

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

Newton Lane, Whiteparish, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 2QQ

Client:

Kate Brosnan

Assessment Date:

16-12-2025

Project:

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

The construction of a stable block, access track and menage.

BNG assessment methodology and legislation can be found in the Arbtech Supplement: **BNG Methodology and Legislation – 2025.**

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

Version Control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Rebecca Gane BSc (Hons) Graduate Ecologist	23/01/2025
Reviewed	0.2	Abby Pidgen BSc (Hons) MSc, Graduate Ecologist	29/01/2025
Final	1.0	Rebecca Gane BSc (Hons) Graduate Ecologist	29/01/2025
Updated	2.0	Rebecca Gane BSc (Hons) Consultant Ecologist	16/12/2025

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Site Location and Context

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

The site is located at National Grid Reference SU 23828 22810 and has an area of approximately 0.198ha. It is situated within a rural setting ~0.9km southwest of Whiteparish, Salisbury. The wider landscape contains a network of arable fields, treeline and parcels of scattered woodland and in close proximity to the site.

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

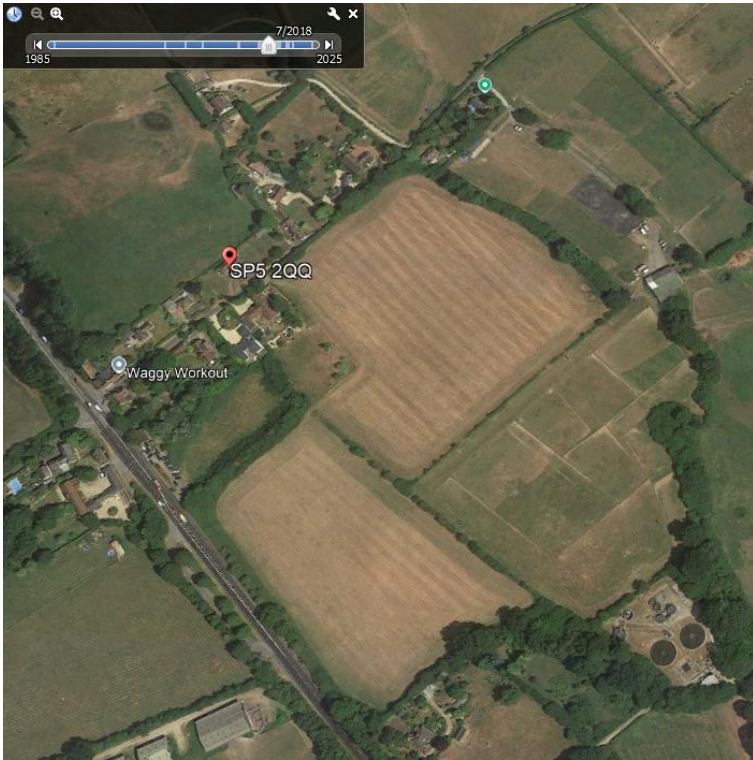
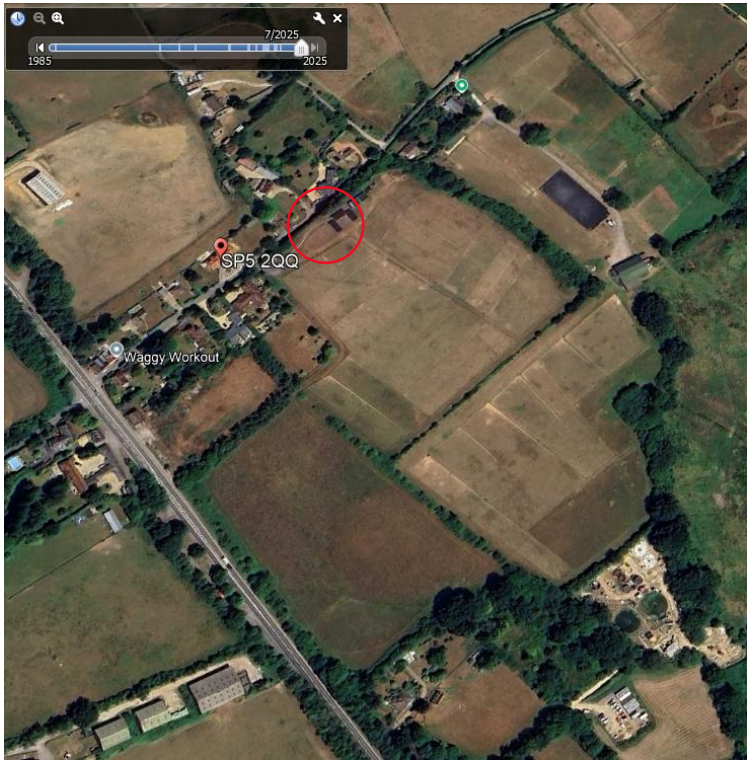
- ❖ Statutory BNG Metric - Newton Lane, Whiteparish, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 2QQ – v2 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)
- ❖ Proposed Layout
- ❖ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) - Newton Lane, Whiteparish, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 2QQ – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)

Executive Summary

The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+11.16%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (+10.49%). As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024;) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units.

All trading conditions have been satisfied.

A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.

BNG Informative		
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations	30 th January 2020
	The majority of the baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from the site as observed during the PEA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025). However, evidence of minor habitat degradation had occurred between 30 th January 2020 and the date of the site visit, as evident in the screenshots of satellite imagery obtained from Google Earth dated July 2018 and 17 th July 2024.	
	These areas have been accounted for within the baseline valuation.	
		

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)	131 - New Forest				
Strategic Significance	Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy				
	Habitat	Baseline / Post-Development	Justification		
	Other neutral grassland	High strategic significance	Measure (NG1): Neutral Grassland – Maintain and Enhance		
	Native hedgerow	High strategic significance	Measure (HDW1): Hedgerows and Dry Stone Walls – Maintain and Enhance		
Limitations					
There were no specific limitations to the assessment.					
Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site					
Area-Based Habitats (A-1)					
Habitat	Area (ha)	Description		Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance

Other neutral grassland	0.746ha	The northernmost field (field 1) is used for grazing horses, with the northeastern, southeastern and southwestern perimeter used for riding. The grassland is predominantly grazed to a short sward height and has a low species diversity.	Poor	High Strategic Significance
Other neutral grassland	0.162ha	An area of grassland along the northwestern boundary is managed to a lesser extent (i.e. ungrazed). Species composition within field 1 is heavily dominant with grasses including (A) common bent, red fescue, Yorkshire fog, (F) ragwort, (O) cocksfoot, bramble, (R) Canadian fleabane, hoary willowherb, red clover, pendulous sedge and mouse ear chickweed. An area of grassland has previously been removed to facilitate access and this has been assumed as moderate condition.	Moderate	High Strategic Significance
Linear-Based Habitats (B-1)				
Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Native hedgerow	0.074km	A native hedgerow consisting predominantly of elm but also containing holly, hawthorn, blackthorn and willow is located on the northwestern boundary of field 1. The ground layer of the hedgerow consists of ivy, common nettle, cow parsley and cleavers. This habitat will be retained.	Good	High Strategic Significance
Line of trees	0.039km	A line of trees is located along the northwestern boundary. This habitat will be retained.	Poor	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site
Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (A-1)	Other neutral grassland	0.166ha	Retained grassland.	Poor	High Strategic Significance
	Other neutral grassland	0.041ha	Retained grassland.	Moderate	High Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Artificial unvegetated unsealed surface	0.262ha	Menage and access.	N/A	Low Strategic Significance
	Buildings	0.012ha	Stable block, hay barn	N/A	Low Strategic Significance
Enhanced (A-3)	Other neutral grassland	0.444ha	An area to the south will be enhanced to good condition. This will be achieved by satisfying the following criteria: A, C, D, E and F. Whilst the area is not used for grazing, it is recommended that a grazing appropriate seed mix such as the Neutral Hay Meadow	Good	High Strategic Significance

			(MG5) Seed Mix is selected, as the field is currently used for hay. The area will be prepared prior to seeding and managed to maintain a high level of species diversity.		
Linear-Based Habitats					
	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (B-1)	Native hedgerow	0.074km	Retained hedgerow.	Good	High Strategic Significance
	Line of trees	0.039km	Retained line of trees.	Poor	Low Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Native hedgerow	0.014km	New native hedgerow. Species undetermined. Species may include hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, guelder rose and holly.	Good	High Strategic Significance

Change of Biodiversity Value

		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
On-Site	Baseline	4.92ha	0.6 units	N/A
	Post-Development	5.47ha	0.66 units	N/A
	Net Change	+0.55 units	+0.06 units	N/A
Overall Net Change		+11.16%	+10.49%	N/A

Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

BNG Informative	
Results and Next Steps	The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+11.16%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (+10.49% As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024;) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units. All trading conditions have been satisfied. A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.
BNG Mitigation Hierarchy	
Avoidance	Retained grassland, hedgerow and treelines
Minimisation	
Mitigation	Grassland enhancement and native hedgerow planting
Offset	

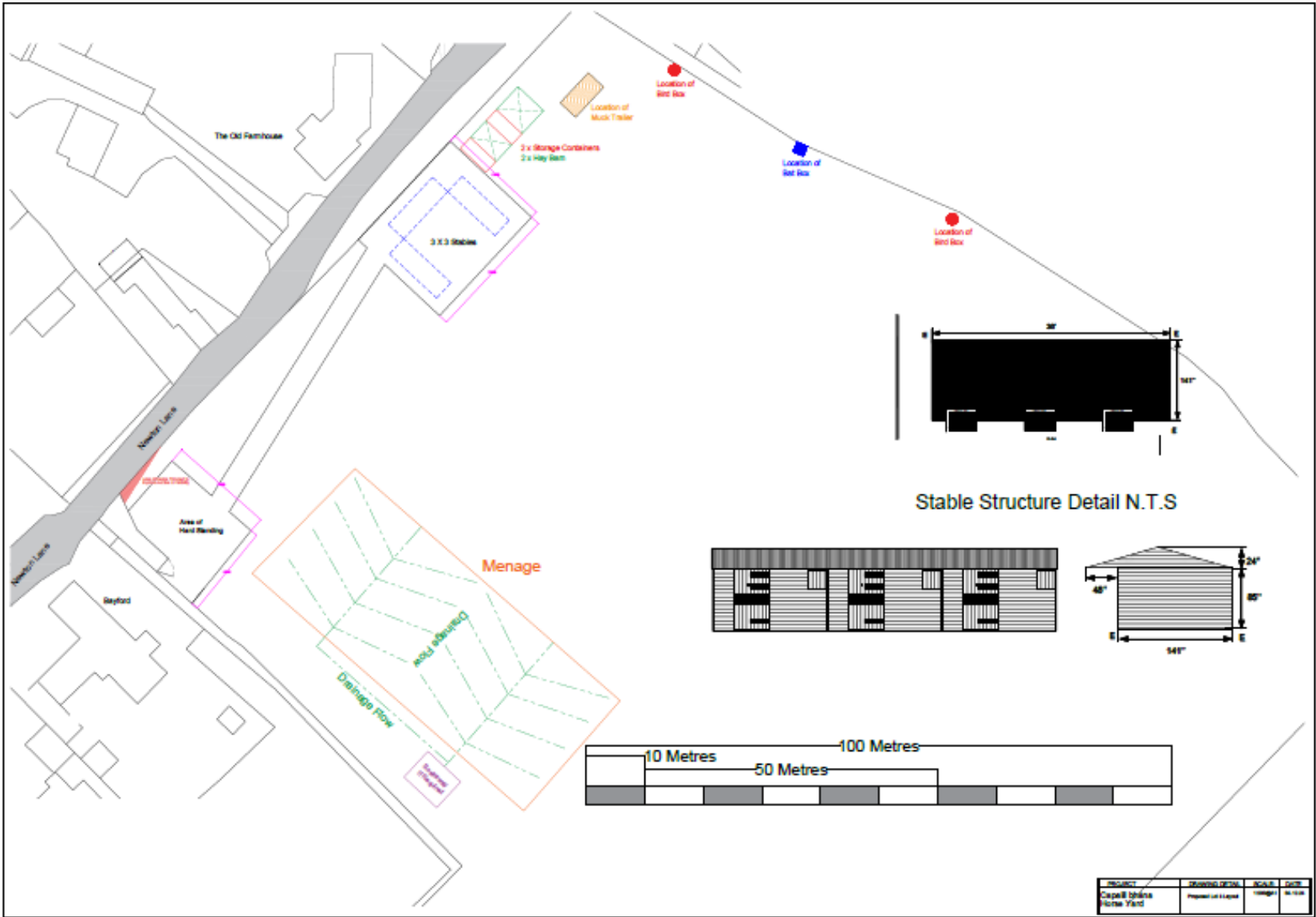
Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan



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)		Habitat units	0.55		
		Hedgerow units	0.06		
		Watercourse units	0.00		
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)		Habitat units	11.16%		
		Hedgerow units	10.49%		
		Watercourse units	0.00%		
Trading rules satisfied?		Yes ✓			
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Habitat units	10.00%	4.92	5.41	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.60	0.66	0.00	No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

NATIVE HEDGEROW						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Condition Assessment Result	Metric Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	✓
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	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).	
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Yes	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).	
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	Yes	Score Achieved:		GOOD
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).	Yes			
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	Yes			

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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.	Yes
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Yes

Condition Assessment Criteria: Neutral grassland		Criterion passed (Yes or No)		Notes/Justification
		F1	P1	
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.	No	Yes	
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.	No	No	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	No	Yes	
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%.	Yes	Yes	
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.	No	Yes	
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.	No	No	
Essential criterion for good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)			-	
Number of criteria passed			No	
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)	✓		

LINE OF TREES					
Condition Assessment Criteria	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Metric Score	Condition Assessment Result	Score Achieved ×/✓
		Northwestern boundary			
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	Good	Passes 5 criteria	
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	No	Moderate	Passes 3 or 4 criteria	
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Poor	Passes 2 or fewer criteria	✓
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	No	Score achieved:	Poor	
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). 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.	No			

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Condition Assessment Criteria: Neutral grassland (RETAINED)		Criterion passed (Yes or No)		Notes/Justification
		F1	P1	
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.	N	Y	
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.	N	N	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	N	Y	
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	Y	
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.	N	Y	
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	N	
Essential criterion for good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)			No	
Number of criteria passed			-	
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)	✓		
Condition Assessment Criteria: Neutral grassland (ENHANCED GRASSLAND)		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	A species-rich grazing seed mix will be sown to increase species diversity	
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.	N		
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Y		

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	
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	
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.	Y	See criteria A
Essential criterion for good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)			
Number of criteria passed			
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)	

NATIVE HEDGEROW (RETAINED)						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Condition Assessment Result	Metric Score	Score Achieved ×/√
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	√
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	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).	
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Yes	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).	
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	Yes	Score Achieved:		GOOD
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).	Yes			
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	Yes			

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.	Yes
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Yes

NATIVE HEDGEROW (CREATED)						
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Condition Assessment Result	Metric Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	✓
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	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).	
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Yes	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).	
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	Yes	Score Achieved:		GOOD
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).	Yes			
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	Yes			

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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.	Yes
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	Yes

LINE OF TREES (RETAINED)					
Condition Assessment Criteria	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Metric Score	Condition Assessment Result	Score Achieved ×/✓
		Northwestern boundary			
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	Good	Passes 5 criteria	
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	No	Moderate	Passes 3 or 4 criteria	
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Poor	Passes 2 or fewer criteria	✓
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	No	Score achieved:	Poor	
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). 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.	No			