

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

Car Park at Towcester Road, Pavilions Court, Trowbridge BA14 0FY

Client:

LNT Care Developments Ltd

Assessment Date:

16th June 2026

Project:

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

“Erection of a three storey, 66no. bedroom care home (Use Class C2) with associated car parking, landscaping, access and ancillary buildings.”

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	Kristian Bullard BSc (Hons), Graduate Ecologist	16/06/2026
Reviewed	0.2	Kelly Clarke Dip H.E., Senior Ecologist	19/06/2026
Final	1.0	Kristian Bullard BSc (Hons), Graduate Ecologist	19/06/2026

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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 centred at National Grid Reference ST 85963 55802 and extends to approximately 0.7 ha.

The site is dominated by a large area of hardstanding, historically used as an overflow car park, with the western and north-western portions comprising a continuous area of modified grassland. The site is bordered by woodland along the western boundary, beyond which lie a series of agricultural fields. Immediately to the east is a large apartment complex with an associated car park, and an industrial estate is located directly to the north. The wider landscape comprises further urban areas to the north (Trowbridge) and south (North Bradley), interspersed with agricultural land and multiple parcels of woodland.

LandIS indicated the site lies within an area of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.

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

- Statutory BNG Metric – Car Park at Towcester Road, BA14 0FY (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Car Park at Towcester Road, BA14 0FY – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)

Executive Summary

- The baseline value of on-site area habitats is 1.08 biodiversity units. The post-development proposals generate 2.25 area habitat units, resulting in a net gain of +1.17 units, equivalent to +108.47%.
- The proposals also create 1.97 hedgerow units and 0.13 watercourse units.

BNG Informative	
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations11th February 2025
	The baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from the site as observed during the PEA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026). As evident in the screenshots of satellite imagery obtained from Google Earth dated 20th May 2018 and 15th May 2025 (most recent satellite image), the site does not appear to have undergone any degradation. The habitats on site, and therefore biodiversity value of the site, is not considered to have undergone degradation since 30th January 2020.
	Historical imagery < 20 May 2018 > > Historical imagery < 15 May 2025 > >
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 29th November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 2nd June 2026.

BNG Target Uplift	+ 10%		
National Character Area (NCA)	117- Avon Vales		
Strategic Significance	Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Wiltshire and Swindon (2025)- https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8288/Wiltshire-and-Swindon-Local-Nature-Recovery-Strategy		
	Habitat	Baseline / Post-Development	Justification
	Mixed broadleaved woodland	Baseline	" Trees, woodlands, and hedgerows form the backbone of Wiltshire's natural environment. They support a rich variety of wildlife by providing food, shelter, and breeding grounds for countless species. Beyond their ecological value, they deliver a wide range of benefits to society by capturing carbon, improving air and water quality, reducing flood risk, and enhancing the beauty and character of the landscape." (W1 Broadleaf and mixed woodland) See page 91 of LNRS for full list of primary priority habitats and secondary features.
	Urban tree	Baseline	"Urban tree cover is notably low, averaging just 4% compared to the national urban average of 7% . This disparity is highlighted by Tree Equity Score data, which shows the need for more equitable tree distribution across urban areas to support health, climate resilience, and biodiversity"(203 Mature tree) See page 91 of LNRS for full list of primary priority habitats and secondary features.
	Urban tree	Post-development	The site is located within an area identified under the Wiltshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy priority "Nature on Our Doorstep", under the measure "Create and Improve Habitats for Nature on Our Doorstep". Habitats and features listed within this measure have been assigned high strategic significance where they are present on site or proposed within the development, including woodland, native hedgerows, scattered trees and mature trees. Habitats not listed under this measure have been assigned low strategic significance.
	Mixed broadleaved woodland	Post-development	
	Native hedgerow	Post-development	

Limitations
There were no specific limitations to the assessment.

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats (A-1)

Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Modified grassland	0.238	The western part of the site comprises modified grassland with scattered trees, which appears to be regularly managed, as indicated by a short, uniform sward. Evidence of human disturbance was noted within this parcel, including heavy machinery tyre tracks (apparently associated with pruning works) along the western boundary adjoining the adjacent woodland parcel. This activity has created localised damage and bare ground, with bare ground exceeding 5% cover in affected areas. Additional patches of bare ground were also recorded in the northern section of the parcel.	Poor: passes Four (C, E, F, G) failing essential criteria A.	Low Strategic Significance
Mixed broadleaved woodland	0.032	A small area of woodland is present in the north-western corner of the red line boundary, forming part of a larger woodland parcel that lies immediately adjacent to the site along the western and northern boundaries. The woodland has been subject to recent pruning, with multiple large brash piles and dead wood evident throughout. Scrub is present as small, discontinuous patches within the woodland, forming a localised understorey component. Tree species observed included: Ash, maple, cherry, poplar and oak, with a lack of non-native species present. A drainage ditch is present on the far side of the woodland parcel running parallel with the agricultural fields to the west, with an average depth of 15cm. A badger sett was observed within the woodland parcel, approximately 5 metres from the development boundary.	Moderate: Scoring 28 out of 39	High Strategic Significance
Urban tree	Moderate: 0.0366	An individual eucalyptus tree is present on the western portion of modified grassland. The tree possesses natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates due to loose bark. Over 20% of the tree canopy is oversailing vegetation beneath. There is no evidence of adverse impact on tree health by human activity.	Moderate: passes 4 or 6 of 6 criteria. 1no. large (T1)	High Strategic Significance

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Area-Based Habitats (A-1)				
Developed land; Sealed surface	0.535	A tarmacked car park covers the majority of the proposed development area.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (A-1)	Other woodland; broadleaved	0.032	Existing broadleaved woodland located in the north-east of the site, retained in full and protected during construction.	Moderate: Scoring 28 out of 39	High Strategic Significance
	Urban Tree	0.0366	Retained mature tree in the south of the site.	Moderate: passes 4 or 6 of 6 criteria. 1no. large (T1)	High Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Developed land; sealed surface (Building)	0.118	Proposed care home.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Developed land; sealed surface (Hardstanding)	0.226	Proposed sealed hardstanding associated with the care home, including access routes, car parking, pedestrian areas and servicing infrastructure.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Introduced shrub	0.034	Proposed ornamental shrub and herbaceous planting within the soft landscaping scheme, including garden, communal, entrance and public realm planting areas.	Habitat condition pre-determined as 'N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Other neutral grassland	0.105	Proposed wildflower grassland/native meadow planting within designated soft landscape areas, intended to provide species-rich grassland habitat and wildlife value within the development.	Moderate: Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A	Low Strategic Significance
	Other neutral grassland	0.012	Proposed water's-edge meadow/riparian planting around the perimeter of the drainage ditch, providing vegetated marginal habitat	Moderate: Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A	Low Strategic Significance
	Modified grassland	0.288	Proposed amenity grassland/turf areas associated with the care home landscape, including lawns and managed grassland areas for resident use and visual amenity.	Moderate: Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Low Strategic Significance

	Urban trees	0.0774	Proposed tree planting associated with the new development, comprising 19 small trees.	Moderate: Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	High Strategic Significance
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Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Linear-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (B-2)	Non-native ornamental hedgerow	0.03	Proposed ornamental hedgerow planting within the soft landscaping scheme, intended to provide formal landscape structure and amenity screening.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' ~~poor~~ N/A' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Native hedgerow	0.214	Proposed native single-species hedgerow planting, including instant/mature native hedge sections where specified.	Moderate: No more than 4 failures in total AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group	High Strategic Significance
	Species-rich native hedgerow	0.145	Proposed native mixed-species hedgerow planting, located along boundaries and around wildlife/landscape areas. The hedge will comprise a mixed native species composition	Moderate: No more than 4 failures in total AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group	High Strategic Significance

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

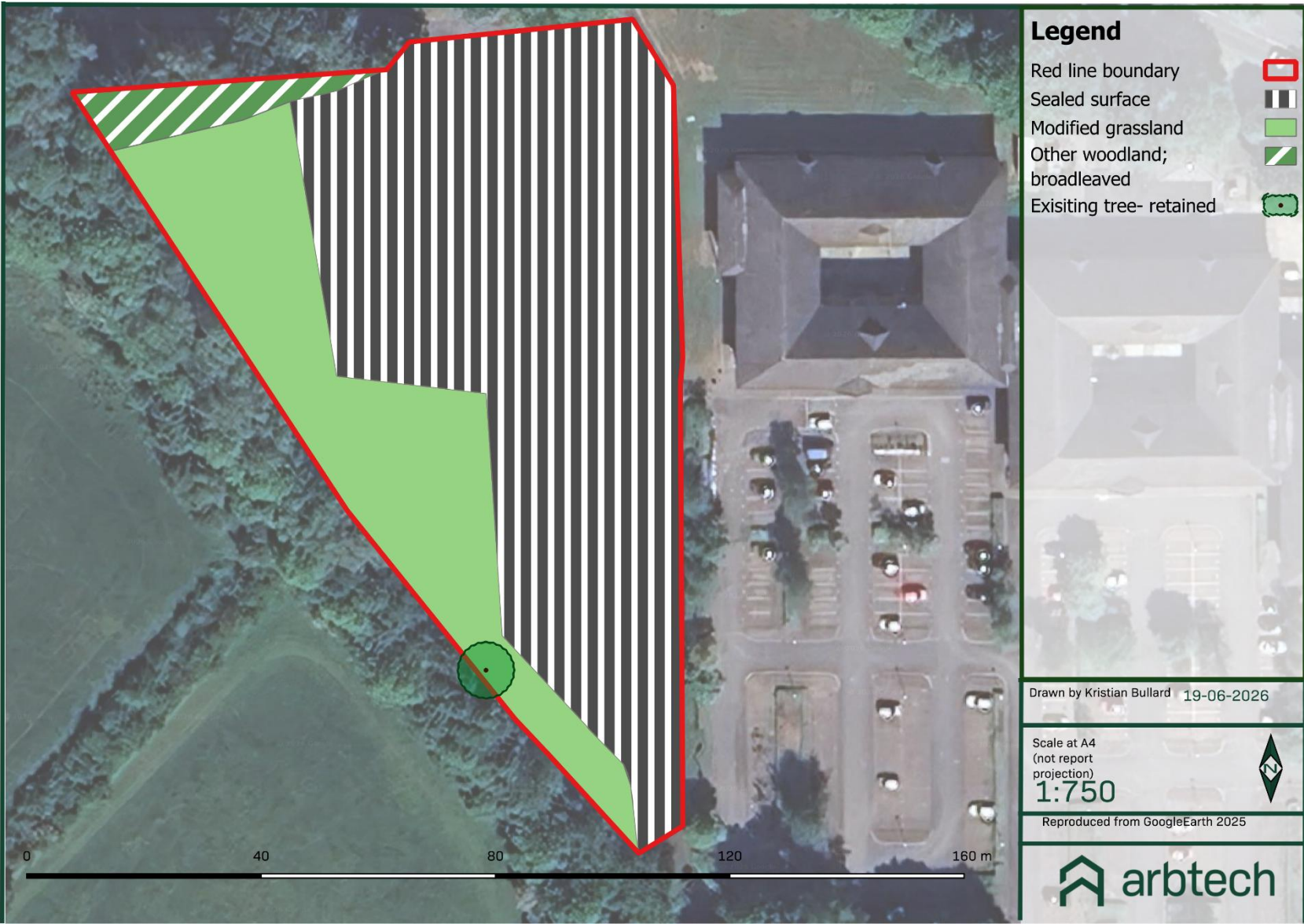
Watercourse-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (B-2)	Ditches	0.028	Proposed drainage ditch created as part of the site drainage strategy. The ditch will be planted around its perimeter with a native water's-edge meadow mix.	Moderate: Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Low Strategic Significance

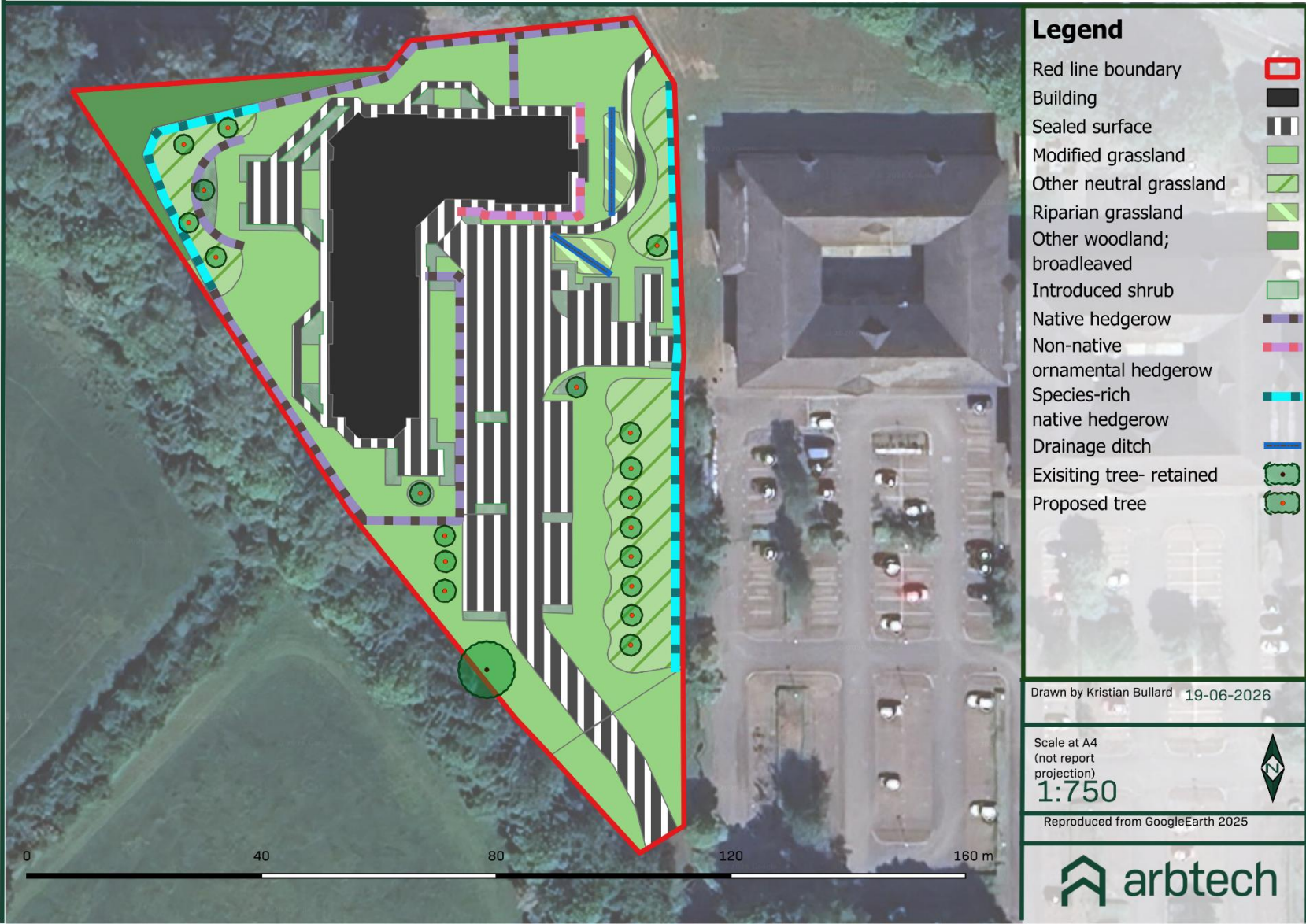
		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
On-Site	Baseline	❖ 1.11	❖ 0	❖ 0
	Post-Development	❖ 2.31	❖ 1.97	❖ 0.13
	Net Change	+1.20 units	+1.97 units	+0.13
Overall Net Change		+108.47%	N/a- percentage cannot be calculated without baseline units	N/a- percentage cannot be calculated without baseline units

BNG Informative	
Results and Next Steps	The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+108.47%). As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024; Wiltshire and Swindon LNRS, 2025)- as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for area-based habitat units. All trading conditions have been satisfied. A Biodiversity Gain Plan (BGP) and Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) must be produced for the site. This should include recommendations for the implementation, management and monitoring of the site for at least 30 years to ensure that biodiversity net gain is delivered.
BNG Mitigation Hierarchy	
Avoidance	The design has sought to avoid higher value habitats where practicable. The retained broadleaved woodland and mature tree are to be retained and protected, with the main development footprint located largely within existing sealed hardstanding and low-value modified grassland.
Minimisation	Impacts have been minimised by limiting the built footprint and associated hardstanding to the area required for the care home, access and parking. Retained habitats will be protected during construction, including through tree protection measures in accordance with BS 5837 and controls on construction access, storage and working areas.
Mitigation	On-site habitat creation and enhancement will mitigate for habitat losses.
Offset	No off-site habitat units or statutory biodiversity credits are currently required, as the on-site proposals are predicted to deliver the required net gain and satisfy trading rules.

Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan



[illegible]

Appendix 4: Headline BNG Results

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	1.20
	Hedgerow units	1.97
	Watercourse units	0.13
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	108.47%
	Hedgerow units	N/A
	Watercourse units	N/A
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

0 baseline units - % cannot be calculated

0 baseline units - % cannot be calculated

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Area habitat units	10.00%	1.11	1.22	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓

No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓

No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Modified Grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Low Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria:		G1
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
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
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
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
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y
F	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y
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)	✓

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria							
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).						
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).						
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).						
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.						
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.						
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.						
Condition Assessment Result				Condition Assessment Score			
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria				Good (3)			
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria				Moderate (2)			
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria				Poor (1)			
Tree ID Size	Criterion						# Passed Condition
	A	B	C	D	E	F	
T01 L	N	✓	N	✓	✓	✓	4 Moderate

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

Condition Assessment Criteria					
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator
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.	3
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	1
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.	2
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	1
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.	1
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.	2
Total Score (out of a possible 39)					28
Condition Assessment Result			Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)			Good (3)		Moderate

Condition Assessment Criteria				
Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator
Total score 26 to 32		Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)		Poor (1)		

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Urban Trees; assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria	
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).
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).
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.
Condition Assessment Result	
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	Good (3)

Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	Poor (1)

Ditch; assessed using 'Ditch' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Y
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20m ditch length.	Y
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Y
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	Y
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	Y
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50cm in minor ditches and 1m in main drains.	N
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	N
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species.	Y

Number of criteria passed		6
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)	Y
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Species rich native hedgerow; assessed using 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition 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)
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).	N
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

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
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
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
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
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
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
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		

Native hedgerow; assessed using 'Hedgerow' habitat type condition 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)
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).	N
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.	Y

		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).	
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
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
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
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
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
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
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		

Neutral Grassland; assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate or good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20% is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Y
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Y

E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types		
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N
Essential criterion for good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		Y
Number of criteria passed		4
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Non-acid grassland types (result out of 6 criteria)		
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F	Good (3)	
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F	Poor (1)	