

Biodiversity Net Gain Statement and Assessment

Blind Lane, Southwick

30 September 2026

Ecology
Arboriculture
Land Management



Report Details

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Quality Assurance & Revision Record

Revision	Date	Author	Checked By	Approver	Summary of Changes
V1	28 January 2026	Anna Galvin BSc MSc	Carly Benefer BSc MSc PhD MCIEEM	Carly Benefer BSc MSc PhD MCIEEM	
V2	19 February 2026	Anna Galvin BSc MSc	Carly Benefer BSc MSc PhD MCIEEM	Carly Benefer BSc MSc PhD MCIEEM	Minor amends following comments from Wain Homes Severn Valley
V3	30 September 2026	Anna Galvin BSc MSc	Carly Benefer BSc MSc PhD MCIEEM	Nick Hargreaves BSc MSc MCIEEM	Amends following layout and landscaping changes.

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Site Details

Site Name and Location	Blind Lane, Southwick
Central OS Grid Reference	ST 83754 54840
Client	Wain Homes Severn Valley

Boundary



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1 Introduction

This report provides a Biodiversity Net Gain Statement and Assessment for Blind Lane, Southwick, south of Trowbridge in relation to a detailed planning application. The surveys were commissioned by Wain Homes Severn Valley.

The area within the application boundary is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

Biodiversity Net Gain is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was initially and meets the requirements of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. The Environment Act (2021) requires most planning applications in England to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity.

1.1 Site Context

The Site is located east of Wesley Lane, on the southern outskirts of the village of Southwick, which lies 3.3km southwest of Trowbridge, Wiltshire. The Site is surrounded by arable and pasture grassland, A and B roads and small residential developments.

1.2 Description of Proposed Development

Proposals consist of 90 residential units and associated soft landscaping, access, roads and parking.

1.3 Aims

The aims of this report are to:

-  Provide the national mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) information requirements.
-  Provide any local BNG information requirements as specified by Wiltshire Council.
-  Provide the Site baseline and an indicative post-development BNG assessment.

2 BNG Statement

2.1 National Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain Information

Table 1 provides the BNG information required to support the planning application under Article 7 of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Table 1: National Mandatory Baseline BNG Information

Information required	Description	
Would the planning permission, if granted, be subject to the biodiversity gain condition?	Yes – meets criteria of a major development.	
Pre-development biodiversity value of the on-Site habitat on the date of application	Habitats	9.60
	Hedgerows	11.23
	Watercourses	2.58
Publication date of the biodiversity metric calculation tool used	July 2024	
Is an earlier date proposed?	No – the relevant date is the date of the planning application submission.	
Is there any evidence of habitat degradation?	Yes – the biodiversity value of the on-Site habitat is lower on the date of application due to degradation by the removal of a mature tree within a hedgerow and the habitat value has been taken as that present immediately before the degradation took place (October 2025).	
Is there any irreplaceable habitat on Site?	Yes – a veteran tree is present within the Site boundary (Figure 1). This has been indicated within the baseline habitats tab of the metric. According to the site plan (Place by Design, 2026) there will be no loss of this irreplaceable habitat	
Plan of on-Site habitat on the date of the application (or earlier date)	Refer to Figure 1 .	

2.2 'Significant' Net Gain

What counts as 'significant' habitat enhancement varies depending on the scale of development and existing habitat. Based on the Proposed Landscape Plan (WAIN24897– 11E -Sheet 1-6), the following 'significant' on-site habitat enhancements, as defined by Government guidance, are predicted as detailed on **Figure 2**:

 **Habitats of medium or higher distinctiveness:** mixed scrub, ponds (non-priority habitat), other neutral grassland and individual trees (all medium distinctiveness) and orchard (high distinctiveness) proposed.

Therefore, a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be required.

2.3 Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy

The biodiversity gain hierarchy has been followed during the design process as per **Table 2**.

Table 2: Application of the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy

Step in the hierarchy	Application
<i>First, in relation to onsite habitats which have a medium, high and very high distinctiveness, the avoidance of adverse effects from the development and, if they cannot be avoided, the mitigation of those effects</i>	A section of medium distinctiveness species-rich native hedgerow will be removed to facilitate the provision of an access road into the development and as such is unavoidable. This has been minimised to only that required to meet safety standards for visibility, with the width of breaches also minimised. The layout of the buildings and SuDS basins has been designed to avoid the RPA of trees.
<i>Then, in relation to all onsite 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 onsite habitats, allocation of registered offsite gains and finally the purchase of biodiversity credits</i>	As all habitat will be removed, there is no opportunity to enhance on site habitats in order to compensate the loss of habitats. Taking a precautionary approach, it is not considered feasible to enhance retained hedgerows to a better condition given their context within the development. On-site habitat creation will therefore be used to compensate losses. To compensate for the losses of modified grassland, areas of modified grassland will be created as well as large areas of other neutral grassland is proposed. The loss of arable cropland will be compensated through the accumulative creation modified grassland, introduced shrub and vegetated garden.

3 BNG Assessment Summary

A baseline and indicative post-development BNG assessment was undertaken using the statutory biodiversity metric (released in July 2024 and downloaded directly from the Government website¹ on 22 October 2025) following current guidance (Defra, 2024a). Further detail on the methodology is provided in **Appendix 1**.

The on-site baseline and indicative post-development BNG position are demonstrated in **Table 3**. Full details of the calculations including condition assessment criteria are provided in the statutory metric calculation tool (GE Consulting, 2025) provided separately. Baseline and indicative post-development BNG plans are presented in **Figures 1** and **2**.

Table 3: Summary of on-Site BNG Metric Assessment

Unit Type	Onsite Baseline Units	Onsite Post-development Units	Net Unit Change	% Change
Habitat	9.60	9.98	+0.39	+4.03%
Hedgerow/ Linear	11.23	14.78	+ 3.56	+ 31.68%
Watercourse	2.58	3.02	+ 0.44	+17.07%

The indicative assessment suggests that the minimum 10% net gain requirement will not be achievable on-site. It is anticipated that a habitat bank will be used to gain the required habitat units. The BNG will be updated should any changes in the landscaping proposals occur.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

4 References

ACD Environmental (2026) Soft Landscape Plan WAIN24897-11E Sheet 1 – 6

CLFA Design (2026) Drainage Technical Note (CLFA137-CLFA-00-XX-DR-0661)

Defra (2024a) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide July 2024. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>.

Defra (2024b) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology July 2024. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>.

JNCC (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a Technique for Environmental Audit*. JNCC, Peterborough, ISBN 0 86139 636 7.

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

GE Consulting (2025) 2102-EclA-AG Ecological Impact Assessment – Blind Lane, Southwick, Trowbridge 30.09.26

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Native Hedgerow with trees
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees
- Ornamental Hedgerow
- c - Cropland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- Irreplaceable habitat - veteran tree
- Habitat degradation - removal of T18

Scale at A4: 1:1,780



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Figure 1:
On-Site Baseline Habitat Plan

Project:

Blind Lane, Southwick

Client:

Wain Homes Severn Valley

Date:

19/2/2026

Ref:

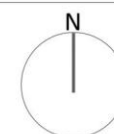
2102-BNG-F1

Drawn:

AG

Revision:

-





Key:

- Site Boundary
- Native Hedgerow
- Native Hedgerow with trees
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees
- New Urban Tree (Broadleaved)
- 1160 - Introduced shrub
- 19 - Pond (priority)
- Pond (non-priority)
- 21 - Traditional orchard
- g3c - Other neutral grassland
- g4 - Modified grassland
- h3h - Mixed scrub
- u1b - Developed land, sealed surface
- u1b5 - Buildings
- Vegetated Garden



Imagery ©2026 CNES / Airbus, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies. Map data ©2026 Google

Figure 2:
On-site Post-intervention Proposed Habitat Plan

Project:

Blind Lane, Southwick

Client:

Wain Homes Severn Valley

Date:

29/9/2026

Ref:

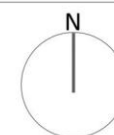
2102-BNG-F2

Drawn:

ET

Revision:

R1





Key:

-  Site Boundary
-  Subreaches
-  Watercourse



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Figure 3:
MoRPH5 Subreach Survey Locations

Project:
Blind Lane, Southwick

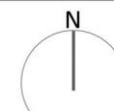
Client:
Wain Homes Severn Valley

Date:
22/1/2026

Ref:
2102-BNG-F3

Drawn:
AG

Revision:
-





Key:

- Site Boundary
- Watercourse
- Watercourse Sections

Plan Not to Scale

Imagery ©2026 CNES / Airbus, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies. Map data ©2026 Google

Figure 4:
Watercourse Sections to be Impacted

Project:
Blind Lane, Southwick

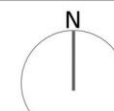
Client:
Wain Homes Severn Valley

Date:
28/1/2026

Ref:
2102-BNG-F4

Drawn:
AG

Revision:
-



Appendix 1 – Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Methodology

Site Survey and Condition Assessment

The Site was surveyed by Vicki Hawkins on 29 September 2023, comprising a UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) survey (UKHab Ltd. 2023, V2.0) and condition assessment following the criteria in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (Defra, 2024a). See **Appendix 3** for the condition assessment sheets. An update survey was undertaken by Vicki Hawkins on 31 January 2025 to confirm current on-site conditions.

All habitats within the Site were identified, described and mapped during the field survey in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) (UKHab Ltd., 2023 (V2.0)) and Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Defra, 2024b) classifications for hedgerows, with other linear and point features mapped using Phase 1 Habitat Survey symbology (JNCC 2010). Primary habitats have been mapped to a minimum mapping unit (MMU) of 25m², although where features of note of a smaller scale are present, these have also been recorded and mapped.

Any habitats (e.g. traditional orchard) with no appropriate primary habitat label were assigned a secondary habitat code. Other secondary UKHab codes were recorded where relevant, although they are described qualitatively within this report for ease of reading.

Biodiversity Metric Methodology

The BNG assessment was undertaken as per the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Defra 2024a) using a copy of the statutory Defra metric downloaded directly from the Government website² on 24 April 2024.

The habitats identified during the walkover survey were compared to current and historic satellite imagery (including Google Earth Pro and Google Maps) to assess whether degradation has occurred between 30 January 2020 and the date of the survey. Where degradation has occurred in this timeframe, the habitats on Site immediately prior to the degradation was used as the baseline for the Site in line with government guidance.

The Site was divided up into distinct habitat parcels and linear features based on UKHab and Statutory Biodiversity Metric classifications and measured accordingly using the QGIS mapping tool. Where appropriate, individual trees that have been included within the metric calculations are represented using point symbols superimposed over area habitats. Their area has been calculated and included within the metric as per the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Defra, 2024a). All condition criteria information has been included in the User Comments of the baseline tab for all habitats for which a condition assessment is required.

The area of each habitat to be created, retained, and/or enhanced, measured from the Landscape Plan in QGIS, was entered into the metric. These were then each given an appropriate target condition and strategic significance score.

The baseline BNG plan is shown in **Figure 1** and the indicative post-development BNG plan is shown in **Figure 2**.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

Strategic Significance

The strategic significance score represents the local significance of the habitat based on its location and habitat type and is considered separately for each individual habitat. The value is determined by referring to the relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Where this has not yet been published, LPA biodiversity and green infrastructure strategies that apply to the site have been referred to.

In the absence of an LNRS, Wiltshire LPA do not signpost to a document to refer to. However, Wiltshire Council Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy was consulted to be thorough. The habitats on site are classified as not being located within an area formally identified in a local strategy and have a Low strategic significance.

The Site falls within the Wiltshire LNRS with only the northeast section of the watercourse falling within an identified area of enhancement for rivers, streams and wetlands. Therefore, all baseline habitats on Site are classified as not being located within an area formally identified in a local strategy and have a Low strategic significance.

Biodiversity Metric Principles

The Biodiversity Metric Principles have informed the assessment as per **Table 4.1:**

Table 4.1: Application of the Biodiversity Metric Principles

Principle	Application
<i>Principle 1 - The metric assessment should be completed by a competent person</i>	The metric was completed by an ecologist trained and experienced in the use of the metric.
<i>Principle 2 - The use of this biodiversity metric does not override existing biodiversity protections, statutory obligations, policy requirements, ecological mitigation hierarchy or any other requirements. This includes consenting or licensing processes, for example woodlands</i>	All other legislative and policy requirements have been met. See the EclA for further details (GE Consulting, 2025).
<i>Principle 3 - This biodiversity metric should be used in accordance with established good practice guidance and professional codes</i>	The latest User Guide and good practice guidance (including information within Planning Practice Guidance) has been followed.
<i>Principle 4 - This biodiversity metric is not a complex or comprehensive ecological model and is not a substitute for expert ecological advice</i>	An EclA has been produced taking into account all other ecological considerations on site.
<i>Principle 5 - Biodiversity units are a proxy for biodiversity and should be treated as relative values</i>	An EclA has been produced taking into account all other ecological considerations on site and the requirements for species have been incorporated into the design.
<i>Principle 6 - This biodiversity metric is designed to inform decisions in conjunction with locally relevant evidence, expert input, or guidance</i>	An EclA has been produced taking into account all ecological considerations on site, including local requirements using survey and desk study data, with the metric used to show how habitat creation and enhancement is contributing to providing an uplift in biodiversity value of the Site, as required by the Environment Act.

Principle	Application
<i>Principle 7 - Habitat interventions need to be realistic and deliverable within a relevant project timeframe</i>	The habitats proposed to be enhanced/ created have been specified based on site specific circumstances, including how these will likely be utilised and managed in the future. As such a precautionary approach has been taken to suggesting habitats to be created post-development and condition assessment.
<i>Principle 8 - Created and enhanced habitats should be, where practical and reasonable, local to any impact and deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation</i>	All habitat creation is taking place within the development site.
<i>Principle 9 - This biodiversity metric does not enforce a minimum habitat size ratio for compensation of losses. Proposals should aim to:</i> - maintain habitat extent - supporting more, bigger, better and more joined up ecological networks - ensure that proposed or retained habitat parcels are of sufficient size for ecological function	Proposed habitats have been designed to link to existing landscape features, including woodland and hedgerows, to enhance existing ecological networks. Large areas of grassland are proposed to offset area losses of this habitat and to maintain ecologically functional areas for species e.g. reptiles and bat foraging.

Assumptions

The following assumptions were made to complete the calculations:

- 👉 A 2-year delay in habitat creation has been assumed.
- 👉 Retention and protection of hedgerows on Site (H2, H3 and H4)
- 👉 SuDS has been classified as ponds due to the expectation of them holding water permanently and for them to be planted with a wetland specific seed mix as well as marginal/aquatic planting making them more valuable for wildlife.

Limitations

There were no limitations associated with the site survey or baseline BNG calculations.

Off-Setting

It is anticipated that a habitat bank will be utilised to compensate for the deficit in habitat units.

Appendix 2 – Rivers & Streams Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Baseline Condition Assessment

Desk Study

A desk-based survey was undertaken prior to the Site survey to establish the historic nature of the watercourse present, using historic OS maps and LiDAR that illustrate the topography of the Site (accessed via the National Library of Scotland: <https://maps.nls.uk/>).

Site Assessment

The Site was surveyed on 08 May 2025, comprising a River Condition Assessment using the Modular River Survey (MoRPh) (Gurnell et al., 2022). The assessment was undertaken using the MoRPh5 Survey Protocol by surveyor/s Anna Galvin BSc MSc, who is accredited to use the MoRPh5 approach, with assistance from Ella Bond BSc.

The survey area required is a minimum of 20% of the watercourse length that is either within or adjacent to the Site, ensuring all distinctive sections of the watercourse are included. This includes sections with distinctly varied features, condition and encroachment, and includes sections that will likely be impacted and/ or enhanced by the proposals.

On this site the average width of the watercourse is <5m therefore two MoRPh5 subreaches consisting of 5 modules of 50m (a total length of 0.1km) was required to meet the minimum 20% survey requirement. The sections surveyed were (**Figure 3**):

- 👉 Section 1: Proposed enhanced area within the Site – 179m (sub-reach 1)
- 👉 Section 2: Creation of outfall – 2m (sub-reach 1)
- 👉 Section 3: Proposed enhanced area within the Site – 81m (sub-reach 2)
- 👉 Section 4: Creation of outfall – 2m (sub-reach 2)
- 👉 Section 5: Proposed enhanced area within the Site – 23m (sub-reach 2)

River Type Assessment

A desk-based River Type assessment was undertaken using Google Earth and data was input into the Cartographer portal (<https://ge.cartographer.io>). The results of the river type assessment were combined with the site assessment data to provide a final condition assessment for each section.

Baseline Biodiversity Metric Methodology

The condition assessment results were entered for each section separately into the Statutory BNG metric which was undertaken as per the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (Defra, 2024b).

In addition to the condition assessment, watercourse and riparian zone encroachment were also included in the metric based on conditions recorded at the time of the survey.

Strategic significance

The strategic significance score represents the local significance of the habitat based on its location and habitat type. The value is determined by referring to catchment management plans and river strategies or the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), where available.

The Site falls within the Wiltshire LNRS with the northeastern section of watercourse (Section 5) being identified as an area of enhancement for rivers, streams and wetlands. There is no current active

management in line with these enhancements and therefore the river was considered to have **Low** strategic significance.

Assumptions

A 2-year delay in habitat enhancement has been assumed.

Limitations

No limitations occurred during the survey.

Post-development Biodiversity Metric Methodology

The impacts of the proposals on the watercourse as presented in WAIN24897-11E Sheet 1-6 (ACD Environmental, 2026) and CLFA137-CLFA-00-XX-DR-0661 (CLFA Design, 2026) were assessed using the Cartographer portal. The features of each section of watercourse were altered where impacts were predicted (negative impacts from in-channel or riparian zone interventions and positive impacts from enhancements).

Assumptions

- 👉 No planting of aquatic marginal vegetation has been included in the calculation
- 👉 4m of watercourse has been recorded as lost and then re-created to account for the increase in watercourse encroachment due to the installation of two outfall pipes.
- 👉 All habitats, riparian zone encroachment and watercourse encroachment from the right bank (offsite) have been assumed to be unchanged.

Limitations

- 👉 Whilst the metric predicts that time to target condition is 2 years for enhancement of Sections 1, 3 and 5, full establishment of bank top, bank face and channel margin vegetation (in particular trees) is expected to take longer than this, in line with time to target condition in the terrestrial sections of the metric.
- 👉 The enhancements targeted have been devised based on knowledge of the Site gained through detailed site survey at a single point in time as well as historic and current mapping and aerial imagery, including predictions based on current understanding of riverine ecology and morphology. However, as watercourses are dynamic systems that are subject to change over time due to surrounding land use as well as climate, the changes remain predictions only and there will need to be flexibility in adapting the approach and targeted indices to account for this.

Baseline Results

The watercourse has been assessed as a straight/sinuuous river in overall Moderate condition, comprising 2.58 watercourse units. The sections of river surveyed are very straight, almost ditch like in quality with low water levels at time of survey. The watercourse is bound by a hedgerow on one side, surrounded by arable fields. It has steep, earth banks with an average bed material size class of silt.

A description of each section is provided in **Table 5.1**. Detailed data for each of the 32 indices is available on request.

Table 5.1: Summary of the MoRPh5 surveys for each section surveyed

Section Description and Condition	Indicative Photograph
Section 1 – sub-reach 1 (Moderate condition) The riverbanks are predominantly lined with scrub (hedgerow) on the right bank top and extensive arable fields within the 10m riparian zone on both bank tops. The bank face is composed entirely of earth. The channel bed is composed predominately of silt.	
Section 2- sub-reach 2 (Moderate condition) The riverbanks are predominantly lined with scrub (hedgerow) on the right bank top and extensive arable fields within the 10m riparian zone on both bank tops. The bank face is composed entirely of earth. The channel bed is composed predominately of silt.	

Post-development Results

A summary of the predicted impacts for each section and how this has been included within the metric is provided below and in **Figure 4**. Detailed data for each of the 32 indices is available on request.

- 👉 Section 1 (0.179km) - enhancements to the riparian zone through the creation of bank top vegetation structure diversity. Riparian zone has been amended from major to no encroachment due to the removal of arable cropland and creation of grassland, shrub/scrub and tree planting. Watercourse encroachment remains as no encroachment.
- 👉 Section 2 (0.002km) – the location of a new outfall into the watercourse. This increases the watercourse encroachment from no encroachment to minor encroachment, and therefore in the metric this has been marked as lost and re-created in advance by 10 years (as per the User Guide; Defra 2024). Riparian zone encroachment to be improved from major to no encroachment due to the removal of arable cropland and the creation of grassland, shrub/scrub and trees.
- 👉 Section 3 (0.081km) - enhancements to the riparian zone through the creation of bank top vegetation structure diversity. Riparian zone has been amended from major to no encroachment due to the removal of arable cropland and creation of grassland, shrub/scrub and tree planting. Watercourse encroachment remains as no encroachment.
- 👉 Section 4 (0.002km) – the location of a new outfall into the watercourse. This increases the watercourse encroachment from no encroachment to minor encroachment, and therefore in the metric this has been marked as lost and re-created in advance by 10 years (as per the User Guide; Defra 2024). Riparian zone encroachment to be improved from major to no encroachment due to the removal of arable cropland and the creation of grassland, shrub/scrub and trees.
- 👉 Section 5 (0.023km) - enhancements to the riparian zone through the creation of bank top vegetation structure diversity. Riparian zone has been amended from major to no encroachment due to the removal of arable cropland and creation of grassland, shrub/scrub and tree planting. Watercourse encroachment remains as no encroachment. Additionally, due to this section being identified within the Wiltshire LNRS the strategic significance has been assigned as formally identified within local strategy due to the improvements to the riparian corridor.



Appendix 3 – Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Table 6.1: Condition Assessment of Low Distinctiveness Grassland

Parcel /Feature Reference	Condition Criteria							Total score and Condition
	A - There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs. This criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	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).	C - Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area.	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.	E - Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	F - Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	G - There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA).	
1	Fail The average number of plant species per m ² was 5 including perennial ryegrass, hogweed, nettle, broad-leaved dock, sorrel and thistle sp.	Fail The sward was uniform throughout though unmanaged.	Pass Scattered scrub was present but this was less than 20% of the grassland.	Pass No physical damage evident.	Pass Some localised areas of bare ground from people using a footpath around the perimeter of the Site.	Pass No bracken present.	Pass No invasive plant species present.	5/7 Poor Condition

Table 6.2: Condition Assessment of Hedgerow

Condition Criteria	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5
A1 - >1.5 m average height along length	Pass	Pass	Pass	N/A	Pass
A2 - >1.5 m average width along length	Pass	Fail	Pass	N/A	Pass
B1 - Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	Pass	Pass	Pass	N/A	Pass
B2 - Gaps make up <10% of total length; and no canopy gaps >5 m	Pass	Pass	Pass	N/A	Pass
C1 - >1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length	Fail	Pass	Pass	N/A	Fail
C2 - Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	Fail	Fail	Fail	N/A	Fail
D1 - >90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) and recently introduced species	Fail	Pass	Pass	N/A	Pass
D2 - >90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	Pass	Pass	Pass	N/A	Fail
Only applies to hedgerows with trees E1 - There is more than one age-class of tree present and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow	Pass	Pass	Pass	N/A	N/A
Only applies to hedgerows with trees E2 - At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition 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	Fail	Pass	Pass	N/A	N/A
Notes	Managed hedge average 2.5m height and 2m width and ground flora dominated by nettles. Cotoneaster sp. (invasive species) present in hedgerow.	Managed hedge average 1.5m height and 1m width and ground flora dominated by nettles and cleaver.	Unmanaged hedge average 2.5m height and 2m width and ground flora dominated by nettles and cleaver.	Ornamental hedgerow of leylandii. No condition assessment required.	Unmanaged hedge average 2.5m height and 2.5m width and ground flora dominated by nettles and cleaver.
Final score	6/10	8/10	9/10	N/A	5/8
Final condition	Moderate condition	Good condition	Good condition	Poor condition	Moderate condition



Table 6.3: Condition Assessment of Individual Trees

Parcel /Feature Reference	Condition Criteria						Parcel Condition
	A - The tree is a native species (or at least 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 human activities. And 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.	
T18	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	5/6
	Oak sp.		Mature tree	Multiple limbs have been cut.	Cavities and deadwood present.	50% of the tree over sails vegetation.	Good Condition
T3	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	6/6
	Oak sp.		Veteran tree	Tree is in good health with no obvious pruning.	Cavities and major deadwood present.	100% of the tree over sails vegetation.	Good condition

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