

Land off Windsor Drive, Devizes

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

February 2026

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Contact Details
Aspect Ecology Ltd Hardwick Business Park Noral Way Banbury Oxfordshire OX16 2AF t 01295 279721 e info@aspect-ecology.com w www.aspect-ecology.com

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Proposals

1.1.1 Aspect Ecology is advising Robert Hitchins Limited in respect of the land at Windsor Drive, Devizes (hereafter referred to as 'the site'), which is proposed for development to provide new residential housing. To inform the planning application, Aspect Ecology has undertaken a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment to determine the level of BNG that can be achieved under the scheme. This work is based on the Statutory Biodiversity Metric tool¹ issued by Defra and informed by associated guidance issued by Defra, in combination with guidance developed by CIRIA, CIEEM and IEMA.

1.2 Biodiversity Net Gain Legislation, Policy and Best Practice

Legislation

1.2.1 In England, Biodiversity Net Gain has been mandatory since 12th February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).

1.2.2 Schedule 7A identifies (Part 2) that planning permissions in England (with certain exceptions) are deemed to have been granted subject to a condition requiring the submission of a *Biodiversity Gain Plan* prior to commencement of development. The Biodiversity Gain Plan must include details in regard to Biodiversity Net Gain, demonstrating how the development will achieve a gain in calculated biodiversity value of at least 10%.

1.2.3 Government advice² sets out the information LPAs require in order to consider BNG as part of a planning application, in line with Section 7(1A) of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015 (as amended). In particular, this sets out that planning applications should be accompanied by the following information (alongside references to where this can be located in this report):

- A statement confirming whether the applicant believes that planning permission, if granted, would be subject to the biodiversity gain;
- In cases where the applicant believes that planning permission, if granted, would be subject to the biodiversity gain condition:-
 - i. the pre-development ('baseline') biodiversity value of the on-site habitat on the date of application (or an earlier date) including the completed Metric calculation tool (showing the calculations, the publication date and version of the Metric used to calculate that value);
 - ii. where the applicant wishes to use an earlier date, the proposed earlier date and the reasons for that date;
 - iii. a statement confirming whether the biodiversity value of the on-site habitat is lower on the date of application (or an earlier date) because of the carrying on of activities ('degradation');
 - iv. where unauthorised degradation has taken place between 30th January 2020 and the submission of the planning application, the relevant date should be immediately before these activities were carried out;

¹ Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Auditing and Accounting for Biodiversity – Calculation Tool. 23 July 2024

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain-what-local-planning-authorities-should-do> (updated 08/05/24)

- v. a description of any irreplaceable habitat on the land, that exists on the date of application (or an earlier date); and
- vi. a plan drawn to an identified scale (including the direction of north), showing on-site habitat existing on the date of application (or an earlier date), and any irreplaceable habitat.

Good Practice Principles for Development

1.2.4 CIRIA, CIEEM and IEMA have developed a set of principles on good practice to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain³, accompanied by a practical guide⁴. These principles provide a framework that helps improve the UK's biodiversity by contributing towards strategic priorities to conserve and enhance nature while progressing with sustainable development. They also provide a way for industry to show that projects follow good practice. Ten key principles are identified:

- 1) **Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy.** Do everything possible to first avoid and then minimise impacts on biodiversity. Only as a last resort, and in agreement with external decision-makers where possible, compensate for losses that cannot be avoided. If compensating for losses within the development footprint is not possible or does not generate the most benefits for nature conservation, then offset biodiversity losses by gains elsewhere.
- 2) **Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere.** Avoid impacts on irreplaceable biodiversity - these impacts cannot be offset to achieve No Net Loss or Net Gain.
- 3) **Be inclusive and equitable.** Engage stakeholders early, and involve them in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the approach to Net Gain. Achieve Net Gain in partnership with stakeholders where possible, and share the benefits fairly among stakeholders.
- 4) **Address risks.** Mitigate difficulty, uncertainty and other risks to achieving Net Gain. Apply well-accepted ways to add contingency when calculating biodiversity losses and gains in order to account for any remaining risks, as well as to compensate for the time between the losses occurring and the gains being fully realised.
- 5) **Make a measurable Net Gain contribution.** Achieve a measurable, overall gain for biodiversity and the services ecosystems provide while directly contributing towards nature conservation priorities.
- 6) **Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity.** Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity by using robust, credible evidence and local knowledge to make clearly-justified choices when:
 - Delivering compensation that is ecologically equivalent in type, amount and condition, and that accounts for the location and timing of biodiversity losses
 - Compensating for losses of one type of biodiversity by providing a different type that delivers greater benefits for nature conservation

³ CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2016) *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development*.

⁴ CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2019) *Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. A practical guide*.

- Achieving Net Gain locally to the development while also contributing towards nature conservation priorities at local, regional and national levels
 - Enhancing existing or creating new habitat
 - Enhancing ecological connectivity by creating more, bigger, better and joined areas for biodiversity
- 7) **Be additional.** Achieve nature conservation outcomes that demonstrably exceed existing obligations (i.e. do not deliver something that would occur anyway).
- 8) **Create a Net Gain legacy.** Ensure Net Gain generates long-term benefits by:
- Engaging stakeholders and jointly agreeing practical solutions that secure Net Gain in perpetuity
 - Planning for adaptive management and securing dedicated funding for long-term management
 - Designing Net Gain for biodiversity to be resilient to external factors, especially climate change
 - Mitigating risks from other land uses
 - Avoiding displacing harmful activities from one location to another
 - Supporting local-level management of Net Gain activities
- 9) **Optimise sustainability.** Prioritise Biodiversity Net Gain and, where possible, optimise the wider environmental benefits for a sustainable society and economy.
- 10) **Be transparent.** Communicate all Net Gain activities in a transparent and timely manner, sharing the learning with all stakeholders.

1.3 Statement on Whether Biodiversity Gain Condition Applies and Purpose of this Report

- 1.3.1 Based on the site proposals and habitats present, it is considered that a planning permission, if granted in respect of the proposals, would be subject to the Biodiversity Gain planning condition under the legislation. Accordingly, this report provides a BNG assessment, including details of the existing calculated biodiversity value(s) and associated information, accompanied by a completed Metric calculation tool (Excel workbook) in line with the legislative requirements. In addition, going beyond the scope of the statutory BNG requirements, this report provides an assessment of the likely net change in biodiversity value under the proposed development, and a consideration of how a 10% gain can be delivered.

2 Methodology

2.1 Baseline Habitat Survey

- 2.1.1 The site was surveyed in March 2025 in order to ascertain the general ecological value of the land contained within the boundaries of the site and to identify the main habitats and ecological features present.
- 2.1.2 The site was surveyed based on standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology⁵, whereby the habitat types present are identified and mapped, together with an assessment of the species composition of each habitat. The site was classified into areas of similar botanical community types, with a representative species list compiled for each habitat identified. Habitats were classified in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification system, version 2.0⁶, and condition assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in the Metric Technical Annex⁷ and using professional judgement. In line with guidance⁸, the fine scale minimum mapping unit (MMU) of 25sqm or 5m in length has been used where possible / relevant.

2.2 Survey Constraints and Limitations

- 2.2.1 All of the species that occur in each habitat would not necessarily be detectable during survey work carried out at any given time of the year, since different species are apparent during different seasons. The Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken outside the optimal season, albeit the nature of the habitats within the site allowed for the broad habitat types to be identified and for an adequate assessment of the intrinsic ecological interest of the site to be made. Nonetheless, where appropriate, a conservative approach has been utilised when inputting conditions into the metric, in order to reflect the survey information and associated seasonal timescales (as detailed below).

2.3 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

- 2.3.1 To quantify the level of BNG that can be delivered under the proposed development, the change in biodiversity value resulting from the scheme has been calculated using the Metric calculation tool, as informed by the associated User Guide⁹. This takes account of the size, distinctiveness and ecological condition of existing and proposed habitat areas to provide a proxy measure of the present and forecast biodiversity value of a site, and therefore determine the overall change in biodiversity value.
- 2.3.2 In line with the 'information that LPA's require' (see paragraph 1.2.3. above), the pre-development ('baseline') biodiversity value of the on-site habitat has been calculated based on the habitat survey information collected during the baseline habitat survey (see 2.1 above).
- 2.3.3 Going beyond the minimum statutory requirements (which only require the baseline habitat value to be defined at the planning application stage – see paragraph 1.2.3 above), the post-development biodiversity value has also been calculated, based on drawing

⁵ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010, as amended) '*Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit.*'

⁶ UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)

⁷ Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1 - Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology

⁸ The UK Habitat classification User Manual. Version 1.1. 2020

⁹ Defra (Feb 2024) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – User Guide

'390.UD.10L INDICATIVE MASTERPLAN - LAND OFF WINDSOR DRIVE, DEVIZES'. A number of assumptions have been made in terms of the landscaping and management proposals, based on comparative developments and what is realistic and feasible under the proposed land uses and landscape space types. Further details of assumptions made in populating the metric are provided in Chapter 4 below.

2.4 Strategic Significance

2.4.1 Strategic significance refers to the local significance of habitat parcels based on their location and the habitat type. The Metric gives additional unit value to habitat parcels that are mapped within a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) or, where no LNRS has been published, to habitats mapped / listed in alternative documents specified by the Local Planning Authority (e.g. Draft LNRS, Local Plans, Biodiversity Action Plans, Green Infrastructure Strategies, etc.). Strategic significance has been assigned to the pre- and post-development habitats in accordance with the methodology set out in Tables 7 and 8 of the User Guide, as follows:

- High (formally identified in local strategy);
- Medium (location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy);
- Low (area / compensation not in local strategy).

3 Pre-development ('Baseline') Habitats

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Consideration of the classification and condition rationale for the pre-development ('baseline') habitats is set out below. In addition, consideration is given to the relevant date at which the pre-development biodiversity value should be taken (noting any relevant activities carried out that may have resulted in a lower biodiversity value being recorded than would otherwise be the case), along with the presence of any irreplaceable habitats and strategic significance awarded under BNG guidance.

3.1.2 Detailed condition assessment sheets are provided at Appendix 6969/BNG1, with habitat locations depicted on Plan 6969/BNG1.

3.2 Degradation

3.2.1 During the survey work undertaken in March 2025, no evidence was recorded to suggest that any activities of the type mentioned in paragraph 6 or 6A of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) have occurred since 30th January 2020. Accordingly, the baseline habitat value is considered to be as recorded during the survey work, which remains up to date at the current time in line with standard guidance¹⁰.

3.3 Irreplaceable Habitats

3.3.1 No irreplaceable habitats are present within the site.

3.4 Strategic Significance

3.4.1 None of the habitats within the site are mapped within a published LNRS or any specified alternative documents. Therefore, in accordance with the User Guide, low strategic significance has been applied to the pre-development habitats.

3.5 Baseline Habitats

3.5.1 A summary of the classification and condition rationale for the pre-development ('baseline') habitats is set out at Table 3.1 below, with pre-development hedgerows set out at Table 3.2. below. Descriptions of the existing habitats are set out in detail within the Ecological Appraisal prepared by Aspect Ecology, dated February 2026 (ref. 6969 EcoAp vf).

Table 3.1. Pre-development Habitats

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Winter Stubble	N/A	A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Developed land; sealed surface	N/A	A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Mixed Scrub	Poor	The areas of scrub passed up to two of the five condition assessment criteria, such that the areas of scrub achieves

¹⁰ CIEEM (April 2019) On the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys

		'poor' condition.
Bramble Scrub	N/A	A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Modified Grassland	Poor	The grassland areas (G1 – G3) passed up to five of the seven condition assessment criteria, excluding Criteria A which is required to achieve good-moderate condition. Therefore, these grassland areas achieve 'poor' condition.
Individual Trees	Good	The individual tree within the west of the site passed five of the six condition assessment criteria. Therefore, the individual tree achieves 'good' condition.

Table 3.2. Pre-development Hedgerows

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Native Hedgerow (H2)	Good	See relevant condition assessment sheet.
Native Hedgerow associated with bank or ditch (H1)	Good	See relevant condition assessment sheet.

3.6 Pre-development Biodiversity Value of On-site Habitats

3.6.1 The pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat has been calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. A full copy of the Metric is provided as a separate Excel workbook. The overall pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat is set out within Table 3.3 (below).

Table 3.3. Pre-development ('baseline') biodiversity value of the on-site habitat based on the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, published 29 November 2023, updated 23 July 2024

Onsite baseline	Overall Units
Habitats	5.57
Hedgerows and tree lines	3.75
Watercourse	N/A

4 Post-development Habitats and BNG Assessment Result

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The BNG legislation places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to request the pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat on the date of application (or an earlier date) as part of qualifying planning applications. This information is provided in the previous chapter of this report. Going beyond the scope of the statutory requirements, this chapter considers the likely change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposed development. Such information is not required under the legislation until planning has been approved (to be set out within a Biodiversity Gain Plan), but this information is provided now in order to provide the LPA with information as to how a 10% gain in biodiversity will be delivered.

4.2 Assumptions

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

- Newly created habitat under the proposals will be managed appropriately to reach the assigned target condition (anticipated to be defined by a future management plan)
- 60m of species-rich native hedgerow will be planted within the site to reach 10% net gain in hedgerow units

4.3 Strategic Significance

4.3.1 No strategic significance has been applied to the post-development habitats within the site.

4.4 Habitat Type and Condition

4.4.1 Summaries of the proposed post-development habitat creation are set out in Tables 4.1 to 4.2 below. Post-development habitat locations are shown on Plan 6747/BNG2.

Table 4.1. Post-development onsite Habitat Creation

Habitat	Target Condition	Condition Rationale
Modified Grassland	Poor	Areas of amenity grassland to be created near to the built development. Through planting of an appropriate species-rich mix, management to prevent encroachment of scrub and bracken as well as an absence of non-native species this habitat is anticipated to achieve at least a poor condition within one year.
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	N/A	This includes all roads, parking and buildings within the site. No assessment for the condition of this habitat is required.
Vegetated garden	N/A	This includes the gardens of the proposed properties. No assessment for the condition of this habitat is required.

Other Neutral Grassland	Moderate	Areas of other neutral grassland will be created throughout the site and around the SuDS within the north of the site. The grassland areas will be sown with a suitable wildflower mixture in order to create areas which support a diverse range of flowering species for the benefit of biodiversity, and the wildflower mixture areas in particular will be subject to ecologically sensitive management prescriptions in order to maximise their floristic diversity and value for wildlife, resulting in a moderate condition achieved after five years.
Mixed Scrub	Moderate	New mixed scrub will comprise a number of native tree and shrub species. With appropriate management prescriptions, the Metric calculates this habitat can achieve moderate condition after five years.
Other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	Areas of native woodland planting are proposed, which subject to suitable ecological management are calculated to achieve moderate condition within 15 years.
Sustainable Drainage System	Moderate	A sustainable drainage system is to be situated within the north of the site. The basin is expected to achieve moderate condition within 3 years with suitable management.
Urban Trees	Poor	Native trees to be planted throughout the site within areas of open space and adjacent the built development, expected to achieve poor condition within 10 years with suitable management.

Table 4.2. Post-development onsite Linear Feature (Hedgerow) Creation.

Habitat	Target Condition	Condition Rationale
Species-rich Native Hedgerow	Moderate	Species-rich native hedgerow will be created within the site. Through suitable management this habitat would be expected to reach moderate condition within 5 years.

4.5 Anticipated Change in Biodiversity

4.5.1 The anticipated change in biodiversity value as a result of the proposals has been calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, based on the assumptions and considerations set out above. A copy of the Metric is provided separately as an Excel workbook and relevant extracts from the completed calculator tool are provided at Appendix 6969/BNG2.

4.5.2 When considering the current proposals, the Metric calculates that the development will likely result in the following changes in biodiversity, summarised in Table 4.3 (below):

Table 4.3. Anticipated change in biodiversity

	Change in Units	% Change	Trading Rules Satisfied?
Onsite Habitats	+1.83	+32.92%	Yes
Onsite Hedgerows and tree lines	+0.40	+10.71%	Yes
Onsite Watercourses	N/A – No watercourses present		

4.5.3 On the basis of the considerations and proposals set out (including the assumptions and limitations set out above and within the comments in the spreadsheet tool), the Statutory Metric calculator indicates a net habitat biodiversity unit change for the proposals within the site boundary of +1.83 Habitat Units (representing a calculated gain of 32.92%) and +0.40 Hedgerow Units (representing a calculated gain of 10.71%) within the site boundary.

4.5.4 Accordingly, it is clear that (subject to appropriate implementation in line with the measures set out), the proposals will achieve calculated gains in excess of 10% in line with the relevant legislative and policy requirements.

4.6 Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy

4.6.1 The Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy and its effect for the purpose of the statutory framework for BNG is set out in Articles 37A and 37D of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. This hierarchy (which does not apply to irreplaceable habitats) sets out a list of priority actions:

- i. firstly, in relation to on-site habitats which have a medium, high and very high distinctiveness (a score of four or more according to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric), the avoidance of adverse effects from the development and, if they cannot be avoided, the mitigation of those effects; and
- ii. secondly, in relation to all on-site habitats which are adversely affected by the development, the adverse effect should be compensated by prioritising in order, where possible, the enhancement of existing onsite habitats, creation of new on-site habitats, allocation of registered offsite gains and finally the purchase of biodiversity credits.

4.6.2 In relation to point (i), there are no high or very high distinctiveness habitats within the site. Medium distinctiveness habitats present are mixed scrub, bramble scrub, individual trees and native hedgerow – associated with bank or ditch. It has not been feasible to avoid adverse effects on this habitat, therefore mitigation is provided.

4.6.3 In relation to point (ii), adverse effects have been compensated by enhancing existing on-site habitats and creating new on-site habitats.

5 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1 Aspect Ecology is advising Robert Hitchins Limited in respect of the land off Windsor Drive, Devizes, which is proposed for development to provide new residential housing.
- 5.2 BNG is a process that is considered both during the determination of planning applications, and then post planning via a number of set documents (including a Biodiversity Gain Plan and, where required, a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan). Following on from the amendments to Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, government advice has been published which sets out the information that LPAs require in order to consider BNG as part of a planning application. The necessary information is included within this report, therefore the LPA's statutory requirements under the BNG legislation have been satisfied.
- 5.3 In addition, going beyond the scope of the statutory requirements (which only require the baseline habitat value to be defined at the planning application stage – see paragraph 1.2.3 above), a preliminary BNG assessment of the post-development value has been undertaken, which concludes that the proposed development will result in net gains in habitat units and hedgerows units within the site boundary, which are substantially in excess of the relevant figure of 10%.

Plan 6969/BNG1:

Pre-development Habitat Mapping



- Key:
- Site Boundary
 - Bramble scrub (0.0150ha)
 - Developed land; sealed surface: Hardstanding (0.2450ha)
 - Mixed scrub (0.0150ha)
 - Modified grassland (0.1600ha)
 - Winter stubble (2.4650ha)
 - Urban Tree [1]
 - Native hedgerow (0.225km)
 - Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch (0.2km)

0 10 20 30 40 m

aspect ecology
APEM Group

Aspect Ecology Limited - West Court - Hardwick Business Park
Noral Way - Banbury - Oxfordshire - OX16 2AF
01295 279721 - info@aspect-ecology.com - www.aspect-ecology.com

Land off Windsor Drive, Devizes

Pre-development Habitat Mapping

6969/BNG1

C/LS

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Plan 6969/BNG2:

Post-development Habitat Mapping



- Key:
- Site Boundary
 - Proposed Developed land; sealed surface: Building (0.2475ha)
 - Proposed Developed land; sealed surface: Hardstanding (0.5750ha)
 - Proposed Mixed scrub (0.2275ha)
 - Proposed Modified grassland (0.2650ha)
 - Proposed Other neutral grassland (0.2475ha)
 - Proposed Other woodland; broadleaved (0.3400ha)
 - Proposed Sustainable drainage system (0.0950ha)
 - Proposed Vegetated garden (0.5525ha)
 - Retained Developed land; sealed surface: Hardstanding (0.2450ha)
 - Retained Mixed scrub (0.0150ha)
 - Retained Modified grassland (0.0925ha)
 - Retained Native hedgerow (0.225km)
 - Retained Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch (0.2km)
 - Proposed Urban Tree [33]
 - Retained Urban Tree [1]



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APEM Group

Aspect Ecology Limited - West Court - Hardwick Business Park
Noral Way - Banbury - Oxfordshire - OX16 2AF
01295 279721 - info@aspect-ecology.com - www.aspect-ecology.com

Land off Windsor Drive, Devizes

Post-development Habitat Mapping

6969/BNG2

C/JP

February 2026

CK/DO



Appendix 6969/BNG1:

Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

[illegible]

Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)											
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	X	X	X								
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score												
Footnotes												
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> . Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover. Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement. Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).												

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type														
Habitat Types														
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub														
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub														
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub														
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub														
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub														
Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)														
Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub														
Habitat Description														
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see: Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (incc.gov.uk)														
For other scrub types see: ukhab – UK Habitat Classification														
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site - Windsor Drive, Devizes			Survey date and Surveyor name		06.03.2025								
				Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)				Habitat parcel reference										
				S1	S2									
Condition Assessment Criteria			Grid reference											
			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 species ² , - 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).			X	X									
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.			X	Y									
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.			Y	Y									
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.			N	N									
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.			N	N									
Number of criteria passed				1	2									
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved x/√										
Passes 5 criteria		Good (3)												
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)												
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)		X	X									
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score														

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.			
<i>Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of <u>rural</u> trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</i>			
Habitat Description			
Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment): Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching.			
Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only): Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site - Windsor Drive, Devizes	Survey date and Surveyor name	06.03.2025
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Y	
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	N	
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.	Y	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	
Number of criteria passed		5	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	X	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.			
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²			

Habitat Type

Native hedgerow

Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch

Native hedgerow with trees

Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch

Species-rich native hedgerow

Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch

Species-rich native hedgerow with trees

Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch

Habitat Description

[illegible]

			06.03.2025
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On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site - Windsor Drive, Dezives	Survey date and Surveyor name	06/06/2022
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Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
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A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes

			Habitat parcel reference	
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[illegible]

Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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[illegible]

[illegible]

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.														
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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			Score achieved						
Category	Category Requirements	Metric 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 (for example, 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 (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1							
Score achieved:		3							
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees			Score achieved						
Category	Category Requirements	Metric 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 (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 A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1							
Score achieved:									

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Appendix 6969/BNG2:

Relevant Output from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric
Calculation Tool

Land off Windsor Drive, Devizes
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results 

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results menu

On-site baseline	Area habitat units	5.57	
	Hedgerow units	3.75	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	7.40	
	Hedgerow units	4.15	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Area habitat units	1.83	32.92%
	Hedgerow units	0.40	10.71%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Off-site baseline	Area habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Area habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	1.83	
	Hedgerow units	0.40	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Area habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	1.83	
	Hedgerow units	0.40	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	32.92%	
	Hedgerow units	10.71%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓		

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit	
Area habitat units	10.00%	5.57	6.12	0.00	No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
Hedgerow units	10.00%	3.75	4.13	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 ✓

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Trading
summary
hedgerows

Trading
summary
watercourses

Trading Summary

Distinctiveness Group	Trading Rule	Trading Satisfied?
Very High	Same habitat required – bespoke compensation option A	Yes ✓
High	Same habitat required =	Yes ✓
Medium	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	Yes ✓
Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required ≥	Yes ✓

Very High Distinctiveness

Habitat group	Group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project-wide unit change	Unit losses
Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Lowland meadows	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Upland hay meadows	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Mountain heaths and willow scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grasslands	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Limestone pavement	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Wetland - Blanket bog	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Wetland - Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Wetland - Fens (upland and lowland)	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Wetland - Lowland raised bog	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Wetland - Oceanic valley mire(1) (D2.1)	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Wetland - Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Wetland - Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Wood-pasture and parkland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rocky shore - Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rocky shore - Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass on peat, clay or chalk	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Very High Distinctiveness Summary

Very High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.00
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	0.00

High Distinctiveness

Habitat group	Group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project-wide unit change	Losses not yet accounted for
Grassland - Traditional orchards	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430)	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Lowland Heathland	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Upland heathland	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - High alkalinity lakes	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Low alkalinity lakes	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Marl lakes	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Moderate alkalinity lakes	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Peat lakes	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal sand dunes	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal vegetated shingle	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Maritime cliff and slopes	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Wetland - Reedbeds	Wetland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Felled/Replacement for felled woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Wet woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Coastal lagoons - Coastal lagoons	Coastal lagoons	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rocky shore - Moderate energy littoral rock	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	

High Distinctiveness Summary

High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.00
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	0.00

Rocky shore - Features of littoral rock	Rocky shore	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral mud	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral mixed sediments	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Coastal saltmarsh - Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	Coastal saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Features of littoral sediment	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral muddy sand	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Medium Distinctiveness					
Habitat group	Group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change	Cumulative broad habitat change
Cropland - Arable field margins cultivated annually	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cropland - Arable field margins game bird mix	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Arable field margins pollen and nectar	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Arable field margins tussocky	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Other neutral grassland	Grassland	1.66	0.00	1.66	1.66
Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Bramble scrub	Heathland and shrub	-0.06	0.00	-0.06	
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.46
Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub	Heathland and shrub	1.52	0.00	1.52	
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Reservoirs	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sparsely vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Biodiverse green roof	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38
Individual trees - Urban tree	Individual trees	0.38	0.00	0.38	
Individual trees - Rural tree	Individual trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Other woodland, broadleaved	Woodland and forest	1.59	0.00	1.59	
Woodland and forest - Other woodland, mixed	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Littoral coarse sediment	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral sand	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		5.09	0.00	5.09	

Medium Distinctiveness Summary		
Medium Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	5.09	✓
Medium Distinctiveness broad habitat losses to be offset by trading up	0.00	
Medium Distinctiveness Unit deficit (required to meet trading rules)	0.00	

Low Distinctiveness					
Habitat group	Group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change	
Cropland - Cereal crops	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Horticulture	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Intensive orchards	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Non-cereal crops	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Temporary grass and clover leys	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Winter stubble	Cropland	-4.93	0.00	-4.93	Δ
Grassland - Modified grassland	Grassland	0.38	0.00	0.38	✓
Grassland - Bracken	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Rhododendron scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/ephemeral	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Bioswale	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Bare ground	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Allotments	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Facade-bound green wall	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Ground based green wall	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Ground level planters	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Other green roof	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Intensive green roof	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Introduced shrub	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Rain garden	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Actively worked sand pit quarry or open cast mine	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Sustainable drainage system	Urban	0.23	0.00	0.23	✓
Urban - Vacant or derelict land	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Vegetated garden	Urban	1.07	0.00	1.07	✓
Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Coastal saltmarsh - Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	Coastal saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Low Distinctiveness Summary		
Units available to offset Low Distinctiveness deficit	5.09	✓
Low Distinctiveness net change in units	-3.26	Δ
Cumulative surplus of units	1.83	✓

Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral coarse sediment	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral mud	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral sand	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral muddy sand	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral mixed sediments	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral seagrass	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral biogenic reefs	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial features of hard structures	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00
Heathland and shrub - Other sea buckthorn scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00
		-3.26	0.00	-3.26

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habitats

Trading
summary
watercourses

Trading Summary

Distinctiveness Group	Trading Rule	Trading Satisfied?
Very High	Same habitat required =	Yes ✓
High	Like for like or better	Yes ✓
Medium	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓
Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓
Very Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required	Yes ✓

Very High Distinctiveness

Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project-wide unit change
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

Very High Distinctiveness Summary

Very High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.00
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	0.00

High Distinctiveness

Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

High Distinctiveness Summary

High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.00
High Distinctiveness losses to be offset by trading up	0.00
Higher Distinctiveness surplus units minus any high distinctiveness deficit	0.00

Medium Distinctiveness

Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Species-rich native hedgerow	0.40	0.00	0.40 ✓
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
Native hedgerow with trees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.40	0.00	0.40

Medium Distinctiveness Summary

Units available from higher distinctiveness habitats	0.00
Medium Distinctiveness net change in units	0.40 ✓
Cumulative availability of units	0.40 ✓

Low Distinctiveness

Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Native hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00
Line of trees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

Low Distinctiveness Summary

Low Distinctiveness net change in units	0.00
Cumulative availability of units	0.40 ✓

Very Low Distinctiveness

Habitat group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

Very Low Distinctiveness Summary

Very Low Distinctiveness net change in units	0.00
Cumulative availability of units	0.40 ✓

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Aspect Ecology Ltd
West Court
Hardwick Business Park
Noral Way
Banbury
Oxfordshire OX16 2AF

T: 01295 279721
E: info@aspect-ecology.com
W: www.aspect-ecology.com