8.67%
	Hedgerow units	-0.22	-77.24%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%
On-site net gain is less than target			
On-site net gain is less than target			
Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.10	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.32	
	Hedgerow units	0.40	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.22	214.35%
	Hedgerow units	0.40	N/A
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%
Off-site baseline units - % cannot be calculated			
Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.28	
	Hedgerow units	0.18	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
FINAL RESULTS			
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.28	
	Hedgerow units	0.18	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	40.29%	
	Hedgerow units	61.27%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓		

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Modified grassland; assessed using the 'Grassland low distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment sheet:

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

Native hedgerows; assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Native hedgerow H3

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

		indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).		
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 Gap between ground and base of canopy is <0.5m for more than 10% of length.
B2.	Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall ‘gappiness’, but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	N Canopy gaps.
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must	N No undisturbed ground.

		be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.		
C2. Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y	No indicator species – dominated by bramble, hawthorn, and blackthorn.
D1. Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives observed.
D2. Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	N	Hedgerow is managed.
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees				

Category	Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet ‘favourable condition’ criteria in Table TS1-2	Weighting (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 <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> 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 <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and B2 = poor condition)	1	
Score achieved:	Moderate		

Native Hedgerow H4

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, & D)	Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a	Y	Hedgerow averages 2m in height.

		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).		
A2. Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Y	Hedgerow averages 2m in width.
B1. Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	N	Gap between ground and base of canopy is >0.5m for more than 10% of length.
B2. Gap – hedge	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody	N	Canopy gaps.

canopy continuity		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).		
C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	No undisturbed ground.
C2. Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not	Y	No indicator species – dominated by bramble, hawthorn, and blackthorn.

		exceed the 20% cover threshold.		
D1. Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives observed.
D2. Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	Y	Hedgerow is unmanaged.
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees				
Category	Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2	Weighting (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 <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> 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 <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one	1		

	functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and B2 = poor condition)		
Score achieved:	Moderate		

Mixed scrub; assessed using the 'Scrub' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/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, with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Y	Proposed species closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type (mixed scrub), with at least 80% native scrubs, two native woody species, and no dominant species.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	Y	Mixture of age classes identified from saplings to mature.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y	No non-native invasive species.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	N	No well-developed edge.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N	No clearings or glades.
Number of criteria passed			3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 5 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)	

Tall forbs; assessed using the 'Urban' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/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	Common nettle is dominant (>80%).
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.	Y	Different plant species present.
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area. Note – to achieve good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Y	None observed.
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)			Y
Number of criteria passed			2
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only:			
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)		

Urban trees; assessed using the 'Individual trees' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)							
		T01 <7cm	T02 S	T03 S	T04 <7cm	T05 <7cm	T06 S	T07 S	G1 S
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	N/A	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	N
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	N/A	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N/A	N	N	N/A	N/A	N	N	N
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N/A	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	Y
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N/A	N	N	N/A	N/A	N	N	N

F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	N/A	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Y	N
Number of criteria passed		N/A	4	4	N/A	N/A	4	4	2

Bare ground; assessed using the 'Urban' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/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	No vegetational structure.
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.	Y	No different plan species.
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area. Note – to achieve good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Y	None observed.
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:			
Passes all 3 core criteria AND		Good (3)	

Meets the requirements for good condition within criterion C			
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)	✓	

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Newly planted urban trees; using the 'Individual trees' habitat condition assessment sheet:

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

F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y
Number of criteria passed		3 (moderate)

Newly created modified grassland; assessed using the 'Grassland low distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment sheet:

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

Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR 4, 5 or 6 of criteria but failing criterion A	Poor (1)	✓	
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Mixed scrub; assessed using the 'Scrub' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/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, with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Y	Proposed species closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type (mixed scrub), with at least 80% native scrubs, three native woody species, and no dominant species.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	Y	Management anticipated to maintain a balance of all age classes.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y	Management anticipated to remove non-native invasive species.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	N	Management is not anticipated to maintain a well-developed edge. Adjacent habitat proposed to be modified grasslands of poor condition.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N	No openings are anticipated to be under management.
Number of criteria passed			3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 5 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)	