

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

Revised Milou Grid Connection Part 2, Land off the B4040, Minety, SN16 9DX

Client:

Axis

Assessment Date:

7th April 2026

Project:

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

The Proposed Development comprises the laying of underground electrical cables between the consented 'Milou BESS' site and the National Grid Substation to the north (appeal ref. APP/Y3940/W/23/3319392, planning ref. PL/2022/00664). The cable would be installed within mechanically dug trenches through the existing agricultural field, and sections of hedgerow would be removed. These trenches would be backfilled and the surface treatment reinstated. The cable would be directionally drilled beneath the B4040 and the linear woodland area to the north of the B4040, avoiding removal or damage.

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

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

Version Control			
Status	Issue	Name	Date
Draft	0.1	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE, Consultant Ecologist	08/04/2026
Final	1.0	Jade Lemm BSc (Hons) DipHE, Consultant Ecologist	09/04/2026

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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 ST 99963 89015 and has an area of approximately 1.12ha comprising clover leys, cereal crops, hedgerows, modified grassland, tall forbs, woodland, trees and developed land. The site is located in Minety and farmland. It is immediately surrounded by the B4040 to the north and agricultural fields in all other directions. The wider landscape comprises Stonehill Wood ~110m north, Cocked Hat Wood ~170m south, Long Wood ~350m south, Park Copse ~650m north, Nineteen Acre Wood ~750m east, Great Withy Wood ~800m south-east, Swantage Wood ~1.1km south-west, and Ravensroost Wood ~1.65km east.

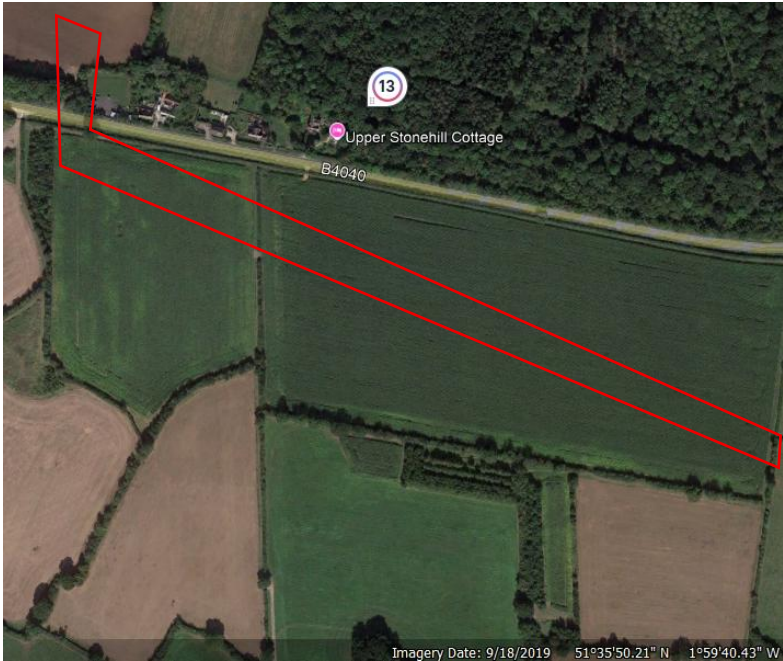
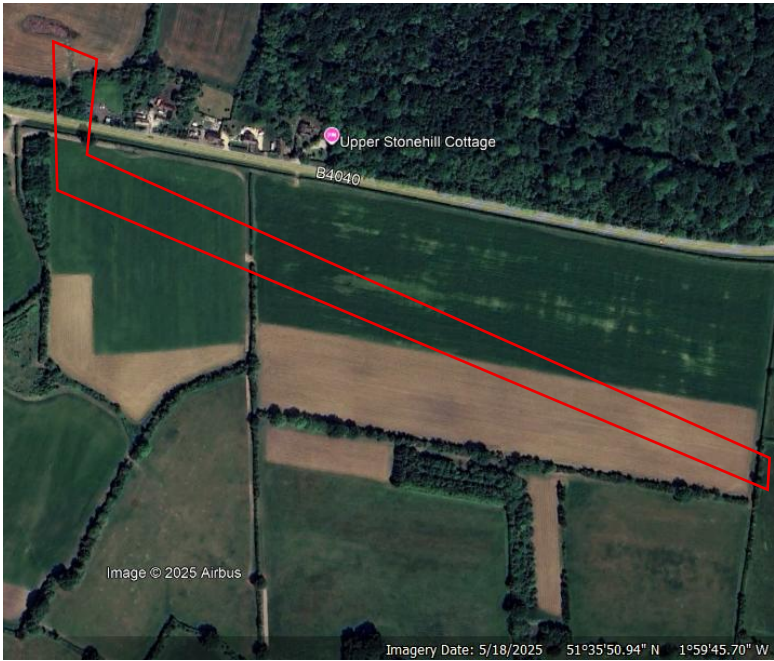
This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- ❖ Statutory BNG Metric - Revised Milou Grid Connection Part 2 Minety National Grid Connection, SN16 9DX – V1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)
- ❖ General Arrangement – Drawing number: 3076-02-18 – Revision: B – Drawing date: March 2026 (Axis, 2026)
- ❖ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) - Revised Milou Grid Connection Part 2 Minety National Grid Connection, SN16 9DX – V2 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)

Executive Summary

- ❖ The current landscaping proposal results in no net change (0%) for area-based units and a net loss of linear-based habitat units (-30.79%) with unmet trading rules. In line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (2024), any loss of a habitat must be replaced on a like-for-like or like-for-better principle. At present, trading conditions are not satisfied for the loss of native hedgerow (low distinctiveness) and native hedgerow with trees (medium distinctiveness). With unmet trading conditions and a net loss, the proposal fails principal Rules 1 and 2 of BNG and is not compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024).
- ❖ In order to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for area-based habitats, a minimum area-based unit score of 2.77 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 0.25 units. Similarly, to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for linear-based habitats, a minimum linear-based unit score of 0.37 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 0.14 units. Of these units, 0.09 units must be of a medium distinctiveness linear-based habitat to satisfy trading rules.

Introduction

BNG Informative		
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations	27 th November 2025
	The baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from observations made during the PEA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025). As evident in the screenshots of satellite imagery obtained from GoogleEarth dated 9 th September 2019 and 18 th May 2025, the site does not appear to have undergone any degradation. The habitats on site, and therefore the biodiversity value of the site, are not considered to have undergone degradation since 30th January 2020.	
	 	
Irreplaceable Habitat Statement	No irreplaceable habitats as listed under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations (2024) are currently present nor were present before 30 th January 2020.	

Metric Version & Publication Date	Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool first published 29 th November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 23 rd July 2024.
BNG Target Uplift	+10%
National Character Area (NCA)	108 - Upper Thames Clay Vales
Strategic Significance	The strategic significance of habitats within the baseline assessment has been determined in accordance with the BNG Metric User Guide (Updated, July 2025)¹ and the published Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)². According to the LNRS interactive map³ the application site falls into two different habitat networks: - Maintain and Enhance Woodland - Create More Woodland These zones have been identified as having the potential to contribute to nature recovery at the landscape scale. In line with the BNG Metric User Guide, as the LNRS has been published for the site, all baseline strategic significance values for habitat parcels on the site (within the identified area of potential measure) are set to 'low' (BNG User Guide p27, 2025). Any potential increase in strategic significance would only apply to post-development habitat creation or enhancement (where possible) if it were proposed in a mapped location and aligned with an LNRS potential measure. At the baseline stage, the published guidance is clear that all existing habitats are to be scored as Low strategic significance, regardless of ecological value or local conservation interest. When the BNG post-development assessment is undertaken, the following should be considered in regard to post-development strategic significance of habitats according to Table 7 of the BNG Metric User Guide (p. 27), as summarised below: - High strategic significance = Applied only if the parcel is mapped in the Local Habitat Map for a potential LNRS measure and the proposed intervention is consistent with that mapped measure. - Medium strategic significance = Cannot be applied where an LNRS is published. - Low strategic significance = Applied when the above conditions are not met. This includes cases where the intervention occurs in a mapped area but does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/689c5ee17b2e384441636196/The_Statutory_Biodiversity_Metric_-_User_Guide_-_July_2025.pdf

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

³ https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/2b3a19902e3e4b81bac90326a2a2dec5/page/View-only-map?draft=true&views=View-4#data_s=id%3AdataSource_12-19209d14036-layer-6-0%3A2864801%2Cid%3AdataSource_12-1983c8d7fdc-layer-31-19841238feb-layer-31-0-1%3A1%2Cid%3AdataSource_18-1997bece863-layer-41-0%3A3572827%2Cid%3AdataSource_18-1997105fe34-layer-101-19865de85c6-layer-29-19865ddcd42-layer-28%3A876%2Cid%3Awidget_250_output_config_1%3A0

	Habitat	Justification
	Artificial Unvegetated Unsealed Surface	N/A
	Cereal Crops	Low - does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
	Developed Land Sealed Surface	N/A
	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Low - Low - does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS (retained but not enhanced).
	Modified Grassland	Low - does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
	Temporary Grass and Clover Leys	Low - does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
	Tall Forbs	Low - does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
	Native Hedgerow	Low - does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
	Native Hedgerow with Associated Bank or Ditch	Low - does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
	Native Hedgerow with Trees	Low - does not align with the specific potential measure proposed by the LNRS.
Limitations		
There were no specific limitations to the assessment.		

Baseline

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Area-Based Habitats (A-1)				
Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Modified Grassland	0.106	Three sections of modified grassland are present within the site.	<i>Poor: passes 3 or 4 of 7 criteria, excluding essential criterion A.</i> Assessed using the 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Cereal Crops	0.2255	Areas of Barley cereal crops were present on the south-east boundary of the site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Temporary Grass and Clover Leys	0.6927	A large portion of the site consists of temporary grass and clover leys. Species composition includes perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> (A), white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> (A), broadleaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> (O) and tufts of cock's foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> (O).	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Tall Forbs	0.0539	Areas of tall forbs were present throughout the site. Species composition included common mugwort <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> (D), broadleaved dock (O) and common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> (R).	<i>Moderate: passes 2 of 3 criteria, including essential criterion C.</i> Assessed using the 'Urban' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Artificial Unvegetated Unsealed Surface	0.0169	Hardcore areas were used throughout the site for paths and roads.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Developed Land Sealed Surface	0.0112	An area of concrete road was present on the north-western boundary.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	0.0213	There is an area of unmanaged woodland within the site (immature and semi-mature trees). Species composition included English oak <i>Quercus robur</i> (A) and Ash (A). The understorey consisted of common ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> (D), bramble (A), and lords & ladies	<i>Moderate: passes 30 of 39 criteria.</i>	Low Strategic Significance

		Arum maculatum (O). There was no evidence of browsing, no invasive species, some open spaces, a low tree mortality rate (some ash die-back), and some deadwood.	Assessed using the 'Woodland' habitat type condition sheet.	
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Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Linear-Based Habitats (B-1)

Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Native Hedgerow – associated with Bank or Ditch	0.017	Hedgerow with associated ditch H1 was located on the north-western boundary (approximately 16m length x 2.5m height x 1m wide). The hedgerow had no canopy gaps (<0.5m canopy to base gap), and no invasive species. Species composition included hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> (A), ash (R) and field maple <i>Acer campestre</i> (R). The understorey species included common ivy (A) and bramble (O). The hedgerow had been historically flailed. A dry ditch with no aquatic vegetation was associated with the hedgerow.	Moderate: <i>passes 5 of 8 criteria.</i> Assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Native Hedgerow with Trees	0.014	Hedgerow with trees H3 was located alongside the south-eastern boundary (approximately 14m length x 2-4m height x 1.5m wide). The hedgerow had no canopy gaps (<0.5m canopy to base gap), and no invasive species. Species composition included blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> (D). The understorey species included common ivy (A) and bramble (O). The hedgerow had one semi-mature ash tree <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> . No evidence of human disturbance or ecological niches were present.	Good: <i>passes 8 of 10 criteria.</i> Assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
Native Hedgerow	0.005	Hedgerow H2 was located in the centre of the site (approximately 4m length x 2.5m height x 1.5m wide). The hedgerow had no canopy gaps (<0.5m canopy to base gap), and no invasive species. Species composition included hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> (D). The understorey species included common ivy <i>Hedera helix</i> (A) and bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (O). The hedgerow had been historically flailed.	Good: <i>passes 6 of 8 criteria.</i> Assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (A-1)	Modified Grassland	0.106	The modified grassland will be temporarily impacted and reinstated within 2 years of the development (retained).	Poor	Low Strategic Significance
	Cereal Crops	0.2255	The cereal crops will be temporarily impacted and reinstated within 2 years of the development (retained).	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Temporary Grass and Clover Leys	0.6927	The temporary grass and clover leys will be temporarily impacted and reinstated within 2 years of the development (retained).	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Tall Forbs	0.0539	The tall forbs will be temporarily impacted and reinstated within 2 years of the development (retained).	Moderate	Low Strategic Significance
	Artificial Unvegetated Unsealed Surface	0.0169	The unsealed surface will be retained, as the cable will be directionally drilled beneath the B4040 and through the linear woodland area to the north of the B4040, avoiding removal or damage.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Developed Land Sealed Surface	0.0112	The road will be retained, as the cable will be directionally drilled beneath the B4040 and through the linear woodland area to the north of the B4040, avoiding removal or damage.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	0.0213	The woodland will be retained, as the cable will be directionally drilled beneath the B4040 and through the linear woodland area to the north of the B4040, avoiding removal or damage.	Moderate	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Linear-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (B-1)	Native Hedgerow – associated with Bank or Ditch	0.017	Hedgerow H1 will be retained.	Moderate	Low Strategic Significance
Created (B-2)	Native Hedgerow with Trees	0.014	A new section of hedgerow with trees will be created to replace the hedgerow removed for the development.	Moderate: anticipated to pass 7 of 10 criteria. Assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance
	Native Hedgerow	0.005	A new section of hedgerow will be created to replace the hedgerow removed for the development.	Moderate: anticipated to pass 5 of 8 criteria. Assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition sheet.	Low Strategic Significance

Change of Biodiversity Value

		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
On-Site	Baseline	2.52 units ❖ Cereal Crops – 0.45 units ❖ Temporary Grass and Clover Leys – 1.39 units ❖ Modified Grassland – 0.21 units ❖ Tall Forbs – 0.22 units ❖ Artificial Unvegetated Unsealed Surface – Net zero habitat ❖ Developed Land Sealed Surface – Net zero habitat ❖ Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland – 0.26 units	0.33 units ❖ Native Hedgerow with Associated Bank or Ditch – 0.14 units ❖ Native Hedgerow with Trees – 0.17 units ❖ Native Hedgerow – 0.03 units	N/A
	Post-Development	2.52 units ❖ Retained Cereal Crops – 0.45 units ❖ Retained Temporary Grass and Clover Leys – 1.39 units ❖ Retained Modified Grassland – 0.21 units ❖ Retained Tall Forbs – 0.22 units ❖ Retained Artificial Unvegetated Unsealed Surface – Net zero habitat ❖ Retained Developed Land Sealed Surface – Net zero habitat ❖ Retained Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland – 0.26 units	0.23 units ❖ Retained Native Hedgerow with Associated Bank or Ditch – 0.14 units ❖ Created Native Hedgerow with Trees – 0.08 units ❖ Created Native Hedgerow – 0.02 units	N/A
	Overall Net Change	No net change	-0.10 units (-30.79%)	N/A

Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

BNG Informative	
Results	The current landscaping proposal results in no net change (0%) for area-based units and a net loss of linear-based habitat units (-30.79%) with unmet trading rules. In line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (2024), any loss of a habitat must be replaced on a like-for-like or like-for-better principle. At present, trading conditions are not satisfied for the loss of native hedgerow (low distinctiveness) and native hedgerow with trees (medium distinctiveness). With unmet trading conditions and a net loss, the proposal fails principal Rules 1 and 2 of BNG and is not compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024). In order to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for area-based habitats, a minimum area-based unit score of 2.77 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 0.25 units. Similarly, to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for linear-based habitats, a minimum linear-based unit score of 0.37 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 0.14 units. Of these units, 0.09 units must be of a medium distinctiveness linear-based habitat to satisfy trading rules.
Recommendations and Next Steps	To achieve the required net gain in biodiversity from the proposed development, the provision of additional or alternative landscaping should be explored, and the plans amended accordingly to achieve a net gain on site. The provisioning of additional landscaping should first be considered within the site boundary. However, the applicant is not able to lease any additional land from the landowner and wishes to keep using the land within the redline boundary for agricultural purposes following installation of the cable route. In addition, potential maintenance of the cables would disturb any biodiversity planting (albeit this is unlikely to be needed during the lifetime of the cable). The landowner is not prepared to lease any other land nearby. As such, provision of biodiversity planting within the redline boundary (onsite) and outside the redline boundary (offsite) has been explored and determined not to be feasible. Based on the proposed plans, it is unlikely that a net gain will be achieved by means of habitat creation/enhancement without significant changes to the proposals on-site or requiring unfeasible commitments off-site. As such, a financial contribution to off-site ecological enhancements (i.e., purchasing biodiversity units) within an approved scheme is required to achieve the +10% net gain for area-based habitat units. The mechanism for securing this offsetting will need to be proposed to and confirmed by the LPA and will be linked to the application through a Section 106 (s106) agreement. The proposed habitat compensation must be of an appropriate distinctiveness to meet the trading rules of BNG. A summary of what off-site units will be required is detailed in the table below.

	<table><tr><td></td><td>Distinctiveness</td><td>Broad Habitat Group</td><td>Habitat</td><td>Units Required</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Low</td><td>Any</td><td>Any</td><td>0.25</td></tr><tr><td></td><td colspan="3">Total</td><td>0.25</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Linear-Based</td><td>Medium</td><td>Hedgerow</td><td>Native Hedgerow with Trees</td><td>0.09</td></tr><tr><td>Low</td><td>Hedgerow</td><td>Native Hedgerow</td><td>0.05</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Total</td><td>0.14</td></tr></table>		Distinctiveness	Broad Habitat Group	Habitat	Units Required		Low	Any	Any	0.25		Total			0.25	Linear-Based	Medium	Hedgerow	Native Hedgerow with Trees	0.09	Low	Hedgerow	Native Hedgerow	0.05	Total			0.14
	Distinctiveness	Broad Habitat Group	Habitat	Units Required																									
	Low	Any	Any	0.25																									
	Total			0.25																									
Linear-Based	Medium	Hedgerow	Native Hedgerow with Trees	0.09																									
	Low	Hedgerow	Native Hedgerow	0.05																									
	Total			0.14																									
Pre-Commencement	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. These additional requirements can only be actioned following the finalisation of the BNG assessment – be it on-site or off-site net gains sought.																												
BNG Mitigation Hierarchy																													
Avoidance	Retained existing grassland, woodland, tall forbs and hedgerows where possible. The affected areas are necessary to facilitate the proposal.																												
Minimisation																													
Mitigation	Creation of hedgerows to replace removed sections, where possible.																												
Offset	10% net gain and trading rules have not been met for linear-based habitats due to the limited landscaping scope on the site. 10% net gain has not been met for area-based habitats. Off-site offsetting will be required.																												

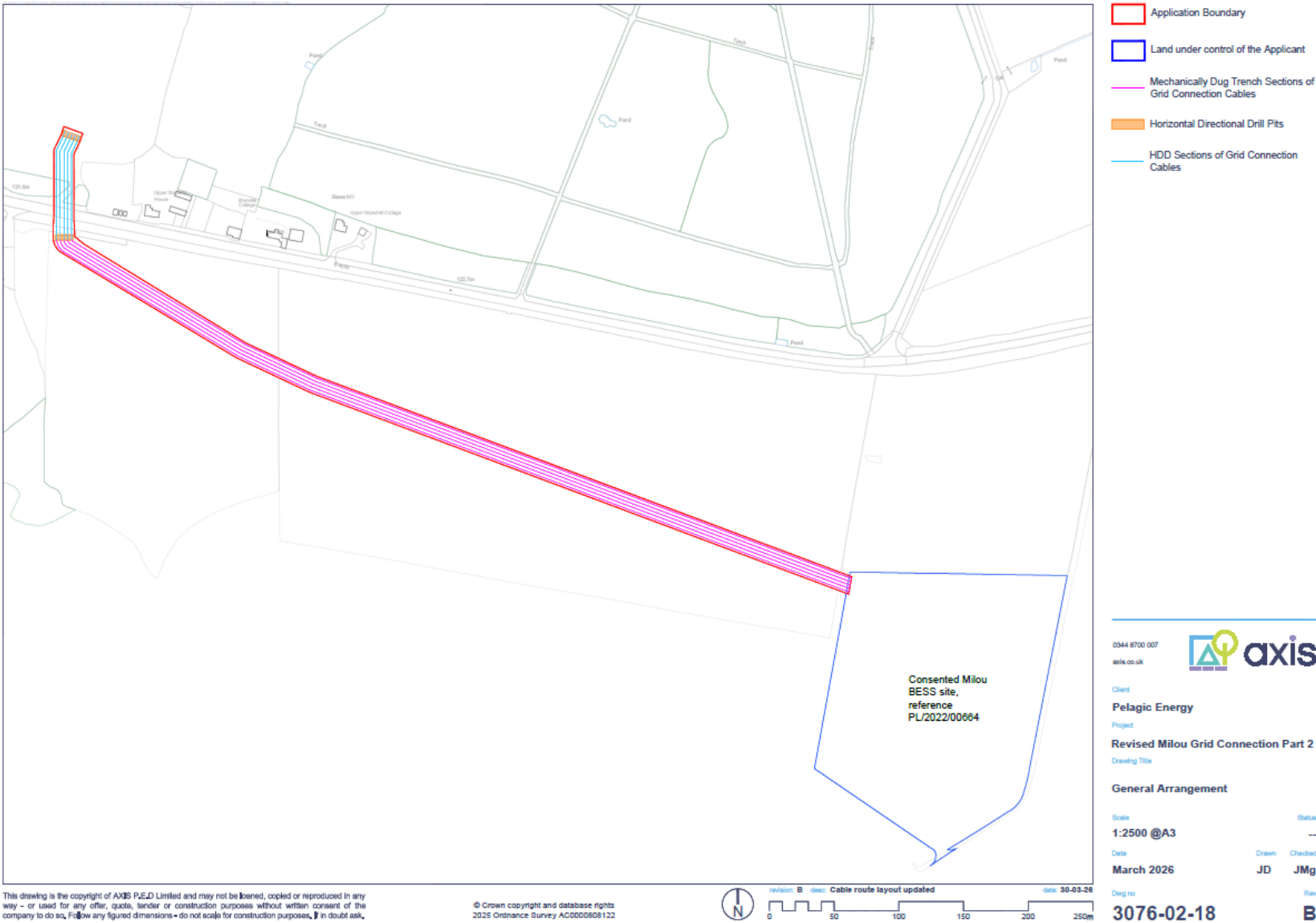
Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan



Appendix 3: Proposed Development Plan



Appendix 4: Headline BNG Results

Revised Milou Grid Connection Part 2, Land off the B4040, Minety, SN16 9DX		Return to results menu	
Headline Results			
Scroll down for final results ▲			
On-site baseline	Habitat units	2.52	
	Hedgerow units	0.33	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	2.52	
	Hedgerow units	0.23	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	Hedgerow units	-0.10	-30.79%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%
		On-site net gain is less than target	
		On-site net gain is less than target	
Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	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)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	-0.10	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
FINAL RESULTS			
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	-0.10	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.00%	Total net gain achieved is less than target not ▲
	Hedgerow units	-30.79%	Total net gain achieved is less than target not ▲
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	No - Check Trading Summaries ▲		

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Modified grassland (Roadside G1); assessed using the 'Grassland low distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment:

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

Modified grassland (Field G2); assessed using the 'Grassland low distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment:

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

Modified grassland (Field G3); assessed using the 'Grassland low distinctiveness' habitat condition assessment:

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

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

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types :		

A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	N	Common mugwort is dominant.
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	Y	Different plant species present.
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area. Note – to achieve good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Y	None observed.
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)			Y
Number of criteria passed			2
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only:			
Passes all 3 core criteria AND Meets the requirements for good condition within criterion C		Good (3)	
Passes 2 of 3 core criteria OR Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for good condition within criterion C		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria		Poor (1)	

Hedgerow H1; assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat condition assessment:

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, & D)	Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are	Y	Hedgerow averages 3m in height.

			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).		
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	N	Hedgerow averages 1m in width.
B1.	Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Y	Gap between ground and base of canopy is >0.5m for less than 10% of length.
B2.	Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall ‘gappiness’, but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Y	No canopy gaps.

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	Disturbed ground.
C2.	Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y	No nutrient enrichment.
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives observed.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	N	Flailed hedgerow.
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees					
Category		Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2	Weighting (score)		

Good	No more than 2 failures in total AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group	3	
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and C2 = moderate condition)	2	
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and B2 = poor condition)	1	
Score achieved:	Moderate		

Hedgerow H2; assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat condition assessment:

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, & D)	Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	Y	Hedgerow averages 2.5m in height.

A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Y	Hedgerow averages 1.5m in width.
B1.	Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Y	Gap between ground and base of canopy is >0.5m for less than 10% of length.
B2.	Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall ‘gappiness’, but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Y	No canopy gaps.
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	Disturbed ground.

C2.	Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y	No nutrient enrichment.
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives observed.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	N	Failed.
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees					
Category	Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet ‘favourable condition’ criteria in Table TS1-2		Weighting (score)		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group		3		
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and C2 = moderate condition)		2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and B2 = poor condition)		1		
Score achieved:		Good			

Hedgerow H3; assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat condition assessment:

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)	Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	Y	Hedgerow averages 2-4m in height.
A2. Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Y	Hedgerow averages 1.5m in width.
B1. Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Y	Gap between ground and base of canopy is >0.5m for less than 10% of length.
B2. Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall	Y	No canopy gaps.

		'gappiness', but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).		
C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	Disturbed vegetation.
C2. Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y	No nutrient enrichment.
D1. Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives observed.
D2. Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	Y	>90% of hedgerow and understorey is free of damage caused by human activities.
E1. Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient), 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.	N	There is not one mature, ancient, or veteran tree present per 20-50m of the hedgerow.
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	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Y	No evidence of adverse impacts on tree health.

	livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.			
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees				
Category	Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2	Weighting (score)		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group	3		
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g., 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 (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = poor condition)	1		
Score achieved:	Good			

Other lowland deciduous mixed woodland; assessed using 'Woodland' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	3	Three age classes present.

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species >10% cover.	3	No invasive species.
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	3	More than 5no. native species present.
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	3	Canopy and understorey both comprise >80% native species.
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted.	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category.	3	Woodland is less than 10ha; woodland clearing estimated to be ~10-20%.
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	1	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.
H	Tree health	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	2	Tree mortality between 11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	2	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.

Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
		by ancient woodland flora specialists.				
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	1	One storey present.
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	1	No veteran trees present in woodland.
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	2	Between 25% and 50% of woodland contains deadwood.
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	3	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.
Total Score (out of a possible 39)					30	
Condition Assessment Result				Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)				Good (3)		Moderate
Total score 26 to 32				Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)				Poor (1)		

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Created native hedgerow; assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat condition assessment sheet:

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

B1.	Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Y	Gap between ground and base of canopy is >0.5m for less than 10% of length.
B2.	Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall ‘gappiness’, but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Y	No canopy gaps.
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	Disturbed vegetation.
C2.	Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y	No nutrient enrichment.

D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives species.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	N	>90% of hedgerow and understorey will be free of damage caused by human activities.
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees					
Category	Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2		Weighting (score)		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group		3		
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and C2 = moderate condition)		2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, and B2 = poor condition)		1		
Score achieved:		Moderate			

Created native hedgerow with trees; assessed using the 'Hedgerow' habitat condition assessment sheet:

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D & E)	Criteria (the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition')	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is > 1.5 m height).	Y	Hedgerow averages over 2m.
A2. Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (e.g. blackthorn suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	N	Hedgerow width less than 1.5m.
B1. Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Y	Gap between ground and base of canopy is >0.5m for less than 10% of length.
B2. Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). Access points and gates contribute to the overall	Y	No canopy gaps.

		'gappiness', but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).		
C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: - measured from outer edge of hedgerow, and - is present on one side of the hedge (at least)	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground should be present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedge. This criterion recognises the value of the hedge base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	N	Disturbed vegetation.
C2. Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	The indicator species used are nettles (<i>Urtica</i> spp.), cleavers (<i>Galium aparine</i>) and docks (<i>Rumex</i> spp.). Their presence, either singly or together, should not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y	No nutrient enrichment.
D1. Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and recently introduced species	Recently introduced species refer to plant that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives.	Y	No invasives species.
D2. Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g. excessive hedge cutting).	Y	>90% of hedgerow and understorey will be free of damage caused by human activities.
E1. Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient), 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.	N	No veteran or ancient trees.
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	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Y	No adverse impacts on tree health.

	livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.			
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees				
Category	Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table TS1-2	Weighting (score)		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group	3		
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g., 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 (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = poor condition)	1		
Score achieved:	Moderate			