

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Site Address:

Land off Hunsworth Lane & Soureby Cross Way, East Bierley, Kirklees, BD4 6PU

Client:

Breck Homes Ltd

Assessment Date:

11th September 2026

Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with Kirklees Council. The proposal is described as:
New build residential development comprised 100% affordable housing and associated infrastructure works.

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
Final	1.0	Harry Brindle, BSc (Hons), Consultant Ecologist	11/09/2026

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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 survey site is centred on National Grid Reference SE 19752 28934 and has an area of approximately 1.8ha. The site comprises an area of former agricultural land, that has been colonised by a series of tall forbs. It is located within the village of East Bierley, on the urban fringe of the city of Bradford. The site is bound by an area of parkland to the north-west, dwellings to the north-east and arable land to the south-east and south-west. The wider landscape comprises a mosaic of arable land and residential dwelling, associated with the varying settlements that surround Bradford.

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

- ❖ Statutory BNG Metric - Land off Hunsworth Lane & Soureby Cross Way, BD4 6PU – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)
- ❖ Proposed Plan (2026)
- ❖ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) - Land off Hunsworth Lane & Soureby Cross Way, BD4 6PU – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2026)

Executive Summary

The current landscaping proposal generates a net loss of area-based habitat units **(-26.41%)** and a net gain of linear-based habitat units **(10.95%)** with unmet trading rules.

In order to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for area-based habitats, a minimum area-based unit score of 3.85 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of **1.27** units.

There is limited scope on site and this provision may not be possible to achieve on site or adjacent with the current arrangement (within the redline boundary or offsite on other owned land) considering the size of the proposed development area and the limited amount of soft landscaping within the parcel. Therefore offsite contributions may be required.

Introduction

BNG Informative		
Habitat Degradation Statement	Date reflected by BNG calculations	26 th August 2026
	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 GoogleEarth dated April 2020 and April 2025, 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 30 th January 2020.	
		
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)	37 - Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe
Strategic Significance	West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy The site is not located in an area of importance for biodiversity and therefore strategic significance has been determined as low.
Limitations There were no specific limitations to the assessment.	

Baseline

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats (A-1)

Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Developed land; sealed surface	0.055	In the north-eastern and south-western corners of the site are two areas of hardstanding, comprising tarmacked roads. There is no associated vegetation and the areas are of minimal ecological value.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
Non-cereal crops	1.743	The site comprises an area of recently disturbed agricultural land which appears to have been ploughed throughout and has subsequently developed a relatively open and patchy cover of ruderal vegetation		
Modified grassland	0.006	In the south-western corner of the site are two small patches of modified grassland, that form an extension of the parkland area that is adjacent to the site on the north-western boundary. The habitat comprises a closely managed, species-poor sward dominated by perennial rye-grass	Poor: passes 3 of 7 criteria	

Linear-Based Habitats (B-1)

Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.063	A native species-rich hedgerow is present along the south-western boundary of the site, forming a linear buffer between the adjacent access road and the arable land within the site.	Good: Passes 9 of 10 criteria	Low Strategic Significance

Post-Development

Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Developed land; sealed surface	0.3136	Proposed residential buildings.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' N/A ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	Low Strategic Significance
	Developed land; sealed surface	0.8216	Proposed hardstanding including roads, paths, parking areas and patios.		
	Vegetated garden	0.3709	Proposed garden spaces for residential buildings.		
	Modified grassland	0.1775	Proposed areas of grassland planted throughout the site.	Moderate: Passes 4 of 7 criteria	
	Other neutral grassland	0.1204	Proposed area of wildflower and native grass seed planting to the north of the site.	Moderate: Passes 4 of 6 criteria	
	Urban tree	0.2321	Proposed scattered tree planting.	Moderate: Passes 3 of 6 criteria	

Linear-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Length (km)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Created (B-2)	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.2173	Proposed hedgerow to the east of the site.	Poor: Passes 4 of 10 criteria	Low Strategic Significance

Change of Biodiversity Value

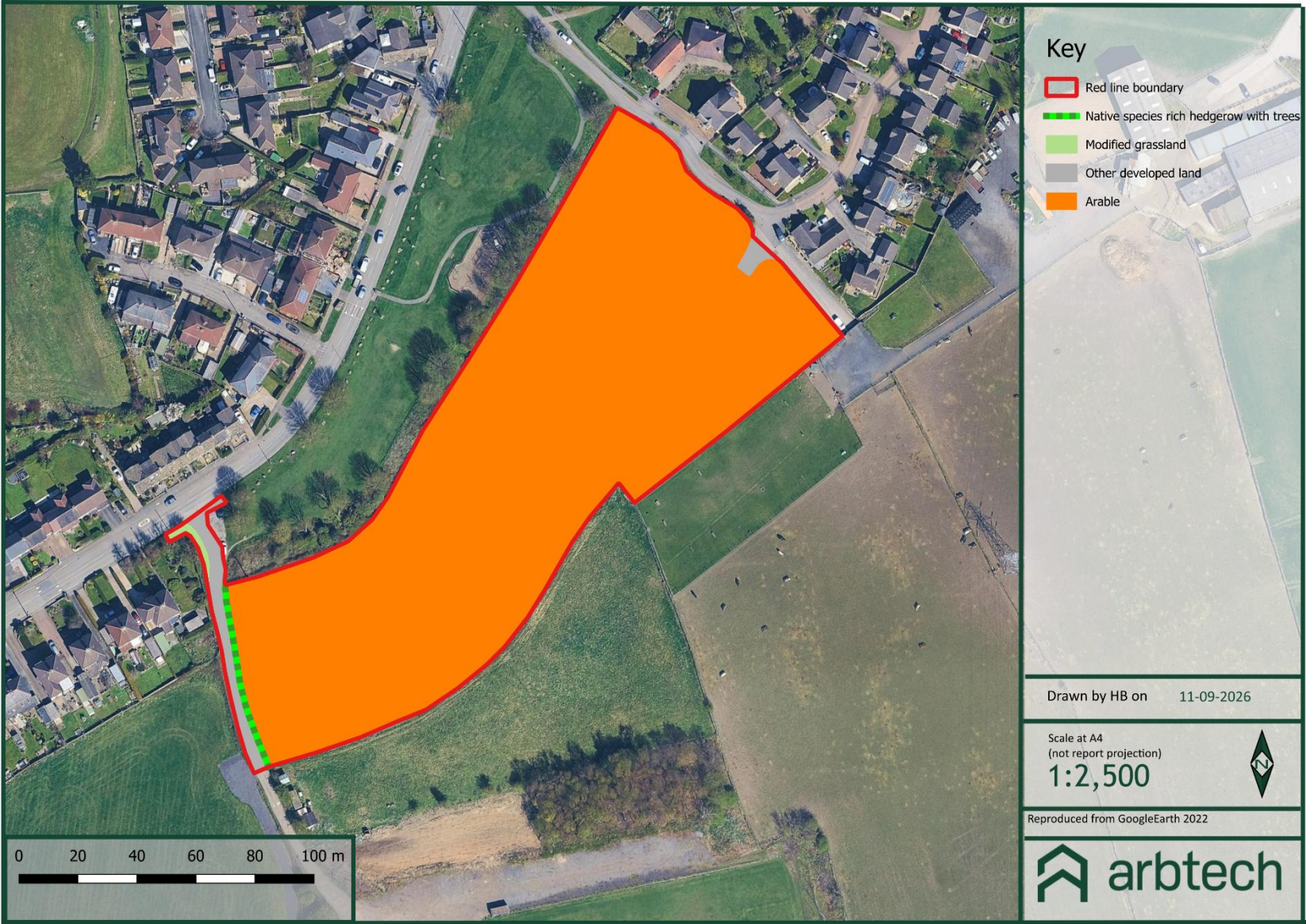
		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
On-Site	Baseline	3.50 units	1.13 units	N/A
	Post-Development	2.57 units	1.26 units	N/A
	Net Change	-0.92 units (-26.41%)	0.12 units (+10.95%)	N/A
Off-Site	Baseline	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Post-Development	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Net Change	N/A	N/A	N/A
Overall Net Change		-0.92 units (-26.41%)	0.12 units (+10.95%)	N/A

Results, Discussion, and Next Steps

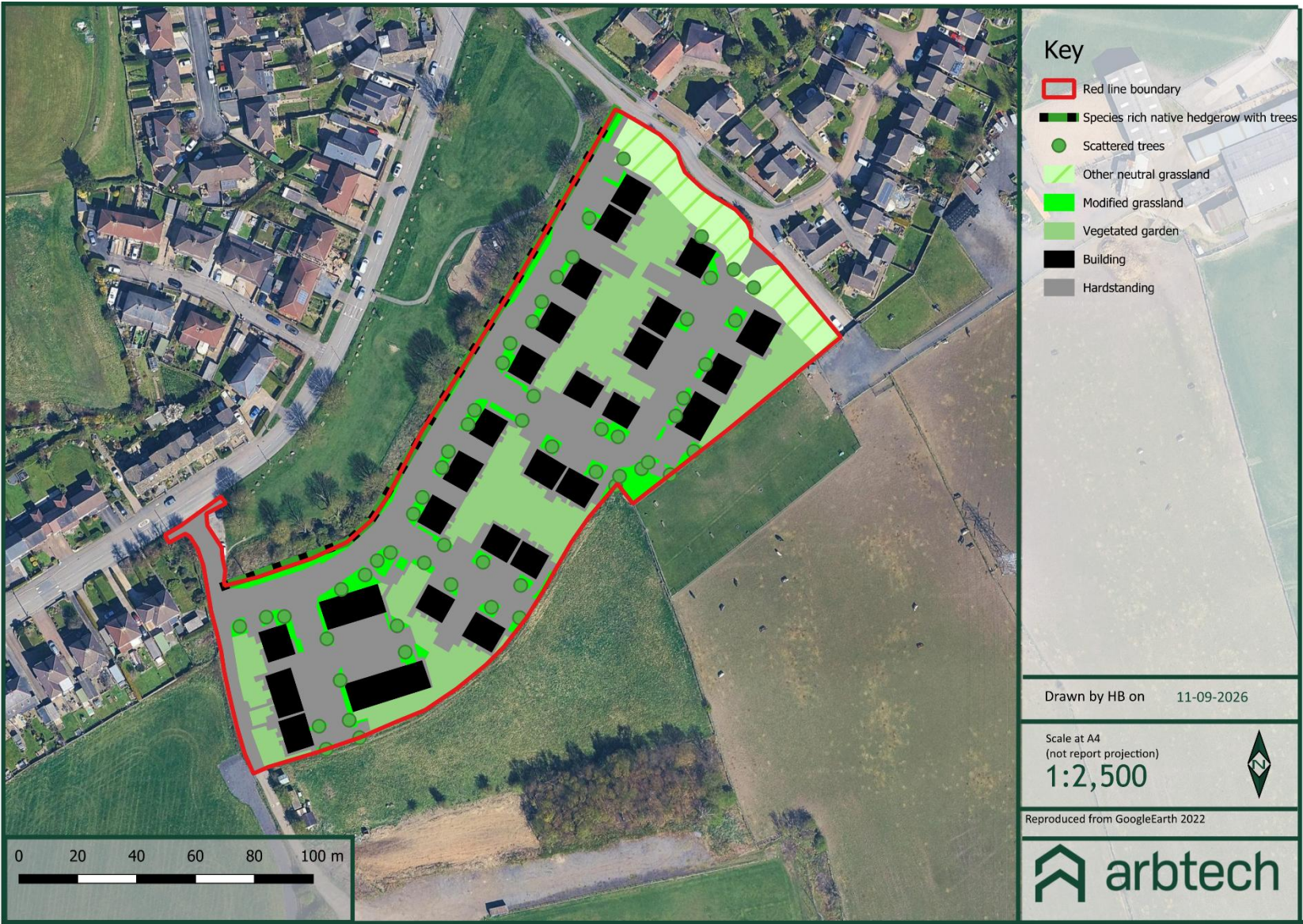
BNG Informative	
Results	The current landscaping proposal generates a net loss of area-based habitat units (-26.41%) and a net gain of linear-based habitat units (10.95%) with unmet trading rules. In line with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (2025), any loss of a habitat must be replaced on a like-for-like or like-for-better principle. With unmet trading conditions and a net loss, the proposal fails principal Rules 1 and 2 of BNG and is not compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2026). In order to achieve a +10% biodiversity net gain for area-based habitats, a minimum area-based unit score of 3.85 will need to be achieved. At present, there is a unit deficit of 1.27 units.
Recommendations and Next Steps	In order to achieve the required net gain in biodiversity as a result of the proposed development, the provision of additional or alternative landscaping should be explored and the proposed plans amended accordingly to achieve a net gain on site. The provisioning of additional landscaping should first be considered within the site boundary. There is limited scope on site and this provision may not be possible to achieve on site or adjacent with the current arrangement (within the redline boundary or offsite on other owned land) considering the size of the proposed development area and the limited amount of soft landscaping within the parcel. Based on the proposed plans, it is unlikely that net gain will be achieved by ways of habitat creation/enhancement without significant changes to the proposals on site or require unfeasible commitments off-site. As such, a financial contribution to off-site ecological enhancements (i.e. purchasing biodiversity units) within an approved scheme is required to make up the +10% net gain for area-based habitat units. The mechanism for securing this off-setting will need to be proposed to and confirmed by the LPA and would be linked to the application through a planning obligation Section 106 (s106) agreement. The proposed habitat compensation must be of an appropriate distinctiveness to meet the trading rules of BNG. A summary as to what off-site units will be required is detailed in the table below.

			Distinctiveness	Broad Habitat Group	Habitat	Units Required	
			Low	Sparsely Vegetated Land	Ruderal/Ephemeral	1.26	
			Total			1.27	
Pre-Commencement	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.						
	These additional requirements can only be actioned following the finalisation of the BNG assessment – be it on-site or off-site net gains sought.						

Appendix 1: Baseline Habitat Plan



Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan



Appendix 3: Proposed Development Plan



Appendix 4: Headline BNG Results

The Defra Statutory Biodiversity Metric is provided as a separate excel spreadsheet.

FINAL RESULTS				
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)			Area habitat units	-0.92
			Hedgerow units	0.12
			Watercourse units	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)			Area habitat units	-26.41%
			Hedgerow units	10.95%
			Watercourse units	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?			No - Check Trading Summaries ▲	
Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Area habitat units	10.00%	3.50	3.85	1.27
Hedgerow units	10.00%	1.13	1.25	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	No	
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.	No	
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	No	
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.	yes	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	yes	
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	yes	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	No	
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)			
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved */✓	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	yes	

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D, and E)				
Criteria – the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'		Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups – applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the 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).	yes
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 (such as blackthorn <i>Rhus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >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).	yes
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).	yes
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).	yes
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 hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow 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.	yes
C2.	Nutrient-enriched 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, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	yes
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	yes
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 (for example, excessive herbicide cutting).	yes

Additional group – applicable to hedgerows with trees only				
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ³), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 – 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	no
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	yes

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1–3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		Good

Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.	yes	
	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.		
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.	No	
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present).	yes	
	Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.		
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.	no	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	no	
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	yes	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	yes	
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)			
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	yes	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)		

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	yes	
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 insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	yes	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	yes	
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%.	yes	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ 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 ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	yes	
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 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	no	
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)			
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved */4	
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
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)	Yes	

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	yes	
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).	no	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	no	
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.	yes	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	no	
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	yes	
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√
Passes 5 or 6 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)	yes
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)	
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.			

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups – applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1. Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the 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).	no	
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 (such as blackthorn <i>Rhus spinae</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >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).	no	
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).	yes	
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).	yes	
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 hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow 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.	yes	
C2. Nutrient-enriched 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, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	no	
D1. Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ² , as well as the BSBI website ³ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora ⁴ ' contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁵ .	yes	
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 (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	no	

Additional group – applicable to hedgerows with trees only				
E1. Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and/or ancient ⁶), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 – 50 m of hedgerow.	no	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	
E2. Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	no	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 – 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.				
Condition categories for hedgerows without trees				
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3		
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Moderate condition).	2		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1		
Score achieved:		Poor		