



Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Feasibility Assessment

Report prepared for: Buttercups Kindergarten

Sprays Farm
Calne
Wiltshire
SN11 8QA

February 2026

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Document Number:	CE001679-1
Version Control	V1: Issued February 2026

CONTENTS

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
2	INTRODUCTION	5
3	METHODOLOGY	6
4	Habitat Assessment	8
5	Conclusion.....	13

SITE PLANS & MAPS

Figure 1: Baseline Habitats.....	13
Figure 2: Proposed Habitats.....	14
Figure 3: Soft Landscaping Plan.....	15
Figure 4: BNG Assessment Headline Results.....	16

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by Cotswold Environmental Ltd on behalf of Buttercups Kindergarten in relation to land at Sprays Farm, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 8QA (central Ordnance Survey (OS) Reference SU 02138 68901).
- 1.2 Within the application boundary, habitats currently consist of an existing sealed and unsealed developed surface, modified grassland, individual trees, introduced shrub, and native and ornamental hedgerows. Development proposals are described as the construction of a new building and car park associated with a Children's daycare centre.
- 1.3 The results of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation (DEFRA, 2024) indicate that the baseline biodiversity value of the site comprises 1.02 area habitat units and 0.24 hedgerow units. Following the proposed on-site interventions, the post-development values increase to 1.39 area habitat units and 0.35 hedgerow units. The proposals would therefore result in a net gain of 36.44% in area habitat units and 46.23% in hedgerow units.
- 1.4 Based on this BNG feasibility assessment, **Trading Rules have been satisfied and** statutory requirements met. Headline results are provided in Figure 4 within the Appendices of this report.
- 1.5 A long-term management plan for the site will be required to ensure that any enhancements proposed for the site are monitored and achievable and to have a mechanism in place for all habitat creation and monitoring required as a result of the proposed development and its associated BNG.
- 1.6 This BNG feasibility report can be used for review by the Wiltshire Council Biodiversity Team in relation to biodiversity net gain.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by Cotswold Environmental Ltd in relation to Land at Sprays Farm, Wiltshire, the purpose of which was to provide a summary of results of a Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment for an application for the construction of a new building and car park which will require the demolition of the existing Children's nursery building.
- 1.2 The assessment aimed to evaluate the current state of biodiversity in the area, identify potential opportunities for enhancing biodiversity through development, and provide recommendations for achieving biodiversity net gain. The report includes a summary of the assessment methodology, key findings, and recommendations for incorporating biodiversity net gain into future planning and development processes.
- 1.3 The site comprises a land mass of 0.30-ha. Existing habitats are mapped in Figure 1. This report is supported by data collected during a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Cotswold Environmental Ltd during December 2025.
- 1.4 Calculation of biodiversity net gain units has been undertaken using the Statutory Biodiversity Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2024) and follows guidance set out within the Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development¹ (Baker et al., 2019).

Objectives

- 1.5 This Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment aims to:
 - Provide baseline survey data: classify the type, distinctiveness, condition, connectivity and strategic significance of habitats present prior to and post- development.
 - Ensure that baseline habitat conditions are classified in a robust and consistent manner, and that classification is based on the best data available data at the time of assessment.
 - Clearly identify data collection methods and any limitations.
 - Calculate baseline pre- and post-development units for the Site based on current development proposals.
 - Use the mitigation hierarchy appropriately and reasonably to avoid and minimise ecological impacts;
 - Propose a Biodiversity Net Gain design with the aim of maximising biodiversity net gain through habitat creation, enhancement and succession.

¹ Baker et al. 2019 [Online] <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/C776a-Biodiversity-net-gain.-Good-practice-principles-for-development.-A-practical-guide-web.pdf>

- Aim to achieve BNG on-Site wherever possible; with off-site measures being considered as an alternative option if required.
- Habitat surveys can be undertaken year-round, though it is important to note that the optimal survey season is considered to be April to September (inclusive) for most habitat types.

- 1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Dec 2024) sets out the government planning policies for England and how they should be applied. Chapter 15: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment, is of particular relevance to this report as it relates to ecology and biodiversity. The Government Circular 06/2005, which is referred to by the NPPF, provides further guidance in respect of statutory obligations for biodiversity and geological conservation and their impact within the planning system.

METHODOLOGY

Baseline Survey

- 1.7 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric works best where habitat types are classified using UK Habitats Classification methodology (UKHAB Working Group, 2024). As such, a site appraisal was undertaken by senior ecological consultant Jason Skinner to classify habitats using UKHab survey methodology. This informed the calculation of baseline biodiversity units.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 1.8 Biodiversity net gain is founded on the appropriate application of the mitigation hierarchy:

Stage 1: Avoidance – Measures taken to avoid creating impacts from the start.

Stage 2: Minimisation - Measures taken to reduce the duration, intensity, extent and/or likelihood of impacts that cannot be avoided.

Stage 3: Compensation - Addressing residual adverse effects is the final stage, only considered after all possibilities for avoiding and minimising the effects have been implemented. Compensation does not prevent the effects, rather it involves measures to make up for residual effects that cannot be prevented. Measures taken to improve degraded ecosystems following exposure to impacts which cannot be completely avoided or minimised. Measures taken to compensate for any residual, adverse impacts after full implementation of the previous three steps of the Mitigation Hierarchy.

- 1.9 Biodiversity Offsetting is a compensatory process whereby any Biodiversity Unit requirement up to the value of the required minimum 10%, which is not achievable within the proposed site boundary, is provided on land outside of the site in the form of a Biodiversity Offset scheme(s). Only when a Biodiversity Gain Plan demonstrates that Mitigation Hierarchy has been followed, and that valid attempts to avoid, minimise or reduce harm have been made within the site boundary, then Biodiversity Offsetting may be permitted.

Conditions Assessment

- 1.10 Using data collected during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of the site (report no. CE001679), condition assessments were inputted into the Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The condition assessment has been included for each habitat type in this report, where required.

Assumptions

- 1.11 When inputting the post-development habitat areas and condition to the Statutory Metric, the following assumptions have been made:

- Newly created habitat under the proposals will be managed appropriately to reach the assigned target condition (anticipated to be defined by a future management plan);
- Future management prescriptions at the site within areas of retained and proposed habitats at the site will be subject to a management regime in order to meet all condition assessment criteria to qualify as these habitat types.

Baseline Survey Data

- 1.12 The Biodiversity Metric works best where habitat types are classified using UK Habitats Classification methodology (UKHAB Working Group, 2024). A PEA survey report coupled with a UKHab survey visit undertaken in November 2025 was used to inform the calculation of baseline biodiversity units.
- 1.13 The baseline biodiversity unit value of the site has been determined using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (Natural England 2024). This calculation tool was developed to provide a standardised methodology for undertaking BNG assessments. Baseline biodiversity units have been determined using the findings of:
- The PEA field survey; and
 - The accurate measurement of on-Site habitats in accordance with current topographical survey information; and
 - Professional judgement.

Limitations

- The potential use of the site by protected or notable species is beyond the scope of this BNG assessment report. The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report should be consulted for further information with regards to any necessary follow-up surveys to target particular protected species presence or absence.
- The habitats shown on the landscaping and biodiversity scheme are indicative and have been adapted to UKHab habitats to be inputted into the BNG calculator as accurately as possible, considering the anticipated uses of the site.
- The survey was conducted outside the recognised optimal season for plant identification. Grasses and wildflower develop at varying periods during the year, making identification of some plant species present on site difficult. Subsequently, it is likely that not all plant species present onsite were recorded.

2 Habitat Assessment

Baseline Habitats Descriptions

u1b - Developed land; sealed surface

- 1.7 Small timber shelters are located within the play area of the existing amenity grassland and serve as informal playground structures.

u1c - Artificial unsealed, unvegetated surface

- 1.8 A gravelled car park occupies the eastern portion of the application site and provides vehicular access and parking to the nursery. The surface consists of compacted aggregate and is in regular use, showing signs of minor vegetation encroachment at the edges. Areas of bare ground and localised disturbance are evident, particularly around the site margins and access points.

g4 - Modified grassland

- 1.9 A section of managed grassland lies to the west of the car park, forming part of a larger lawned area associated with the nursery. Only the eastern section of this lawn falls within the application boundary. In addition, narrow grass strips border the edges of the gravelled car park. These grassland areas are maintained at a short sward height (typically <10 cm) and are species-poor, indicative of regular mowing. The sward is dominated by perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, with low cover of forbs such as white clover *Trifolium repens*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, and ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*. Coarser grasses including cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*

are more prominent along the northern margin of the car park, where taller growth is permitted, along with some broadleaved ruderal species such as bitter dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. Approximately 15% of the grassed area is bare ground, resulting from trampling and vehicle movement, particularly around the car park perimeter.

u1 ~ 847 – Introduced shrub

- 1.10 Two individual specimens of dog rose *Rosa canina* are present within the site, planted within an otherwise managed amenity lawn. Although dog rose is a native species, these specimens are clearly the result of deliberate planting rather than natural establishment and are situated within a regularly maintained, artificial landscape context.

Individual trees

- 1.11 12 small native trees are located within the application area. The species assemblage includes silver birch *Betula pendula*, willow species *Salix* spp., field maple, oak *Quercus robur*, wild cherry *Prunus avium*, common hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, and crab apple *Malus sylvestris*. All trees are to be retained as part of the proposed works. In addition, native sapling trees are planted within the existing amenity lawn; these have a diameter at breast height of less than 7.5 cm and are therefore not included within the baseline calculations.

Baseline Habitats Biodiversity Value

Table 1: Pre- development area habitats and corresponding biodiversity value

UKHAB	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Habitat Condition	Biodiversity Value	Units Lost
Modified grassland	0.2128	Low	Poor	0.42	0.12
Introduced shrub	0.003	Low	n/a	0.01	0.01
Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.0714	V.Low	n/a	0.00	0.00
Developed land; sealed surface	0.0084	V.Low	n/a	0.00	0.00
Individual Tree	0.0489	Medium	Good	0.59	0.00
Total Units				1.02	0.13

Onsite Linear Habitats Descriptions

h2a – Native hedgerow

- 2.1 A native, species-poor hedgerow situated along the eastern roadside boundary of the car park. It measures 33 metres in length, 2 metres in height, and 1.2 metres in width. The hedge is well-managed and continuous with no gaps. It is dominated by common hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, with occasional blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, field elm *Ulmus minor*, and field maple *Acer campestre*. Ground flora is largely absent due to dense shading, though some bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and common ivy *Hedera helix* are present within the hedgerow canopy.

h2b – Non-native and ornamental hedgerow

- 2.2 A non-native hedgerow forming the southern boundary of the car park and comprises a 21 metre long, 2 metre high, and 1.2 metre wide linear feature. It is formed entirely of beech *Fagus sylvatica*. The hedge is uniformly clipped and features a single 1.2 metre wide gap allowing access to the adjacent residential car park. No other woody species or understory vegetation is present.

Baseline Biodiversity Value

Table 2: Pre- development onsite linear habitats and corresponding biodiversity value

UKHAB	Length (m)	Distinctiveness	Habitat Condition	Biodiversity Value	Units Lost
Native hedgerow	0.033	Low	Good	0.20	0.00
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.02	V.Low	Poor	0.02	0.00
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.019	V.Low	Poor	0.02	0.00
Total Units				0.24	0.00

Proposed Onsite Area Habitat Creation

- 2.3 Details regarding post-development habitats are provided within the Appendices - Landscape Drawing AA.25.11.

g4 - Modified grassland

- 2.4 Areas of modified grassland will be newly created as part of the soft landscaping surrounding the proposed building, intended for ornamental and general amenity use. These areas will be seeded with a standard amenity lawn mix and managed through regular mowing to maintain a short, uniform sward. The grassland will be species-poor and dominated by common agricultural and amenity grasses, with limited botanical diversity. Management will result in the habitat being maintained in poor condition, failing Condition Assessment Criterion A in relation to species richness.

u1c - Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface

- 2.5 An area of artificial unsealed surface will be created to form the driveway and parking area associated with the development. This will comprise compacted gravel and will remain unvegetated, with no provision for plant establishment. The habitat will be subject to regular vehicular use and disturbance, preventing natural colonisation by vegetation.

u1b - Developed Land; Sealed Surface

- 2.6 Developed land with a sealed surface will comprise the footprint of the proposed building together with associated paved hardstanding and pedestrian pathways.

u1 ~ 847 – Introduced shrub

- 2.7 Areas of introduced shrub planting will be established as part of the on-site landscaping scheme, primarily for visual screening and ornamental purposes. Planting will consist of non-native and/or horticultural shrub species typical of domestic landscaping, arranged in formal beds.

Individual Tree - Urban Tree

- 2.8 Four small native urban trees will be planted as part of the proposed landscaping surrounding the car park. The trees will be planted at appropriate spacing to allow for establishment and future canopy development and are proposed to achieve moderate condition, reflecting suitable species selection and management within a developed setting.
- 2.9 In addition, 32 native small trees have already been planted within the amenity lawn at the western extent of the site. All trees have a diameter at breast height of less than 7.5 cm and are therefore not included within the baseline position of the Biodiversity Metric. These trees are shown as individual

small trees created in advance and proposed to be secured as an enhancement through planning. Due to their close spacing and limited scope for crown development, they are conservatively assessed as being in poor condition for the purposes of the metric. These trees will be safeguarded as part of the development proposals and will be subject to the same long-term management and monitoring requirements as all other created and retained habitats on site. Their retention, protection and replacement in the event of failure will be secured through the landscape proposals and the accompanying Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan for a minimum period of 30 years.

Table 3: Post development area habitat creation

UKHAB	Area (ha)	Distinctiveness	Habitat Condition	Biodiversity Value
Modified grassland	0.0078	Low	Poor	0.02
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.052	V.Low	n/a	0.00
Developed land; sealed surface	0.0761	V.Low	n/a	0.00
Introduced shrub	0.0015	Low	n/a	0.00
Urban Tree (created in advance)	0.1303	Medium	Poor	0.44
Urban tree	0.0163	Medium	Moderate	0.05
			Total Units	0.50

Onsite Linear Habitat Creation

h2a – Native hedgerow

- 2.10 A total of 28 metres of native hedgerow will be newly created as part of the proposed landscaping. The hedgerow will be planted using a mix of locally appropriate native woody species, comprising a minimum of three species, which may include hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, and field maple *Acer campestre*. Planting will be carried out in a linear arrangement to form a continuous hedgerow feature.
- 2.11 The hedgerow will be managed to allow it to establish a dense, structurally diverse form, with limited cutting during the establishment period and subsequent sympathetic management to maintain continuity and species diversity. The proposed species mix and management regime are expected to result in the hedgerow meeting the criteria for good condition.

Baseline Biodiversity Value

Table 4: Post- development onsite linear habitats and corresponding biodiversity value

UKHAB	Length (m)	Distinctiveness	Habitat Condition	Biodiversity Value
Native hedgerow	0.028	Low	Good	0.11
Total Units				0.11

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 Biodiversity Net Gain calculations, using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric tool have been undertaken for the proposed development at Land at Sprays Farm. Baseline habitat calculations have been informed by survey work undertaken by Cotswold Environmental Ltd, coupled with a desk study. Post-development calculations have been made based on Landscape Drawing AA.25.11. Assumptions and limitations to the assessment have been highlighted where relevant and identified in the Metric calculator which should be reviewed in conjunction with this report.
- 3.2 The basic principles of BNG are to use a mitigation hierarchy to firstly avoid, then minimise impacts on biodiversity, with compensation for losses in biodiversity being a last resort where losses cannot be avoided. If compensation for losses is not a possibility on the development site, then offsetting of biodiversity losses by biodiversity gains elsewhere can be undertaken. In this instance, the development has sought to retain higher value ecological features within the application boundary, notably individual trees and boundary hedgerows. The works will predominantly take place within areas of low-value modified grassland and artificial surfaces.
- 3.3 The results of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation (DEFRA, 2024) indicate that the baseline biodiversity value of the site comprises 1.02 area habitat units and 0.24 hedgerow units. Following the proposed on-site interventions, the post-development values increase to 1.39 area habitat units and 0.35 hedgerow units. The proposals would therefore result in a net gain of 36.44% in area habitat units and 46.23% in hedgerow units. **Trading rules have been satisfied.** Headline results are provided within the Appendices of this report.

- 3.4 In the event that landscape proposals are updated at a later stage, this BNG assessment must be updated as necessary to reflect the BNG provision at the Site as a result of any updated landscape plans.
- 3.5 The proposed BNG scheme will need to be considered at each stage in the project lifecycle. This will need to include a realistic timeline for the project that relates to BNG project stages e.g., include a list of requirements to achieve the BNG (for example, timing of new habitat creation) and roles for who is responsible for delivering the requirements. A management plan will be required for all onsite habitats that will be created, enhanced and retained; this management plan will need to cover a period of at least 30 years.
- 3.6 Based on the current this BNG feasibility report can be used for review by the Wiltshire Council Biodiversity Team.

APPENDIX A: REFERENCES

Baker, J. 2016. *BNG: Good practice principles for development* CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA, 2016

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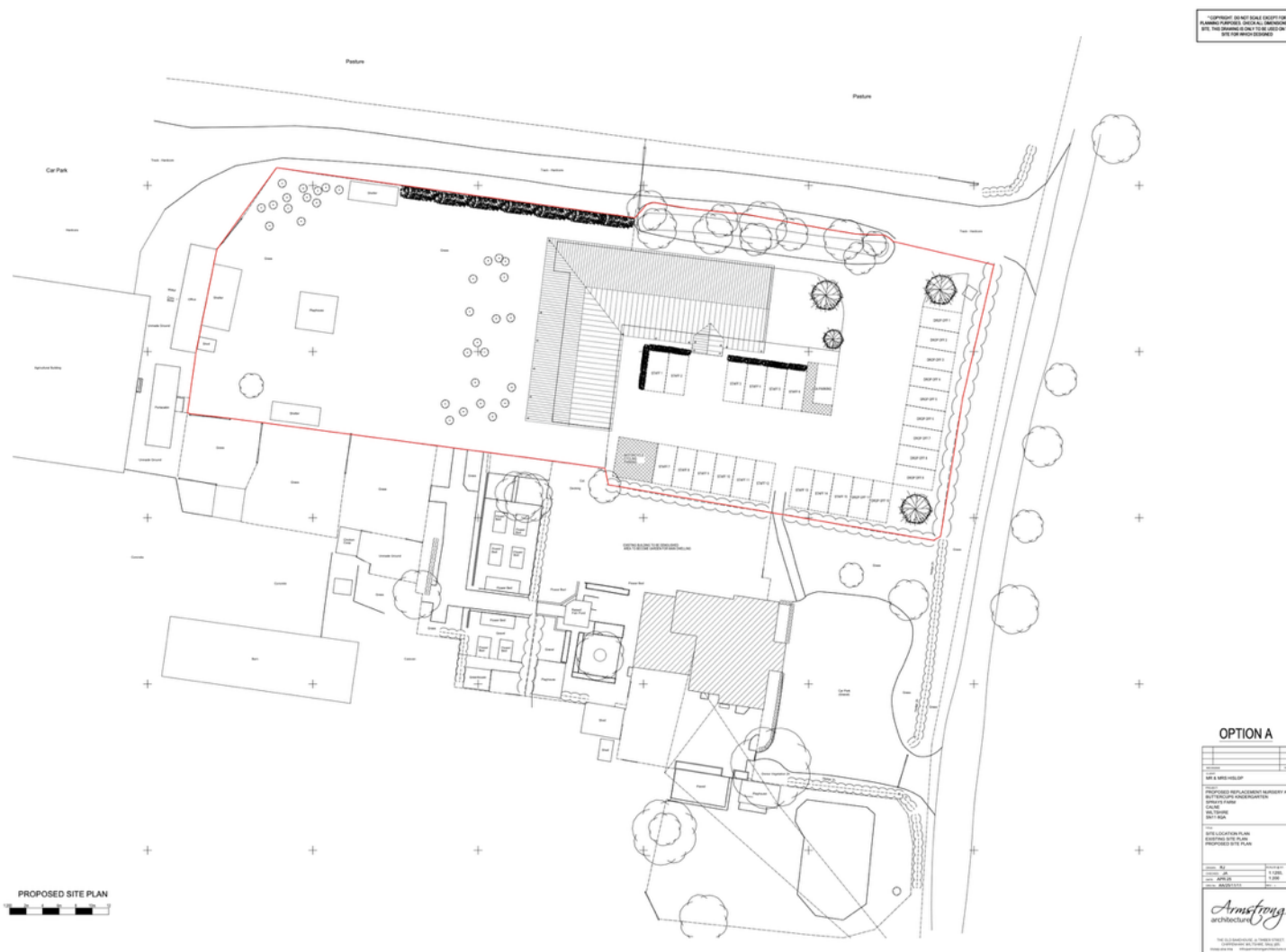
APPENDIX B – Site Plans



Figure 1: Baseline Habitats



Figure 2: Proposed Habitats



APPENDIX C – HEADLINE RESULTS

Headline Results		Return to results menu	
Scroll down for final results			
On-site baseline		Area habitat units	1.02
		Hedgerow units	0.24
		Watercourse units	0.00
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	1.39
		Hedgerow units	0.35
		Watercourse units	0.00
On-site net change (units & percentage)		Area habitat units	0.37 36.44%
		Hedgerow units	0.11 46.23%
		Watercourse units	0.00 0.00%
Off-site baseline		Area habitat units	0.00
		Hedgerow units	0.00
		Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	0.00
		Hedgerow units	0.00
		Watercourse units	0.00
Off-site net change (units & percentage)		Area habitat units	0.00 0.00%
		Hedgerow units	0.00 0.00%
		Watercourse units	0.00 0.00%
Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	0.37
		Hedgerow units	0.11
		Watercourse units	0.00
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions		Area 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)		Area habitat units	0.37
		Hedgerow units	0.11
		Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Area habitat units	36.44%
		Hedgerow units	46.23%
		Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?		Yes ✓	
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required
Area habitat units	10.00%	1.02	1.12
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.24	0.26
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00
			Unit Deficit
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓			
No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓			
No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓			

Figure 4: Headline Results

APPENDIX D – CONDITIONS ASSESSMENTS

Baseline Habitat Conditions Assessments

Urban: Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Not applicable

Urban: Developed land; sealed surface

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Not applicable

Urban: Introduced shrub

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Not applicable – Other.

Grassland: Modified grassland

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Poor

Assigned score: 1

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criteria passed?
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	NO
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.	NO
C	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).	YES
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.	NO
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	YES
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	YES
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	YES
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		NO
Number of criteria passed		4
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Good (3)
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Moderate (2)
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)		Poor (1)

Table 5. Grassland Habitat Type (low distinctiveness) Condition Assessment Sheet taken from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets with Instructions

Individual Tree: Urban Tree

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Good

Assigned score: 3

Condition Assessment Criteria		
SIZE		Small
SPECIES		Mixed, Native
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	YES
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).	YES
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	NO
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	YES
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> or loose bark.	YES
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	YES
Number of criteria passed		5
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)		
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	✓
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Table 6. Individual Trees Condition Assessment Sheet taken from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets with Instructions (edited)

Baseline Onsite Linear Habitat Conditions Assessment

Hedgerow: h2a Native Hedgerow

DEFRA Condition: Good

Assigned score: 3

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)			Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.	YES
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.	NO
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.	YES
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).	YES
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length:	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	NO
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	YES
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	YES
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.	YES
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.		N/A
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.		N/A
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees				
Good - 3		No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.		✓

Moderate - 2	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	
Poor - 1	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	

Table 7. Hedgerow Habitat Type Condition Assessment Sheet taken from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets with Instructions (edited)

Hedgerow: h2b Non-Native and Ornamental Hedgerow

DEFRA Condition: Poor

Created Area Habitats Target Conditions Assessments

Urban: Developed land; sealed surface

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Not applicable – Other.

Urban: Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Not applicable – Other.

Urban: Introduced shrub

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Not applicable – Other.

Grassland: Modified grassland

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Poor
Assigned score: 1

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criteria passed?
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	NO
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.	NO
C	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).	YES
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.	YES
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	YES
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	YES

G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	YES
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		NO
Number of criteria passed		5
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Good (3)
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Moderate (2)
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)		Poor (1) ✓

Table 8. Grassland Habitat Type (low distinctiveness) Condition Assessment Sheet taken from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets with Instructions

Individual Tree: Urban Tree, created in advance

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Poor

Assigned score: 1

Notes: Individual small trees created in advance have been conservatively assigned poor condition to reflect their close planting, limited stature and uncertainty over their ability to achieve and sustain moderate condition within a managed amenity context.

Individual Tree: Urban Tree

DEFRA Condition Assessment: Moderate

Assigned score: 2

Condition Assessment Criteria		
SIZE		Small
SPECIES		Mixed, Native
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	YES
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).	YES
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	YES
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	NO
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> or loose bark.	NO
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	YES

Number of criteria passed		4
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)		
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Table 10. Individual Trees Condition Assessment Sheet taken from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets with Instructions (edited)

Proposed Onsite Linear Habitat Conditions Assessment

Hedgerow: h2a Native Hedgerow

DEFRA Target Condition: Good

Assigned score: 3

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)			Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.	YES
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.	YES
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.	YES
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).	YES
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length:	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	NO
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	YES
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	YES

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.	NO
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.		N/A
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.		N/A
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees				
Good - 3	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.			✓
Moderate - 2	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).			
Poor - 1	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).			

Table 11. Hedgerow Habitat Type Condition Assessment Sheet taken from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessment Sheets with Instructions (edited)