

Cedar Co-op Care Home, Calne

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment



2nd July 2026

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Declaration	I confirm that the information provided in this document is truthful and accurate at the time of completion.	
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Executive summary	
Purpose of report	To provide a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Plan for the proposed development site, involving: • Details of the proposed development • Outlining condition assessment results • On and off-site pre-development biodiversity • On and off-site post-development biodiversity • How BNG will be achieved
Context of report	The Site comprised of the former co-op superstore and its surrounding land. The proposed development and alterations to the site are as follows: • Demolish existing building and construction of a care home • Construction of assisted living units
Methodology	• The BNG metric was run using baseline conditions collected on Site. • The open-source Geographic Information System, QGIS was used to map the pre-development and post-development UKHabitat 2.0 habitat maps and obtain the areas of each habitat. • Results from the metric including any offsite units required, mitigation and enhancement measures were recommended.
Biodiversity Net Gain	The BNG metric was run on the 3rd June 2026. Based on the data presented, the proposed project will yield a 42.20% Net Gain in habitat units and a 38.00% Net Gain in watercourse units on Site. No offsite areas have been considered in this metric. No further measures are required to obtain BNG on Site.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

1.1.1. In May 2026, Wessex Ecology Ltd (previously Daniel Ahern Ecology) were commissioned by Cedar Care Home Developments Ltd to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment) at a former co-op superstore and its grounds located within Calne, Wiltshire.

1.1.2. The purpose of this report was to:

- Provide details of the proposed development
- Present the pre-development biodiversity and condition assessment
- Present the proposed post-development biodiversity
- Show how BNG will be achieved including outline management to achieve the BNG targets

1.2. Site Description

1.2.1. The former co-op superstore and its surrounding land, hereafter referred to as 'the Site', measures approximately 0.75ha and is situated on Mill Street, which runs to the south of the site (approximate OS grid reference: ST 99917 71001), see Fig. 1 below.

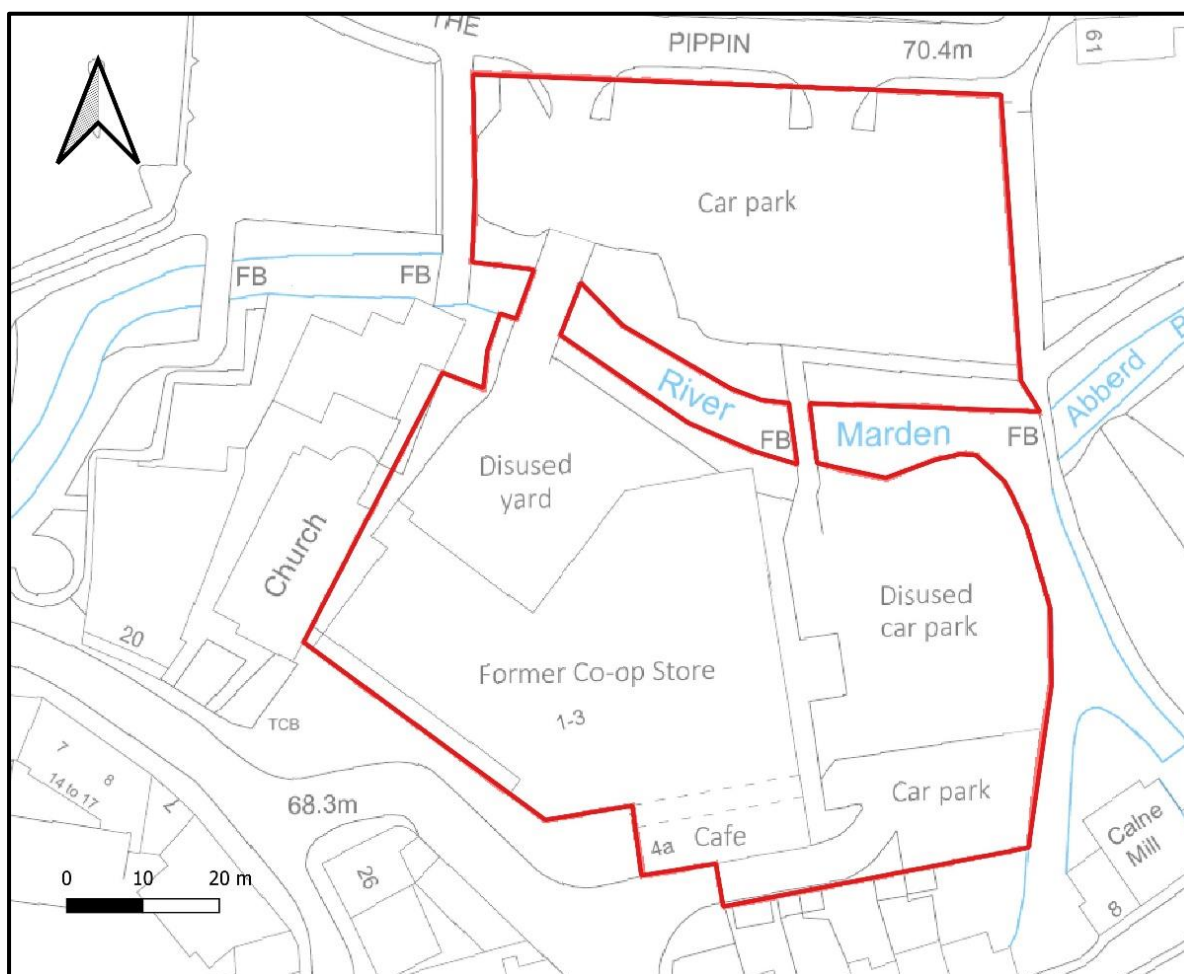
1.2.2. The Site is comprised of a former co-op superstore, two car parks, a disused car park, disused yard and surrounding grounds.

1.2.3. The proposed developments and alterations to the site are as follows:

- Demolish existing building and construction of a care home.
- Construction of assisted living units.

1.2.3. All ecological surveys are led by Ecologists who are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) at the appropriate level. By joining the CIEEM staff sign up to a professional code of conduct.

Figure 1. Site location with red line boundary



2. Personnel

2.1. BNG metric

2.1.1. Darrelle Moffat is an experienced senior ecologist and an Associate member of CIEEM and holds a Natural England Class 1 Bat Licence and Class 1 GCN licence. Darrelle has extensive experience working on a range of ecological projects, biodiversity net gain, protected species and designing appropriate mitigation strategies.

2.2. Field survey and condition assessment

2.2.1. Daniel Ahern is an experienced ecologist with a wide skills base gained in both the private and public sectors. He has been technical lead on large capital projects for regulators, government and utilities. Daniel has led freshwater & terrestrial ecology teams and has a robust understanding of current legislation and monitoring requirements. He currently holds NE licences for bats (Natural England Class 2 Licence 2025-86241-CL18-BAT), white-clawed crayfish & GCN.

Daniel has held SNH and NPWS licences for fresh-water pearl mussel and white-clawed crayfish in addition in addition to NE licences for *Lurionium natans*.

3. Planning and Legislation

3.1. Planning policies

3.1.1. This report is prepared with reference to the National Planning Policy Framework 2024 and the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2015.

3.2. Legislation

3.2.1. Biodiversity Net Gain is mandatory under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021). This means developers must deliver a BNG of 10% which means a development will result in more or better quality natural habitat than was there prior to the development.

3.2.2. BNG can be achieved through creating biodiversity on-site within the red-line boundary, a mixture of on and off-site, or by buying statutory biodiversity credits from the government as a last resort.

4. Methodology

4.1. Field Survey

4.1.1. The baseline habitat and condition assessment survey was carried out on the 10th September 2025 by Daniel Ahern. This followed the UK Hab Version 2.0 habitat classification and the statutory Annex I BNG condition assessment guidance.

4.2. Biodiversity Net Gain

4.2.1. The methodology for the BNG assessment follows the statutory metric and User Guide. The biodiversity metric used was completed on the 3rd June 2026.

4.2.2. Post-development plans and data was provided by the client or agent.

4.2.3. The open-source Geographic Information System, QGIS was used to map the baseline habitats on Site and obtain the areas of each habitat, see Figure 2.

4.2.4. A post-development UKHab 2.0 map showing the proposed enhancements was also created using QGIS based on proposed plans, see Figure 3.

4.2.5. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the area was consulted to inform strategic significance, which follows the guidance in the BNG User Guide.

4.3. Limitations

- 4.3.1. The UKHabitat 2.0 survey provides a snapshot of conditions at the time of survey and some plant species may not have been present on the day due to time of year, conditions etc.
- 4.3.2. The details within this report will remain valid for a period of 18 months from the date of the survey.
- 4.3.3. The field survey was carried out late in the botanical season for certain habitats. However, based on the habitat types present, this is unlikely to have impacted upon the accuracy of the habitat classification or condition assessments and is not considered to be a significant limitation.

5. On-Site biodiversity

5.1. Pre-development

- 5.1.1. The total area of the Site is approximately 0.75ha. The habitat map of the Site pre-development is presented in Figure 2 below.
- 5.1.2. The following habitat types were recorded during the survey:
- g4 – modified grassland
 - h3 – dense scrub
 - u1b5 – buildings
 - u1b – developed land; sealed surface
 - w1f – lowland mixed deciduous woodland
 - Individual trees
- 5.1.3. All dense scrub h3 parcels have been considered to be h3h mixed scrub. While some parcels were dominated by Buddleia, there is no appropriate Level 4 habitat for this and thus have all been included as mixed.
- 5.1.4. The areas of each habitat are presented in Table 1 below. The condition assessments for each relevant habitat and photos are appended.

Table 1. Pre-development habitat areas on-site

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition	Parcel
Modified grassland	0.038	Poor	
Mixed scrub	0.023	Moderate	1
Mixed scrub	0.023	Poor	2-5
Developed land; sealed surface	0.447	N/A	
Buildings (developed land; sealed surface)	0.206	N/A	
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.007	Poor	
Urban trees	0.0611	Moderate	T8, T15, T23, T24

5.1.5. There are no linear habitats present on site.

5.1.6. The watercourse units are presented in Table 2 below along with a description of encroachment. The baseline information for the river condition assessment / ditch is appended.

Table 2. Pre-development watercourse units on-site

Watercourse type	Length (km)	Condition	Watercourse encroachment	Riparian encroachment	Reference
Other rivers and streams	0.138	Fairly poor	Major – an estimated 40% of channel bed is reinforced with concrete	Major on south bank and moderate on north bank – there is over 25% encroachment on both sides	River Marden

Figure 2. Pre-development habitat map of Site.



5.2. Post-development

5.2.1. The proposed habitats for the development involve creation of a large care home, 7 individual units and extensive landscaping across the property.

5.2.2. The proposed habitat map is shown in Figure 3. This has been based off the planting plan appended.

Figure 3. Post-development habitat map of Site.



5.2.3. The following areas to be retained in the same condition are presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Retained habitat areas post-development

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition
Modified grassland	0.017	Poor
Mixed scrub	0.018	Moderate
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.007	Poor
Urban trees – T8, T15, T23	0.448	Moderate

5.2.4. The following areas to be enhanced are presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Areas of habitat to be enhanced on-site

Existing habitat & condition	Proposed enhancement	Area (ha)
Mixed scrub – poor condition	Enhance to moderate condition	0.006

5.2.5. The following habitats to be created are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Areas of habitat to be created on-site

Habitat type	Area (ha)	Condition
Other neutral grassland	0.03	Poor
Modified grassland	0.059	Poor
Mixed scrub	0.02	Moderate
Vegetated Garden (u1 828)	0.008	N/A
Introduced shrub (u1 847)	0.045	N/A
Rain garden (u1 850)	0.006	Moderate
Developed land; sealed surface (u1b)	0.282	N/A
Developed land; sealed surface (u1b5)	0.216	N/A
Artificial unvegetated; unsealed surface	0.027	N/A
Urban tree	0.0489	Moderate

5.2.6. For the river, this will be enhanced through a reduction of encroachment within the riparian zone. While the baseline is major encroachment on both sides, this will be reduced to moderate encroachment on the north bank and minor encroachment on the south bank.

5.3. Strategic Significance

5.3.1. Wiltshire has a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). As such all baseline habitats have been included in the metric as not in local strategy, as per the User Guide.

5.3.2. The LNRS mapping has been consulted to determine if any potential proposed habitats may be considered as formally identified. The river corridor and much of the southeast portion of the Site is within an area identified where measures for enhancement of river, stream and wetland habitat is significant, see Figure 4.

5.3.3. There are a number of measures considered to be formally identified including code RSWf, as shown in Figure 5. The enhancements of the watercourse by reducing encroachment through new planting in the riparian zone are considered to fall under this measure and have been included as 'formally identified'.

Figure 4. Screenshot from Wiltshire LNRS showing measures in riparian corridor

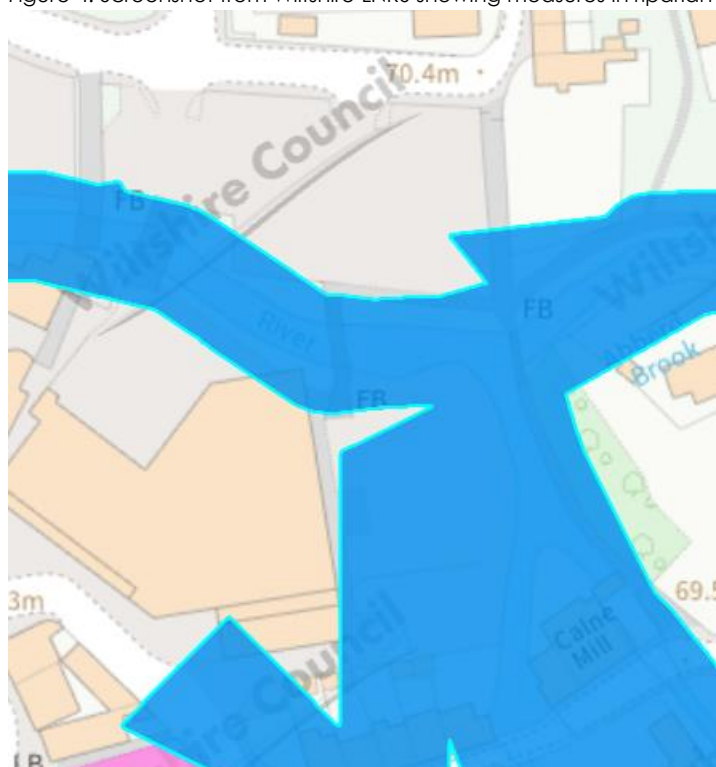


Figure 5. Actions considered to be formally identified relevant to the site.

Code	Action	Reason
Maintenance and Enhancement of the Riparian Corridor		
RSWf	Establish natural riparian corridors, ideally at least 10m wide from each bank, by allowing marginal vegetation to regenerate. Adapt tree cover to create dappled light, thin where more sunlight is needed, or plant native species for shade. In modified or working river sections, balance natural restoration with functional needs.	Enhances habitat diversity to cool water in hot weather, slow flood flows, filter pollutants (e.g., nutrients), and increase structural and species variety.

6. Biodiversity Net Gain

6.1. Results

Based on the data presented above, the proposed project will yield a 40.75% Net Gain in habitat units and a 38.00% Net Gain in watercourse units on site, see Figure 6 below for the results output of the Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain Metric.

In addition, there will be an increase in 0.06 hedgerow units from proposed ornamental hedgerows, although as there is no baseline hedgerow there are no units required.

Figure 6. Statutory Biodiversity Net Gain results for the proposed development

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.36
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.06
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.18
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	40.75%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	N/A
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	38.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

6.2. Mitigation hierarchy

6.2.1. The mitigation hierarchy has been considered in the proposals for this site, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6. How mitigation hierarchy has been achieved in BNG

Hierarchy stage	Details
Avoidance / Minimisation	The habitats of greatest value, the woodland the scrub within the riparian corridor, have been retained.
Compensation	Valuable habitats on site are proposed into the site design including grass and scrub planting, tree planting, in addition to ornamental landscaping. Enhancement of the riparian zone will also result in enhancements to the watercourse.
Offsetting	No offsetting is required as it has been possible to achieve the required gains on Site.

7. Habitat Mitigation, Creation & Management

7.1. Protection of existing habitats

7.1.1. There are habitats of biodiversity value to be retained on site. These should be protected during the construction works to ensure they are retained in their same condition.

7.1.2. The following recommendations should be followed to minimise adverse effects of the proposed development on the existing biodiversity on-site:

- Protective fencing will be installed around any retained habitats of value to protect them during the works. This includes:
 - Individual trees (encompassing all root protection areas)
 - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
 - Mixed scrub
 - River corridor (encompassed by the habitats above)

- The fenced areas are to exclude all construction activities, including materials storage, parking or similar for the duration of the development works and shall be affixed with appropriate signage restricting access other than for essential maintenance works.
- General good practice construction measures will be employed including suitable storage of chemicals, fuels, spillage containment and other pollution control measures.
- Biosecurity measures will be considered ensuring all vehicles and equipment entering or leaving the site are adequately cleaned between sites.
- All construction waste will be removed from Site by a licensed contractor.

7.2. Outline of Habitat Creation & Management

7.2.1. Some habitats to be retained, enhanced or created will require specific creation and/or management for biodiversity. This is expected to be detailed in a future Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) and is outlined below in Table 7.

Table 7. Proposals for management of habitats providing biodiversity benefit

Proposed habitats for biodiversity	Target Condition	Area (ha)	Details of Creation & Management
Mixed scrub	Moderate	0.018 (retained) 0.006 (enhance) 0.02 (created)	Mixed scrub will be enhanced and created along the river corridor which will provide a suitable riparian habitat. Where this will be enhanced, the existing Buddleia plants will be removed and replaced with native shrubs and where new habitat is being created, this will be planted with shrubs. Recommended species include Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Dogwood, Holly, Alder and Spindle, with a minimum of 3 species planted. These will be planted in Year 1 and allowed to establish into more dense mixed scrub. Once established, the scrub will be managed annually to prevent encroachment into the grassland and any dominant species thinned on rotation to maintain a mix of species and age structures. This management will target condition criteria A, B, C and D to achieve moderate condition.
Individual trees	Moderate	0.0122	12no new small trees will be planted within the site. These will target condition criteria B, D and F to achieve moderate condition. They will also target criterion A (native) where possible. Some initial formative pruning is recommended in the few years following planting, and after establishment no specific management will likely be required. These will be replaced like for like if any fail.
Other neutral grassland	Poor	0.03	New areas of wildflower grassland are being created in various areas. As per the planting plan this will be seeded with Emorsgate EM8 for wetland overseeded with EG22 and EC1. It is expected to create a diverse

			wildflower sward but based on the overseeding and limited area, only poor condition will be targeted. While in the initial establishment period, more frequent mowing would be expected to control weeds, after establishment, this would be managed through infrequent cuts and left to flower during the spring/summer to maintain species diversity.
Rain garden	Moderate	0.006	Rain garden is being created in various areas on site. This will be planted with a variety of shrubs and herbs that are expected to provide a varied structure and flowering species beneficial to wildlife. While it is expected all criteria will likely be met for this habitat, only moderate condition is targeted to allow room for error.

8. References

DEFRA (2024) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. Updated 3 July 2025.

DEFRA (2025) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Version 1.0.4.

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

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Site Photos

Photo 1 – Hard standing car park and mixed scrub in background at southeast corner



Photo 2 – River flowing adjacent site with partial vegetated banks



Photo 3 – River flowing to west of site



Photo 4 – Whitebeam T24



Photo 5 – Hardstanding carpark at north of site



Photo 6 – Patch of Buddleia adjacent building



Photo 7 – View of wlf woodland comprising patch of mature trees between the hard standing and the river



Photo 8 – Patch of Buddleia and Elder scrub at west of site



Photo 9 – Patch of modified grassland verge between car park and river



Photo 10 – Main building u1b5 and car park u1b



Appendix 2 – Condition Assessment Sheets

Scrub

		Parcel (see BNG plan)					
Condition Assessment Criteria		1	2	3	4	5	Notes
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description - At least 80% of scrub is native - There are at least three native woody species - No single species comprises more than 75% cover	Y	N	N	N	Y	2 & 3 – almost entirely dominated by Buddleia 4 – Mix of Elder and Buddleia (over 20%)
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran) shrubs are all present.	Y	N	N	Y	N	2 & 3 – mainly recently encroached Buddleia 5 – Even stand
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species and species indicative of suboptimal condition make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y	N	N	N	Y	Buddleia highly prominent in parcels 2 to 4.
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	N	N	N	All parcels are along the edge of the hard standing car park and/or buildings.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N	N	N	N	N	All dense edges and not of a size to support clearings.
Number of criteria passed		3	0	0	1	2	
Condition Result: Passes 5 = Good Passes 3-4 = Moderate Passes 2 or less = Poor		Moderate	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	

Individual Trees

Condition Criteria		T8	T15	T23	T24	
A	The tree is a native species.	N	Y	N	Y	T8 – Sycamore T15 – Ash T23 – London Plane

						T24 - Whitebeam
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Y	Y	Y	Y	
C	The tree is mature.	N	N	N	N	All trees were identified as semi-mature in arboricultural report.
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	Y	Y	Y	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Y	N	N	N	T8 – Dead stem and ivy noted. None noted on other species.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Number of criteria passed		4	4	3	4	
Condition result: 5-6 = good 3-4 = moderate (Mod) 2 or less = poor		Mod	Mod	Mod	Mod	
Sizes of trees in line with BNG user guide: Small (S) – >7.5cm to 30cm DBH Medium (M) – >30cm to 60cm DBH Large (L) – >60cm to 90cm DBH Very Large (VL) - >90cm DBH		S	S	L	M	Based on diameter identified in the arboricultural report

Modified Grassland (low distinctiveness)

NB all parcels have been included together as they were found to have largely the same criteria.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Passed?	Notes
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs. Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good Condition	N	All parcels are grass-dominated lawn verges
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 vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	Y	Parcels appear to be generally mown but the sward has varying heights towards the back edges of the parcels and around scrub patches.
C	Any scrub accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub may be present)	Y	Scattered scrub was present in several parcels but below 20%
D	Physical damage is evidence in less than 5% of total grassland area.	Y	

E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10% including localised areas.	Y	
F	Cover of Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	No Bracken on site.
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA)	N/Y	Cotoneaster identified in parcel at northwest corner of site. No other listed invasive species identified although Buddleia scrub was present scattered in many parcels, which is considered undesirable.
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		No	All parcels failed criterion A
Number of criteria passed		5/6	
Result:		Poor	

Woodland

Condition Criteria					Score	Notes
	Indicator	Good (3)	Moderate (2)	Poor (1)		
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 less than 40% 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, and 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	Dominant species Ash and Sycamore. Elder and Willow noted.
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	Over 50% were native but Sycamore (non-native) was fairly dominant comprising over 20%
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	1	No open space, very dense along section and fully shaded
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in	One or two classes only	No classes or coppice	2	

		woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	present in woodland.	regrowth present in woodland.		
H	Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% tree 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	No significant ground flora present, highly overshadowed and narrow woodland
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	Tall canopy and understory shrubs present
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	1	Parcel largely semi-mature, no veteran trees
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood	1	Minimal deadwood identified
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.	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground.	1	Highly disturbed due to location adjacent / overgrowing hard standing
Total Score					24	
Result: Good (33 to 39) Moderate (26 to 32) Poor (<26)					Poor	

Appendix 3 – Summary of River Condition Assessment

Condition + Encroachment Reporting Sheet: RIVERS and STREAMS			
River Condition Assessment (RCA) + Encroachment results for: Priority rivers, Other rivers and streams, Canals			
Site name/location:	5743.1 Calne Co-op	Unique river section reference:	5743_Marden
GPS of MoRPh5 midpoint	ST 99916 71024	River section length:	0.5
<i>Rivers and streams form naturally draining networks within the wider landscape. A long history of channel modification and artificial water body creation has led to widespread loss of naturally formed and functioning habitats.</i> The River Condition Assessment (RCA) method requires one or more MoRPh5 sub-reach sample(s) for a longer length of channel, the river(or canal) section, that has consistent condition throughout and is represented by a single line within the Biodiversity Metric tool. This sheet provides information about the <u>full river (or canal) section length</u> based on a site walkover plus representative RCA (MoRPh5) results for this section.			
RCA River Type and Habitat Description for full river section (from walkover survey)			
Fairly poor. Lowland main river, heavily modified and constrained, Left bank reinforced throughout the river section, two minor bridge. The downstream end of the section fed into a culvert, 30m beyond the river section extent.			
THE RESULTS OF THE 32 RCA INDICATORS FOR EACH RIVER SECTION SHOULD BE INSERTED BELOW WITH NOTES TO EXPLAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WHOLE CHANNEL LENGTH:			
Condition Assessment Criteria		RCA Index values	Notes / Justification
RCA INDEX ID	RCA INDEX NAME	Insert values -4 to 0 OR 0 to 4; Highlight those >2 OR <-2	Explain where significant, the influence of high/low RCA indices on overall river condition
BANK TOP			
B1	Bank top vegetation structure	2	
B2	Bank top tree feature richness	1	
B3	Bank top water-related features	0	
B4	Bank top NNIPS cover	0	
B5	Bank top managed ground cover	-4	Extensive hard standing eg car park & buildings
BANK FACE			
C1	Bank face riparian vegetation structure	3	Riparian vegetation was diverse throughout the majority of the river section
C2	Bank face tree feature richness	1	
C3	Bank face natural bank profile extent	3	In 60% of the river section the right bank was composed of a variety of profile types
C4	Bank face natural bank profile richness	3	Upper parts of the right bank of the section were composed of a number of bank profile types
C5	Bank face natural bank material richness	2	

C6	Bank face bare sediment extent	0	
C7	Bank face artificial bank profile extent	0	
C8	Bank face reinforcement extent	-4	Extensive flood management eg left bank face reinforced with concrete
C9	Bank face reinforcement material severity	-3	Extensive flood management eg left bank face reinforced with concrete
C10	Bank face NNIPS cover	0	
CHANNEL MARGIN			
D1	Channel margin aquatic vegetation extent	2	
D2	Channel margin aquatic morphotype richness	2	
D3	Channel margin physical feature extent	1	
D4	Channel margin physical feature richness	1	
D5	Channel margin artificial features	-1	
CHANNEL BED			
E1	Channel aquatic morphotype richness	3	60% of the river section, where the channel was less shaded, had a diverse macrophyte assemblage for an urban environment
E2	Channel bed tree features richness	2	
E3	Channel bed hydraulic features richness	1	
E4	Channel bed natural features extent	0	
E5	Channel bed natural features richness	0	
E6	Channel bed material richness	4	Bed richness was composed of cobble, gravel/pebble, sand and silt
E7	Channel bed siltation	0	
E8	Channel bed reinforcement extent	-3	
E9	Channel bed reinforcement severity	-3	Some reinforcing of the channel bed with concrete in 40% of the river section
E10	Channel bed artificial features severity	-1	Some reinforcing of the channel bed with concrete in 40% of the river section
E11	Channel bed NNIPS extent	0	
E12	Channel bed filamentous algae extent	-3	Extensive coverage of filamentous algae due to high levels of nutrient input
Overview of RCA and river section assessment			
River Condition Assessment PRELIMINARY SCORE:	-0.061	River Type and class bands:	F - Straight/sinuuous, coarsest CO, average GP

River Shape index:	1.926	Is the river channel OVERDEEP? <i>If yes, what supporting evidence is provided?</i>	No
River Condition Assessment FINAL CLASS:	Fairly poor	IS THE RCA FINAL CLASS MODIFIED ? <i>If yes, why and what supporting evidence is provided?</i>	No
Summary of RCA results (and Encroachment where applicable) with recommendations for improvements			
The RCA shows a main river which is extensively constrained on both banks by flood management measures; concrete re-inforced banks. The right bank is more open though three of the MoRPH sections. There is no opportunity for enhancement on the left bank face, natural habitats could be created at the bank top. There are opportunities to enhance natural habitats on the right bank top. Management of the shading vegetation through the mid section would enhance in channel vegetation.			
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve the river condition score			
Bank top habitat enhancement on both banks, reduction in channel shading to enhance in channel macrophytes.			

Appendix 4 – Proposed Planting Plan (311/PA/01D)

