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Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

Birdbush, Ludwell, Dorset, SP7 9HH.

Client:

Mr. Deans

Assessment Date:

30th January 2026

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the Wiltshire Council. The proposal is described as:
Construction of a new detached residential property on the site.

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.

Site Location and Context

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

The site is centred at National Grid Reference ST91402306 and has an area of approximately 0.111ha. The site comprises of an area of modified grassland lawn with interspersed trees; it forms part of the entrance driveway of an adjoining static home park and other residential properties. The site is located on the eastern outskirts of the small village of Ludwell, 5km northeast of the town of Shaftesbury in Dorset. It occupies an elevated position within a predominantly arable and pastoral but inherently rural location. The A30 runs southwest to northeast along the southeastern boundary of the site and the village extends south-westwards along the road for some 500m north and south of the site.

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

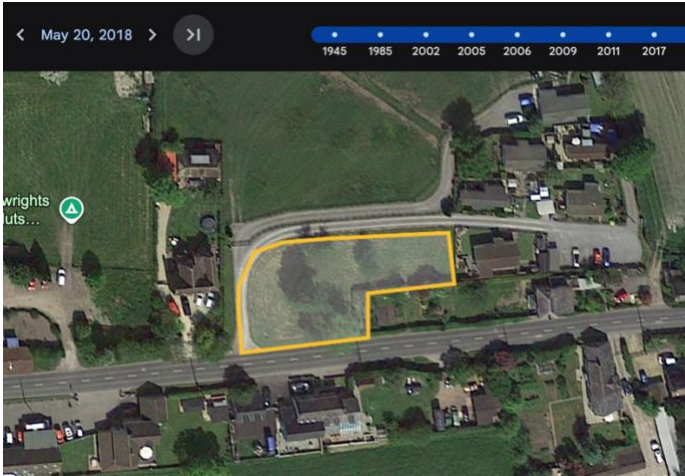
- ❖ Statutory BNG Metric - Birdbush, SP7 9HH - v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)
- ❖ Proposed Plan – Proposed dwelling-elevations Land adjacent to Birdbush park, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9HH - (Going group, 2025)
- ❖ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) - Birdbush, Ludwell, Dorset, SP7 9HH - v1 (Collington Winter Environmental, 2025)
- ❖ Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan - Birdbush, Ludwell, Dorset, SP7 9HH - v1 (Collington Winter Environmental., 2025)

Executive Summary

- The baseline habitat value of the site is 1.93 units for area-based habitats, comprising 1.66 units of individual urban trees, 0.25 units of modified and 0 units (no value) of Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface.
- The post development habitat value of the site is 1.93 units, comprising 1.48 units of retained urban tree, 0.15 units of retained modified grassland, 0 (no value) retained artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface, 0.21 units of other neutral grassland (enhanced from modified grassland), and 0.10 units of created urban trees and 0 (no value) units of created developed land; sealed surface (both hardstanding and buildings).

- This results in a net change in biodiversity of **+0.49%** (i.e. a net gain < 10%) for area-based habitats.
- Biodiversity credits will need to be purchased to offset the unit loss.

Introduction

BNG Informative		
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations	30 th January 2026
	The baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from the site as observed during the PEA field survey (Collington Winter Environmental, 2025). As evident in the screenshots of satellite imagery obtained from GoogleEarth dated 20 th May 2018 and 22 nd November 2024, the site does not appear to have undergone any degradation. The habitats on site, and therefore biodiversity value of the site, is not considered to have undergone degradation since 30th January 2020.	
		
Irreplaceable Habitat Statement	No irreplaceable habitats as listed under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations (2024) are currently present nor were present before 30 th January 2020.	

Metric Version & Publication Date	Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool first published 29 th November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 3 rd July 2025.
BNG Target Uplift	+10%
National Character Area (NCA)	133 - Blackmoor Vale and Vale of Wardour

Strategic Significance	The strategic significance of habitats within the baseline assessment has been determined in accordance with the BNG Metric User Guide (Updated, July 2025)¹ and the published Local nature recovery strategy for Wiltshire². According the LNRS interactive map³, the application site falls within an area subject to no designation.	Figure 3. The application site’s location within the LNRS interactive map (below is a more zoomed in version of above). The site is located in the blue square in the middle of the photo.
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¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/689c5ee17b2e384441636196/The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_-_User_Guide_-_July_2025.pdf

² <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8288/Wiltshire-and-Swindon-Local-Nature-Recovery-Strategy>

³ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2b3a19902e3e4b81bac90326a2a2dec5/page/Interactive-map?draft=true&views=View-4#data_s=id%3AdataSource_12-19209d14036-layer-6-0%3A2864801%2Cid%3AdataSource_12-1983c8d7fdc-layer-31-19841238feb-layer-31-0-1%3A1%2Cid%3Awidget_250_output_config_1~widget_32_output_config_1%3A0%2Cid%3AdataSource_18-1997105fe34-layer-101-19a2fd9bc31-layer-45%3A5670

	In line with the BNG Metric User Guide, as the LNRS has been published for the site, all baseline strategic significance values for habitat parcels on site (within the identified area of potential measure) are set to ‘low’ (BNG User Guide p27, 2025). Any potential increase in strategic significance would only apply to post-development habitat creation or enhancement (where possible) if it were proposed in a mapped location and aligned with an LNRS potential measure. At the baseline stage, the published guidance is clear that all existing habitats are to be scored as Low strategic significance, regardless of ecological value or local conservation interest. When the BNG post-development assessment is undertaken, the following should be considered in regard to post-development strategic significance of habitats according to Table 7 of the BNG Metric User Guide (p. 27/28), as summarised below: • High strategic significance = Applied only if the parcel is mapped in the Local Habitat Map for a potential LNRS measure and <i>the proposed intervention is consistent with that mapped measure</i>. • Medium strategic significance = Cannot be applied where an LNRS is published. • Low strategic significance = Applied when the above conditions are not met. This includes cases where the intervention occurs in a mapped area but does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
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
Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface	0.02949 ha	There is an area of gravel road that leads to the site from the main road.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Modified Grassland	0.12383 ha	The site is dominated by a large area of modified grassland, which is heavily managed and in use as an amenity lawn. It has no direct links to the wider site due to being completely encircled by an access track and major A road. The area of modified grassland (MG1) totals totalling 0.111ha. Species observed include annual meadow grass (<i>Poa annua</i>), Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), annual nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>), selfheal (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>), square stalked willowherb (<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>), yarrow (<i>Achillea crithmifolia</i>), ground elder (<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>), ribwort plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), greater plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>), daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>), lambs tongue (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), field speedwell (<i>Veronica agrestis</i>), groundsel (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>) and creeping bent (<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>).	Poor: passes 4 of 7 criteria excluding essential criterion A. Assessed using the 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance

Urban Tree	Moderate: 0.0204 ha	Eleven trees were present on site within the modified grassland and garden and alongside the eastern roadside boundaries of the site. They were a mix of native deciduous trees and one non-native ornamental species and are detailed below. For more detail about these please see both Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) – Birdbush, Ludwell, Dorset, SP7 9HH - v1 (Collington Winter Environmental, 2025) and Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan - Birdbush, Ludwell, Dorset, SP7 9HH - v1 (Collington Winter Environmental., 2025)	Moderate: passes 4 of 6 criteria. T2, T4, T7, T8, and T10 assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
	Good: 0.1262 ha		Good: passes 5 of 6 criteria. T3, T5, T6, T9, T11 and T12. assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	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)	Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface	0.02949 ha	There is an area of gravel road that leads to the site from the main road.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Modified Grassland	0.07334 ha	The site is dominated by a large area of modified grassland, which is heavily managed and in use as an amenity lawn. It has no direct links to the wider site due to being completely encircled by an access track and major A road. The area of modified grassland (MG1) totals totalling 0.111ha. Species observed include annual meadow grass (<i>Poa annua</i>), Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), annual nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>), selfheal (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>), square stalked willowherb (<i>Epilobium tetragonum</i>), yarrow (<i>Achillea crithmifolia</i>), ground elder (<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>), ribwort plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), greater plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>), daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>), lambs tongue (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>), field	Poor: passes 4 of 7 criteria excluding essential criterion A. Assessed using the 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance

			speedwell (<i>Veronica agrestis</i>), groundsel (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>) and creeping bent (<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>).		
	Urban Tree	Moderate: 0.0204 ha	Eleven trees were present on site within the modified grassland and garden and alongside the eastern roadside boundaries of the site. They were a mix of native deciduous trees and one non-native ornamental species and are detailed below. For more detail about these please see both Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) – Birdbush, Ludwell, Dorset, SP7 9HH - v1 (Collington Winter Environmental, 2025) and Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan - Birdbush, Ludwell, Dorset, SP7 9HH - v1 (Collington Winter Environmental., 2025)	Moderate: passes 4 of 6 criteria. T2, T4, T7, T8, and T10 assessed using ‘Individual Trees’ habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
		Good: 0.1099 ha		Good: passes 5 of 6 criteria. T3, T5, T6, T9, T11 and T12. assessed using ‘Individual Trees’ habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Developed land; sealed surface - buildings	0.013776 ha	Two new buildings to be built on site. A dwelling and its associated garage.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ‘ <i>N/A</i> ’ as detailed within the Statutory	Low Strategic Significance

				Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	
	Developed land; sealed surface - hardstanding	0.00345 ha	Hardstanding to be built with the associated new dwelling and garage.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Urban tree	0.0326 ha	8 new small trees to be planted on the southeastern boundary of the site bordering the gravel road which connects the site to the main road.	Moderate: passes 3 of 6 criteria. All new trees. assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Enhanced (A-3)	Other neutral grassland	0.03326 ha	Parcel of the initially present modified grassland to be enhanced to other neutral grassland and fenced off to avoid footfall. This will be enhanced to moderate condition via a shaded seed mixture so that plant are able to thrive underneath the retained and proposed trees.	Moderate: passes 5 out of 6 criteria including essential criterion A. assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High	Low Strategic Significance

				Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	
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Change of Biodiversity Value

		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
On-Site	Baseline	- Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface: 0 - Urban Tree: 1.66 - Modified grassland: 0.25 Overall: 1.93	N/A	N/A
	Post-Development	- Retained modified grassland: 0.15 - Retained urban tree: 1.48 - Created urban tree: 0.10 - Enhanced modified grassland to other neutral grassland: 0.21 Overall: 1.93	N/A	N/A
	Net Change	0.01 (+0.49%)	N/A	N/A

Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

BNG Informative	
Results	The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+0.49%) with unmet trading rules. In line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (2024), any loss of a habitat must be replaced on a like-for-like or like-for-better principle. At present, trading conditions are not satisfied for the loss of 1no. urban trees (medium distinctiveness. With unmet trading conditions and a net gain <10%, the proposal fails principal Rules 1 and 2 of BNG and is not compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024; Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS), 2015). In order to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for area-based habitats, a minimum area-based unit score of 2.12 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 0.18 units. Of these units, 0.10 units must be of individual trees to satisfy trading rules.
Recommendations and Next Steps	There is limited scope on site and this provision may not be possible to achieve on site or adjacent with the current arrangement (within the redline boundary or offsite on other owned land) considering the size of the proposed development area and the limited amount of soft landscaping within the parcel. Presently, there is no space on site to create any other habitat of any distinctiveness. Based on the proposed plans, it is unlikely that net gain will be achieved by ways of habitat creation/enhancement without significant changes to the proposals on site or require unfeasible commitments off-site. As such, a financial contribution to off-site ecological enhancements (i.e. purchasing biodiversity units) within an approved scheme is required to make up the +10% net gain for area-based habitat units. The mechanism for securing this off-setting will need to be proposed to and confirmed by the LPA and would be linked to the application through a planning obligation Section 106 (s106) agreement. The proposed habitat compensation must be of an appropriate distinctiveness to meet the trading rules of BNG. A summary as to what off-site units will be required is detailed in the table below.

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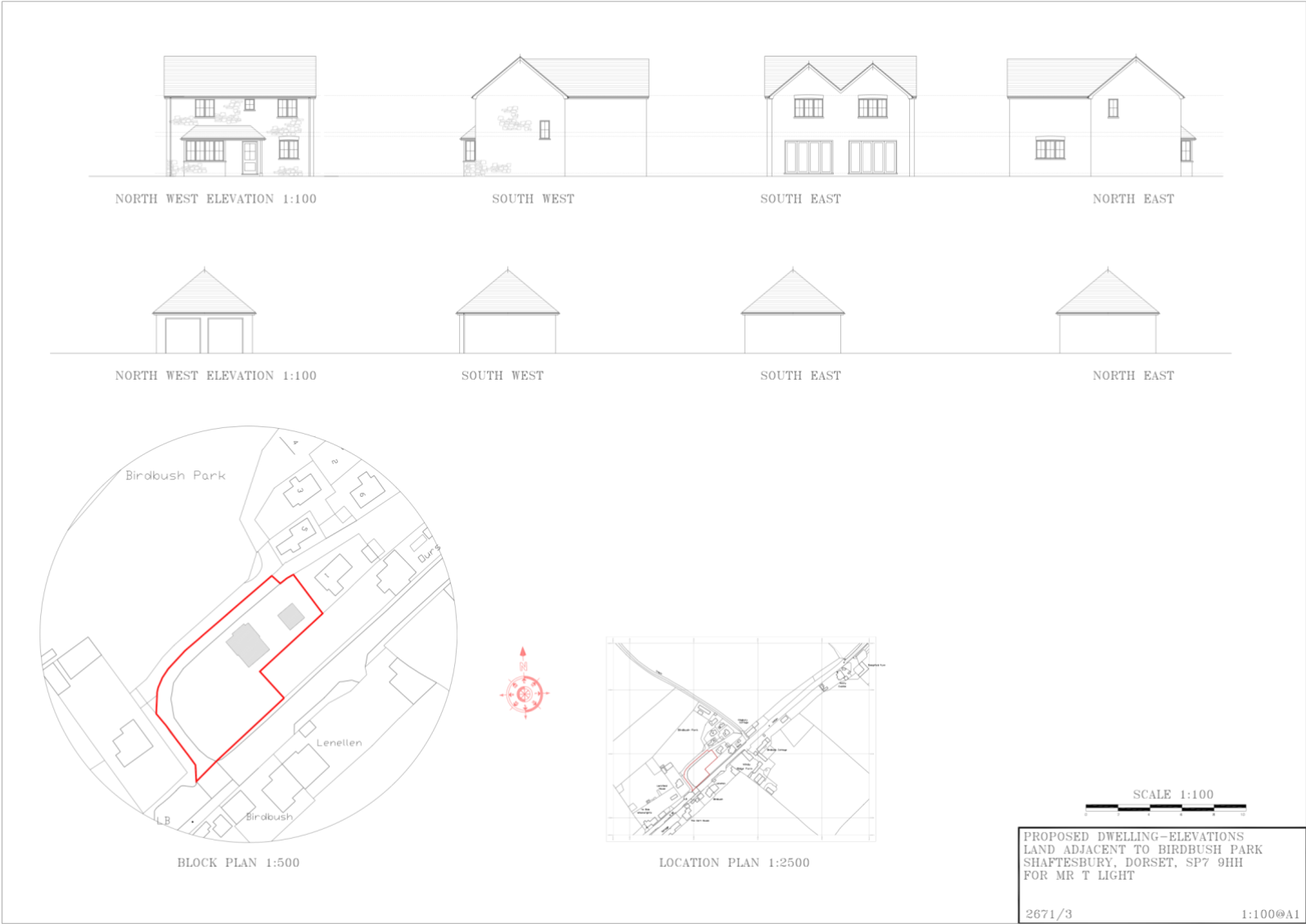
Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan



Appendix 3: Proposed Development Plan



Appendix 4: Headline BNG Results

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.01
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00

Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.49%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.00%
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%

Total net gain achieved is less than target set ▲

Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲
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Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
<i>Area habitat units</i>	10.00%	1.93	2.12	0.18
<i>Hedgerow units</i>	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Watercourse units</i>	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓

No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

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

Condition Assessment Criteria:		Condition passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A	There must be 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² , including at least 2 forbs. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	N	Fewer than 6 vascular plant species per m ² .
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	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.	Y	Physical damage present in less than 5% of total grassland area.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y	Bare ground cover between 1% and 10%.
F	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	No bracken present.
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)	✓	

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet: **Note T01-T13-T14 and T15 are outside of the site boundary.**

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)							
		T01 M	T02 S	T03 M	T04 M	T05 L	T06 L	T07 S	T08 S
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		5	4	5	4	5	4	4	4

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

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet: **Note T01-T13-T14 and T15 are outside of the site boundary.**

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)						
		T09 S	T10 S	T11 M	T12 M	T13 S	T14 S	T15 S
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	N	Y	Y	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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		4	4	5	5	4	4	4

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

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

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

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.	Y	Physical damage present in less than 5% of total grassland area.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y	Bare ground cover between 1% and 10%.
F	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	No bracken present.
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)	✓	

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet: **Note T01-T13-T14 and T15 are outside of the site boundary.**

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)							
		T01 M	T02 S	T03 M	T04 M	T05 L	T06 L	T07 S	T08 S
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		5	4	5	4	5	4	4	4

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

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet: **Note T01-T13-T14 and T15 are outside of the site boundary.**

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)						
		T09 S	T10 S	T11 M	T12 M	T13 S	T14 S	T15 S
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	N	Y	Y	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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Number of criteria passed		4	4	5	5	4	4	4

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

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet: **All 8 newly planted trees**

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)	Notes/Justification
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	All new trees will be native.
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	All trees are individual trees and therefore pass this criterion.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	Trees will be small and therefore not mature.
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	Management regime will likely be put in place to ensure these do not obstruct the gravel road leading to the dwelling.
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	As these are newly planted trees, no niches will be present.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	More than 20% of the canopy will be oversailing vegetation beneath.
Number of criteria passed			3
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria		Poor (1)	

Neutral Grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet: **Enhanced**

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate or good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y	Species composition of proposed seed mixes closely resembles definition of g3c 'other neutral grassland'.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20% is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Varied sward height of such specifications anticipated.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Y	Cover of bare ground anticipated to be between 1% and 5%.
D	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%.	Y	Management anticipated to control bracken cover, if present.
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal 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 WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	No invasive species anticipated. Area of grassland to be fenced off to avoid excessive damage.
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	There will not be 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² .
Essential criterion for good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		Y	
Number of criteria passed		5	
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Non-acid grassland types (result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F		Good (3)	
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F		Poor (1)	

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Version control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
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