

APPENDIX 11.3 UKHAB SURVEY

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The results presented in this appendix reflect the survey information available at the time of writing. Where further ecological survey work or design updates affect the interpretation of the habitat baseline, this appendix will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

1.2 UK Habitat Classification Survey

- 1.2.1 UKHab surveys were undertaken on 21st August 2025 and are being updated in 2026. The surveys incorporated detailed assessment of the land within the development boundary, including a description and mapping of all key features and habitat types. The survey was carried out to identify the range of habitats within the site and the predominant and notable species of flora. This survey was informed by the UKHab classification Version 2 (UKHab Ltd., 2023).

1.3 Quadrat Methodology

- 1.3.1 Grasslands were surveyed using professional judgement using 1x1m² quadrats sample. A minimum of three quadrats were undertaken of each grassland section. The DAFOR scale was used to assess the coverage of each species.
- 1.3.2 Information collected within each quadrat included aspect, slope, average ground cover, sward variation, species, and their percentage cover.
- 1.3.3 Where the grassland differed to a certain extent or was divided by field boundary such as hedgerows it was considered that the grassland was a different habitat parcel, and another assessment was undertaken.

1.4 Baseline conditions

- 1.4.1 Habitats on site are dominated by agricultural cropland. There are several parcels of other neutral grassland on site, and the site boundaries are comprised of native hedgerows and scrub habitats, including mixed scrub, willow scrub and bramble scrub. There is one pond and one non-priority river habitat on site. There is an area of developed land; sealed surface with patches of modified grassland in the centre of the site, connecting the north and south fields.

UKHab Survey

- 1.4.2 Figure 1 shows the key habitats using the UK habitat classifications. The key features are described within this section:
- Cereal crops (c1c)

- Modified grassland (g4)
- Other neutral grassland (g3c)
- Bramble scrub (h3d)
- Mixed scrub (h3h)
- Willow scrub (h3j)
- Ponds (non-priority habitat) (r41)
- Ruderal/Ephemeral (u841)
- Developed land; sealed surface (u1b6)
- Introduced shrub (u847)
- Bare ground (u510)

1.4.3 Linear features described within this section are:

- Non-priority river habitat (r2b)
- Native hedgerow
- Native hedgerow – associated with bank or ditch
- Native hedgerow with trees
- Native species rich hedgerow with trees

Area Habitats

Cereal crops

1.4.4 The site contains two sizeable areas of cereal crops (Photo 1) to the north and south of the site, covering 12.37ha. The dominant crop species in the parcel was maize (*Zea mays*). Condition assessment is not applicable for cereal crop habitat.



Photo 1 Cereal crop habitat (A1)

Modified Grassland

1.4.5 There are two areas of modified grassland covering 0.05ha, associated with the roundabout (Photo 2) and Mill Lane roadside in the centre of the site.

- 1.4.6 One parcel of modified grassland was assessed to be in poor condition, and one was assessed to be in moderate condition.



Photo 2 Modified grassland habitat (A6)

Other neutral grassland

- 1.4.7 The site includes three parcels of other neutral grassland, totalling 0.94ha of land (Photo 3, Photo 4). Species on site included false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), wood dock (*Rumex sanguineus*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus agg.*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), tall fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum*), common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), prickly sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Clustered dock (*Rumex conglomeratus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), and cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*).
- 1.4.8 Two parcels of the other neutral grassland were assessed to be in poor condition, and one parcel was assessed to be in moderate condition.



Photo 3 Other neutral grassland habitat (A3)



Photo 4 Other neutral grassland habitat (A4)

Bramble scrub

- 1.4.9 There is one parcel, comprising two areas, of bramble scrub located in the east corner and on the south boundary of the site, covering 0.046ha in total (Photo 5). Condition assessment is not applicable for bramble scrub habitat.



Photo 5 Bramble scrub habitat (A8)

Mixed scrub

- 1.4.10 There are two areas of mixed scrub within the site, with a combined area of 0.335ha, along the north boundary of the site (0.32ha) and in the east corner of the site's northern field (0.015ha) (Photo 6). Species include field maple (*Acer campestre*), willow (*Salix sp.*), and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*).
- 1.4.11 The parcel of mixed scrub in the east corner of the northern field was assessed to be in poor condition, and the parcel along the north boundary of the site was assessed to be in moderate condition.



Photo 6 Mixed scrub habitat (A10)

Willow scrub

- 1.4.12 There is one area of willow scrub on the south side of the northern field, covering an area of 0.09ha (Photo 7, Photo 8).

1.4.13 The willow scrub was assessed to be in moderate condition.



Photo 7 Willow scrub habitat (A11)



Photo 8 Willow scrub habitat (A11)

Ponds (non-priority)

1.4.14 There is one parcel of pond (non-priority) habitat located adjacent to the south boundary of the northern field, with an area of 0.015ha (Photo 9, Photo 10).

1.4.15 The pond (non-priority) habitat was assessed to be in moderate condition.



Photo 9 Pond (non-priority) habitat (A18)



Photo 10 Pond (non-priority) habitat (A18)

Ruderal/Ephemeral

1.4.16 There are two areas of ruderal / ephemeral habitat within the site, covering a total area of 0.23ha. One area runs along the east boundary of the northern field, and the other is in the west corner of the southern field, connecting the road and cropland (Photo 11). Species include hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), spear thistle and false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*).

1.4.17 The ruderal/ephemeral habitat was assessed to be in poor and moderate condition.



Photo 11 Ruderal/ephemeral habitat (A13)

Developed land; sealed surface

- 1.4.18 There is one parcel of developed land, comprising two areas, and covering an area of 0.49ha. The habitat comprises road infrastructure in the centre of the site, including Mill Lane, which connects the north and south fields (Photo 12, Photo 13). Condition assessment is not applicable for developed land; sealed surface habitat.



Photo 12 Developed land; sealed surface habitat in west of site (A15)



Photo 13 Developed land; sealed surface habitat in east of site (A15)

Introduced Shrub

- 1.4.19 There is one parcel of introduced shrub habitat, covering 0.06ha over two parcels, located either side of Mill Lane by the roundabout (Photo 14). Condition assessment is not applicable for introduced shrub habitat.



Photo 14 Introduced shrub habitat (A16)

Bare Ground

- 1.4.20 There is small parcel of bare ground on site, covering 0.02ha, comprised of two patches at each end of the Mill Lane fork (Photo 15).
- 1.4.21 The bare ground habitat was assessed to be in poor condition.



Photo 15 Bare ground habitat (A14)

Linear Habitats

River (non-priority)

- 1.4.22 There is one non-priority watercourse running along the east boundary of the northern field of the site (Photo 16, Photo 17). The watercourse footprint is 0.2 km long. Species include fool's watercress (*Apium nodiflorum*), bur reed (*sparganium erectum*), duckweed (*lemna sp.*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), and nettle (*Urtica dioica*).
- 1.4.23 The river habitat (non-priority) was assessed to be in fairly poor condition.



Photo 16 River (non-priority) habitat (R1)



Photo 17 River (non-priority) habitat (R1)

Native hedgerow

- 1.4.24 There are eight native hedgerows on site; seven are assessed to be of moderate condition, with one assessed to be in good condition. These lie on the south boundary of the south field, adjacent to the central areas of road, along the west boundary of the northern field, and bisecting the northern field (Photo 18 – Photo 23). Species include elm (*Ulmus procera*), bramble, dogwood (*Cornus sp.*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), and hawthorn.



Photo 18 Native hedgerow habitat (H1)



Photo 19 Native hedgerow habitat (H2)



Photo 20 Native hedgerow habitat (H3)



Photo 21 Native hedgerow habitat (H4)



Photo 22 Native hedgerow habitat (H6)



Photo 23 Native hedgerow habitat (H9)

Native hedgerow associated with bank or ditch

- 1.4.25 There is one native hedgerow associated with bank or ditch on site, assessed to be in moderate condition, which is located on the southeast boundary on the northern field, adjacent to Mill Lane (Photo 24, Photo 25). Species include elm and bramble.



Photo 24 Native hedgerow associated with bank or ditch habitat (H5)



Photo 25 Native hedgerow associated with bank or ditch habitat (H5)

Native hedgerow with trees

- 1.4.26 There is one native hedgerow with trees on site, assessed to be in moderate condition, which forms the southeast boundary of the southern field (Photo 26). Species include willow.



Photo 26 Native hedgerow with trees habitat (H10)

Native species-rich hedgerow with trees

- 1.4.27 There is one native species-rich hedgerow with trees on site, assessed to be in moderate condition, which is located on the north boundary of the southern field (Photo 27, Photo 28). Species include oak (*Quercus robur*), field maple, white willow (*Salix alba*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).



Photo 27 Native species-rich hedgerow with trees habitat (H11)



Photo 28 Native species-rich hedgerow with trees habitat (H11)

References

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



Figure 1 Hawk Ridge Business Park Existing Habitats