

FAO: Chris Cary
Woolley & Wallis
4-5 Hughenden Yard,
High Street,
Marlborough,
Wiltshire,
SN8 1LT

10th February 2026

Dear Chris Cary,

Re: Proposed agricultural barns and yard at Lower Dunge Farm, BA14 6AX

This Technical Note outlines the findings of an ecological walkover survey at Lower Dunge Farm (Central Grid Reference ST 90105 54105). Proposals at the site include the construction of two agricultural buildings with associated yard and landscaping, which includes sustainable drainage and tree planting.

An ecological walkover was undertaken on 19th August 2025 by Becky Morris, Senior Ecologist at Ethos Environmental Planning. The survey focused on habitats and potential for protected species within the redline with a scoping survey of the wider habitats outside of the redline boundary. Habitats within proximity to the redline include farm infrastructure, existing barns and arable land bound by hedgerow.

An updated ecological walkover, UK Habitat classification survey and condition assessment for biodiversity net gain (BNG) was undertaken on 22nd January 2026 by Sarah Roberts and Oliver Sowler (ecologists at Ethos) to assess habitats present within the red line boundary which had not previously been subject to assessment.

This Ecology Technical Note has been updated following comments from Wiltshire Council's Ecologist as part of the planning application (PL/2025/08773).

Trowbridge and Westbury Bat Mitigation Strategy Zones

The site falls within the 'yellow zone' within the Trowbridge and Westbury Mitigation Strategy (TWMS), as shown in Figure 4. The zones are based on whether development in the area could negatively impact on rare bats linked to the Bath and Bradford on Avon Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The proposals are compliant with the TWMS through site location and sensitive design. The site has been located on arable land and the development includes a 15m buffer to the nearest hedgerow. Arable land is a habitat that offers very low value for bats and is not associated with the SAC. As such, the proposals are compliant with the requirements of the TWMS as they will ensure there is not a net loss of bat suitable habitat. A 15m buffer has been designed into the proposals to ensure compliance with the dark corridors required within the TWMS and will ensure that the offsite hedgerow will remain unchanged and for use by the local bat population. Sensitive design of the proposals include ensuring that no external lighting is proposed on the buildings, therefore avoiding any potential light spill issues on commuting and foraging bats.

As the proposals will not be impacting the SAC either directly or indirectly, further bat surveys are not considered necessary of proportionate to support the application and bats are not considered further within this technical note.

Other protected species

Great crested newt

The LPA ecologist has raised the presence of a GCN breeding pond within the local area. As this pond is identified to be over 250m from the proposed development, it is considered unlikely that the development would impact GCN potentially present within suitable habitat on site, such as the boundary hedgerows. It is considered proportionate to protect GCN through sensitive precautionary mitigation during site clearance. This will comprise a pre-works check for GCN by a suitably qualified ecologist as well as sensitive construction methods (avoiding piling materials and creating refugia) and pollution prevention controls. These measures can be secured through a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) as part of the granting of planning permission.

Badger

No evidence of badger was identified on site during the ecological surveys. There are suitable habitats close to the site with suitability for badger and therefore badger could utilise the site for commuting and foraging activities. Sensitive measures will protect badger during construction including avoiding construction lighting and ensuring any trenches contain escape ramps (such as a roughened plank of wood) to ensure badger (and hedgehog) could escape if they were to fall in.

Birds

The hedgerow boundaries contain suitable habitat for common species of breeding bird. Hedgerows will be retained as part of the development and therefore no potential impacts are considered likely. Any suitable vegetation for breeding birds which requires removal to facilitate development would be subject to a pre-works check by a suitably qualified ecologist if clearance was programmed for during the breeding season (March-August inclusive). These measures can be set out within a CEMP and secured by condition.

Baseline Habitats

The area for proposed agricultural barns comprises a section of arable field. In addition, habitats present within the red line include a buffer of modified grassland margin, small areas of modified grassland around the farmyard, a small area of mixed scrub and hedgerows along the northern, western and southern boundaries of the site. The condition assessments for baseline habitats are described below and shown at the end of this technical note. Habitats present are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 UKHabitat baseline

Arable (CRP-001 and CRP-006)

The majority of the site comprises arable land which is split between winter stubble and temporary grass and clover ley. This is a low distinctiveness habitat and is not assigned a condition assessment.



Photo 1 Arable grass ley (January 2026)



Photo 2 Arable land (August 2025)

Modified grassland

At the time of the August 2025 survey, the modified grassland field margin (GL-002) was dominated by a false oat grass with creeping thistle. During the January 2026 survey this area was dominated by

perennial rye-grass with clover spp. and false oat-grass also present. The habitat contained an average of 2.33 species across three 1m x 1m quadrats surveyed and is therefore species poor. The condition assessment is provided at the end of this report and assesses the habitat to be in *Poor condition*.



Photo 3 Modified grassland GL-002 (August 2025)



Photo 4 Grassland buffer GL-002 (January 2026)

Small areas of modified grassland are also present around the farmyard (GL-007) either side of the scrub patch (Photo 6). These areas of grassland were assessed to contain similar species to the modified grassland strip along the northern boundary of the site and were assessed to be in *Poor condition*, with encroaching bramble, presence of undesirable species (dock) and a lack of forbs.

Willow scrub (HS-005)

A small area of willow scrub is present adjacent to the existing farm building, as shown in Photo 5 and 6. The scrub is assessed to be in poor condition as set out at the end of this technical note. Willow scrub is a medium distinctiveness habitat.



Photo 5 Willow scrub



Photo 6 Willow scrub and adjacent modified grassland

Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (URB-003)

An area of unsealed surface is present between the existing building and the small areas of grassland and scrub on site (Photo 5), comprising a gravel track. This is a very low distinctiveness habitat which is not assigned a condition assessment.

Developed land; sealed surface (URB-004)

An existing driveway is present on site, connecting the main road to the existing building (Photo 7). This is a very low distinctiveness habitat which is not assigned a condition assessment.



Photo 7 Driveway (URB-004)

Hedgerows

There are three hedgerows along the boundaries of the site. H-001 is a native hedgerow along the roadside, H-003 is a native hedgerow with trees along the northern boundary and H-002 is a native hedgerow with trees associated with a bank or ditch.

H-001 (Photo 8) is managed to a uniform height and width and contains English elm, hawthorn and blackthorn. It was assessed to be in *Moderate condition*.

H-003 (Photo 9) is a native hedgerow with trees containing hawthorn, blackthorn and English elm with two mature ash trees. It was assessed to be in *Moderate condition*.

H-002 (Photo 10) is associated with a bank and contains one large mature oak tree, hawthorn, hazel and bramble. The hedgerow is assessed to be in *Good condition*.



Photo 8 H-001



Photo 9 H-003



Photo 10 H-002

Overall, the baseline habitats on site generate 8.06 habitat units and 4.61 hedgerow units.

Proposed habitats

The proposals for the site include the construction of two new agricultural barns and an associated yard to be built on existing arable land. The proposed Biodiversity Net Gain will come from the planting of rural individual trees (72) within the western corner of the site. This will benefit biodiversity such as bats and birds by strengthening the ecological connectivity of the hedgerow boundaries in this location. In addition, a sustainable drainage feature will be created on site and has been designed to permanently hold water and so benefit biodiversity. Therefore, this feature has been identified as a pond within the proposed habitats (Figure 2).

The modified grassland margin along the northern edge of the site will be retained, alongside the area of willow scrub, modified grassland and artificial unsealed surface around the existing farmyard.

The proposed building will be sited on the existing arable land, which contains very low value for biodiversity.

To gain the hedgerow units required, H-001 along the roadside will be enhanced.

The proposed habitat conditions are shown at the end of this technical note.

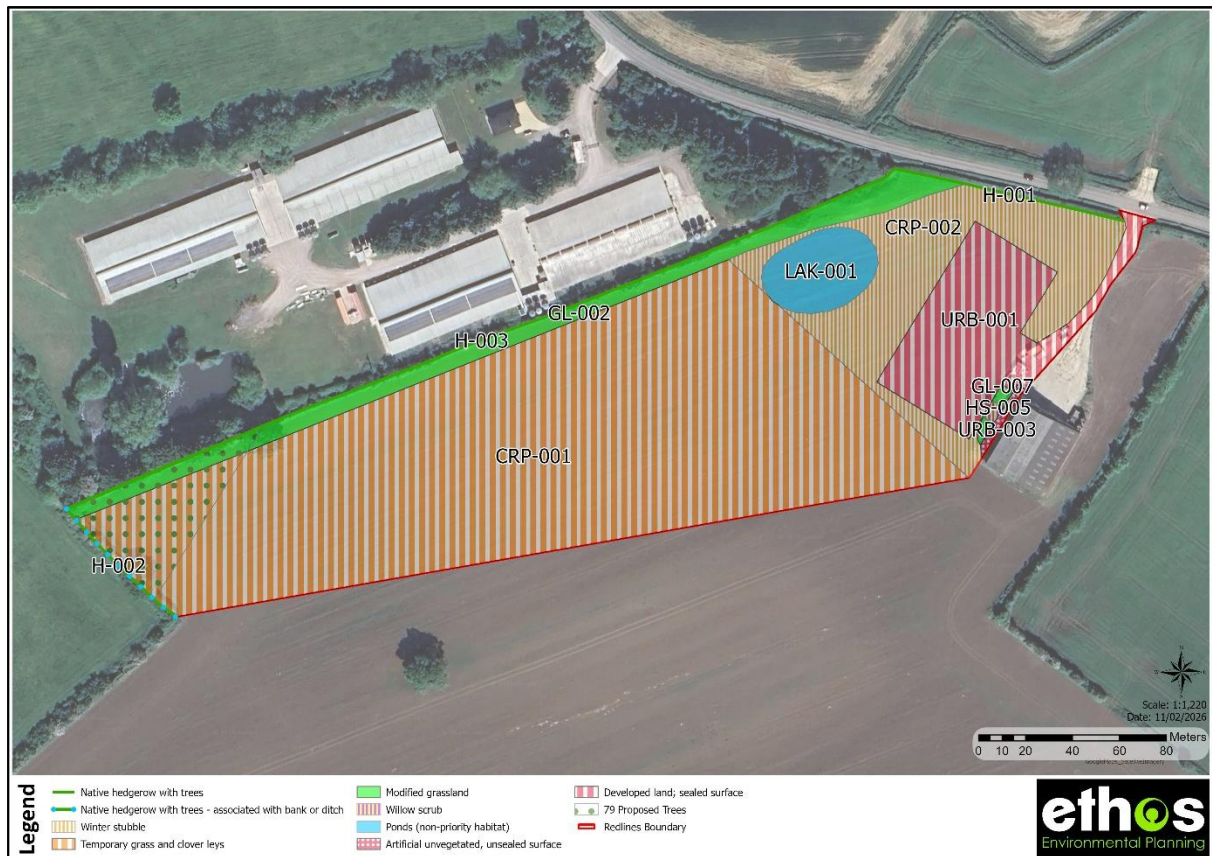


Figure 2 Proposed habitats

Biodiversity Net Gain

The headline results of the BNG assessment are shown below in Figure 3. The proposed development will result in a gain of 0.81 habitat units (10.09%) and 0.56 hedgerow units (12.15%). Trading rules are met and the project supports the BNG principals.

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	0.81
	Hedgerow units	0.56
	Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	10.09%
	Hedgerow units	12.15%
	Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

Figure 3 BNG headline results

Conclusions

The proposals include the construction of two new agricultural barns and an associated yard. These proposals have been designed to ensure compliance of the TWMS through good design and citing of the proposals away from habitats which could be utilised by bats, namely the nearby hedgerow. BNG compliance is demonstratable through a positive BNG metric showing a gain of over 10% for area habitats and hedgerows.

To enhance the site for bats and birds, a bat box and a general-purpose bird box could be installed on a mature tree along the boundary of the site. In addition, the proposed pond will enhance the site for species such as great crested newt and other common amphibian species, as well as for invertebrates and foraging bats.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Attrill
Principal Ecologist,
Ethos Environmental Planning

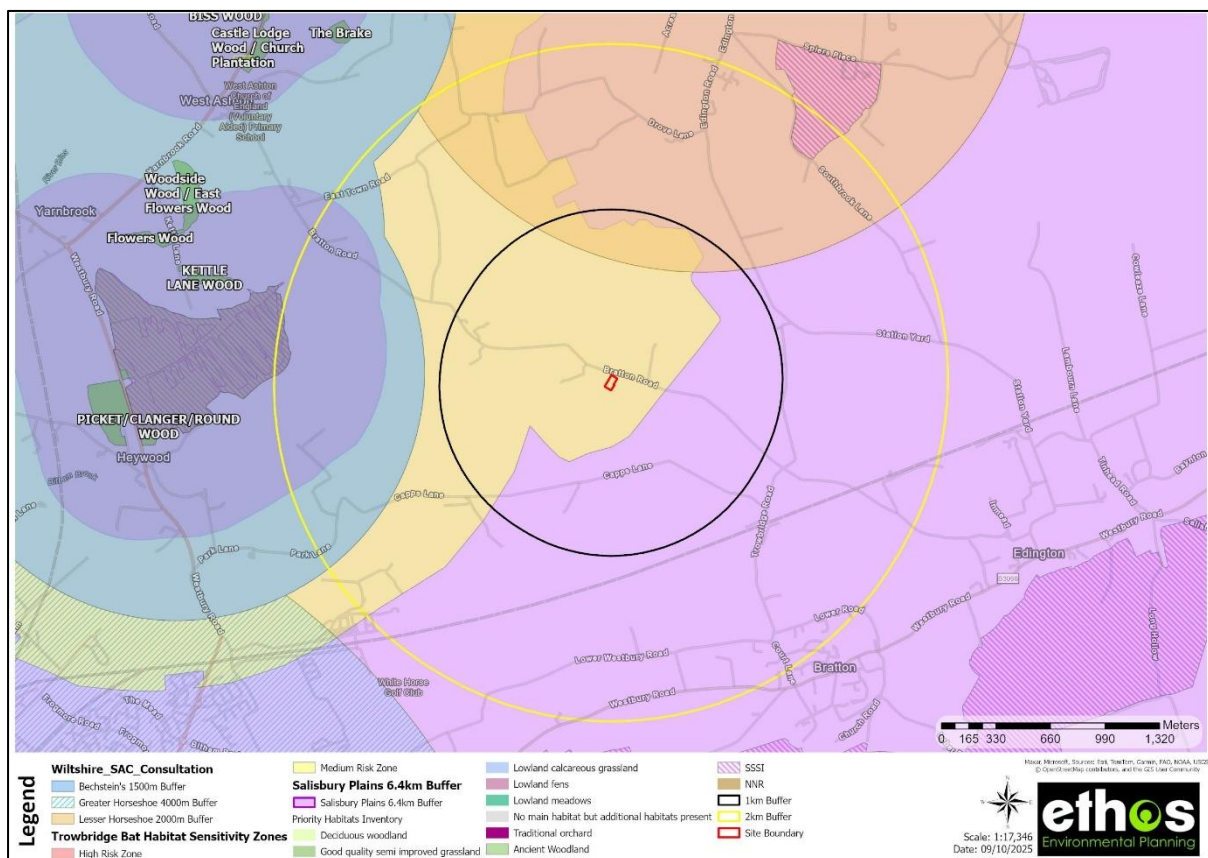


Figure 4: Site location, priority habitats and designated sites within the zone of influence.

Appendix 1 Baseline habitat condition assessments

Table 1: Condition assessment for modified grassland margin (GL-002)

Condition Assessment Criteria	Evidence	Pass/Fail
There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m² present, including at least 2 forbs. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high, or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m² (excluding creeping thistle, spear thistle, curled dock broad-leaved dock, common nettle, creeping buttercup, greater plantain, white clover and cow parsley), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland, and then use the relevant condition sheet.	Grassland is dominated by perennial rye-grass and false oat grass with creeping thistle frequent within the sward. This condition is failed as the average no. of species per m² is lower than 6-8 required by the condition. No forbs are present and clover species are also present.	Fail
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.	Grassland is all the same sward height, managed to a uniform short sward.	Fail
Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	No scrub present within the area.	Pass
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.	Unmanaged area of grassland with no damage.	Pass
Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Bare ground is 0% through a thatching of previously fallen grass stems.	Fail
Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	None recorded within the area.	Pass

Condition Assessment Criteria	Evidence	Pass/Fail
There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	No invasive plants recorded within area .	Pass
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Achieved
<i>Passes <3 criteria or 4-6 criteria, excluding essential criterion A</i>	<i>Poor (1)</i>	Poor condition, 4 criteria passed but excluding essential criteria A
<i>Passes 4 or 5 criteria, including essential criterion A</i>	<i>Moderate (2)</i>	
<i>Passes 6 or 7 criteria, including essential criterion A</i>	<i>Good (3)</i>	

Table 2 Modified grassland (GL-007)

Condition Assessment Criteria	Evidence	Pass/Fail
There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high, or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m2 (excluding creeping thistle, spear thistle, curled dock broad-leaved dock, common nettle, creeping buttercup, greater plantain, white clover and cow parsley), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland, and then use the relevant condition sheet.	Grassland is dominated by perennial rye-grass with creeping thistle, dock and clover species also present. Species diversity is very low (average 3 species per quadrat).	Fail
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.	Grassland sward height is variable and tussocky	Pass
Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> may be present).	Encroaching bramble scrub within the area over 20% present	Fail

Condition Assessment Criteria	Evidence	Pass/Fail
Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.		
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.	Unmanaged area of grassland with no damage.	Pass
Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Some small areas of bare ground are present due to tussocky sward	Pass
Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	None recorded within the area.	Pass
There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	No invasive plants recorded within area.	Pass
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Achieved
<i>Passes <3 criteria or 4-6 criteria, excluding essential criterion A</i>	<i>Poor (1)</i>	Poor condition, 5 criteria passed but excluding essential criteria A
<i>Passes 4 or 5 criteria, including essential criterion A</i>	<i>Moderate (2)</i>	
<i>Passes 6 or 7 criteria, including essential criterion A</i>	<i>Good (3)</i>	

Table 3 *Willow scrub (HS-005)*

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range).¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species², - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>, sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>, which can be up to 100% cover).	No	Mostly only willow present. Some small patches of bramble. Therefore, one species over 75% dominance.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	All scrub is same age, likely planted at same time and not subject to rotational management
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	No invasive species or sub-optimal species present.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	There are areas of tussocky grassland and some bramble scrub adjacent to the scrub.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	Scrub patch is too small to have clearings, glades or rides.
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	Yes	2 criteria achieved

Hedgerows

Table 4 Hedgerow H-001 native hedgerow

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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. 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).	No	Hedgerow is managed to a uniform shape and is trimmed to approx. 1m 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 (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and	No	The hedgerow measured in width of approx. 0.75m

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					Notes (such as justification)
			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).		
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).	Pass	Gaps at the canopy base were less than 0.5m for 90% of the hedgerow 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).	Pass	Gaps in the canopy were less than 10% of the hedgerow length and no individual gaps exceeded 5m.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					Notes (such as justification)
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Pass	Undisturbed vegetation was present the full length of the hedgerow. 2m grass buffer
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Pass	Undesirable vegetation makes up less than 20%. None present

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					Notes (such as justification)
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Pass	No invasive/ neophyte species found.
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 (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Fail	Some damage from human activities such as very close flailing, many limbs stripped to trunk.
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.					
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees					
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score			
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in	3			

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
	any functional group.				
Moderate	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).	2		Yes	3 condition criteria failed, 1 functional group
Poor	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).	1			

Table 5 H-002 native hedgerow with trees – associated with bank or ditch

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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. 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).	Pass	The hedgerow measured in height at approximately 3.5m	
A2	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Pass	The hedgerow measured in width at approximately 2.5m	

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
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).	Pass	Gaps at the canopy base were less than 0.5m for 90% of the hedgerow 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).	Pass	Gaps in the canopy were less than 10% of the hedgerow length and no individual gaps exceeded 5m.	
C1	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden	Pass	Ditch and unmanaged 2m buffer	

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
			footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.			
C2	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail		Undesirable vegetation is greater than 20%, approximately 50%. High nettle coverage on Bankside verge.
D 1	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Pass		No invasive/ neophyte species found.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
D 2	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 (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	The hedgerow is free of damage caused by human activities.
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	Fail	One large mature oak
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	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Pass	All trees in healthy condition.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
		animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.			
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.					
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees					
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score			
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3		Yes	2 conditions failed, no functional groups
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2			
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes	1			

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
	A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).				
Score achieved:					

Table 6 H-003 Native hedgerow with trees

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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. 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).	No	A couple of large mature shrubs and trees are present but overall the remainder of the hedgerow is managed to a low height similarly to H-001	
A2	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	No	Similarly to criteria A1, the majority of this hedgerow is cut back and managed narrow under 1.5m with the exception of where trees are present	

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
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).	Yes	No gap is present	
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).	Yes	No gaps in the hedgerow are present	
C1	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	There is an undisturbed corridor of grassland south of the hedgerow, over 1m in width	

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
C2	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No		Nettles are present at high amounts within the hedgerow base as well as some dock
D1	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Yes		No invasive species are present
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 (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes		Some damage as a result of flailing but not significant
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only						

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
E1	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.		No	One mature ash tree but no other age classes present
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.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		Yes	Tree appears healthy with no obvious signs of ash die back
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.						
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees						
Category		Category Requirements	Metric score			
Good		No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1	3			

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
	failure in any functional group.				
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2		Yes	4 failures in total, 1 functional group
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1			
Score achieved:					Moderate

Condition Assessments of Proposed Habitats

Table 7 Individual rural tree planting

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion Targeted (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes	All trees planted will be native. Species include field maple, common alder, hawthorn, common beech, bird cherry, English oak, whitebeam and rowan.
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	Trees will be planted in a block and so there will be no gaps in the canopy.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	Trees will not achieve maturity within the 30 year BNG period
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	Trees will be managed for biodiversity and the site is not publicly accessible, therefore no impacts as a result of human activities are likely.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Natural ecological niches will not develop within the 30-year BNG period.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	No	Trees will be planted over the arable field not grassland.
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Yes	3 criteria targeted

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion Targeted (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.			

Table 8 Proposed non-priority pond

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland¹ and non-woodland):			
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	No	As the pond will be close to arable land it is likely to include run off from farming activities, which will reduce the water quality
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	No	There will be a 3-metre maintenance strip around the pond however this will not be semi-natural habitat within 10m of the pond
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Yes	If this habitat develops it will be removed during management
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Yes	The drainage plans show the pond will contain a flow chamber and will be connected to a surface water sewer
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams ² , pumps or pipework.	Yes	The pond basin has been designed to allow a permanent water level to be achieved, with the levels to fluctuate naturally

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
			throughout the year
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species ³ .	Yes	No non-native species will be planted and if present will be removed during management
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Yes	The pond will not be stocked with fish.
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:			
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) ⁴ cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Yes	These plants will be allowed to colonise naturally and will be retained and encouraged to grow as part of the management process
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Yes	The pond will not be surrounded by trees and scrub which could shade out the pond
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria			
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)	Yes	7 criteria targeted
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

Table 9 Enhanced hedgerow H-001

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion targeted (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					Notes (such as justification)
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes	The hedgerow will be allowed to grow out to a height of over 1.5m
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes	The hedgerow will be allowed to grow out on the site side to a dense structure over 1.5m

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion targeted (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
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).		Pass	Gaps at the canopy base were less than 0.5m for 90% of the hedgerow length and the hedgerow will be managed to retain this
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).		Pass	Gaps in the canopy were less than 10% of the hedgerow length and no individual gaps exceeded 5m. Management will ensure gaps do not develop.
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	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with		Pass	Undisturbed vegetation was present the full length of the hedgerow. 2m grass buffer. Management will ensure this buffer zone is retained.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion targeted (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					Notes (such as justification)
		the hedgerow (at least).	the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.		
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Pass	Undesirable vegetation makes up less than 20%. None currently present and this will be retained through management
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Pass	No invasive/neophyte species found. None will be introduced as part of the development and any present will be removed through management

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion targeted (Yes or No)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					Notes (such as justification)
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 (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Some damage is currently from human activities such as very close flailing, many limbs stripped to trunk. Bringing this hedgerow into a more sensitive management regime will rectify damage present.
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.					
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees					
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score			
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3		Yes	All condition criteria targeted
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional	2			

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description		Criterion targeted (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
	group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).				
Poor	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).	1			