



Biodiversity Impact Assessment Report

Site Name Gomersal	Location Former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, BD19 4JS
Job Ref 919	Document Ref R3-919-03-EC-02
Site Code None	Grid Reference SE 20878 26363
Prepared Esme Sudall	Date of Survey 21 st April 2026

FINAL

landscape architecture ecology arboriculture

t:01937 531558

4-6 Bridge Street, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, LS24 9AL
w:www.root-3.com
Company No. 6127826

e:info@root-3.com

Document History

NOTICE

This document has been produced purely for the purpose of supporting the proposed planning application at the site of Former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, BD19 4JS. It may not be used by any person, for any other purpose other than that specified without the express written permission of Root3 Associates Ltd. Any liability arising out of use by a third party of this document for purposes not wholly connected with the above shall be the responsibility who shall indemnify Root3 Associates Ltd against all claims costs damages and losses arising out of such use.

Job Number / REF: 919			Document ref: R3-919-03-EC-02			
Rev	Purpose and Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
-	Draft	ES	ES			07/07/2026
A	For Planning	ES	ES	EM	EM	15/07/2026

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Methodology.....	5
3. Baseline Conditions - Habitats.....	8
4. Habitat Creation.....	12
5. Impact Assessment.....	13
6. Summary.....	14
7. Bibliography.....	15
8. Appendices.....	16
8.1. Appendix A: Landscape Plan.....	16
8.2. Appendix B Ukhabs Baseline Habitat Plan.....	17
8.3. Appendix C: Ukhabs Post-Development Habitat Plan.....	18
8.4. Appendix D: Summary of Habitat Areas to be Enhanced, Retained and Lost within the Proposed Development.....	19
8.5. Appendix E: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessments.....	20

I. Introduction

I.1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE

I.1.1 Root3 Associates was commissioned by Angela Swift Developments to prepare a Biodiversity Impact Assessment (BIA) for the proposed works at land near Oxford Road, Gomersal. This report has been prepared to inform a planning application at the site. The author of this report is Esme Sudall BSc (hons) MSc, an ecologist at Root3¹.

I.2 LOCATION

I.2.1 Please refer to Figure 1 for the site location. This site is located in Gomersal, West Yorkshire (Grid reference: SE 20878 26363).

Figure 1: Site Location.



¹ Esme BSc (hons) MSc, post graduate qualified in ecology, with experience conducting PEAs, species surveys, habitat assessment and BNG metric calculations.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 The report has been produced to document the methods, results and conclusions of a BNG Assessment undertaken based on the proposed development for the site to fulfil the following:

- Ensure the mitigation hierarchy has been applied;
- Identify the baseline habitats present and provide condition assessments;
- Identify the post development habitats on site, assess the possible target condition and provide an indication of the likely importance of those habitats;
- Calculate the overall change in biodiversity score from pre-post development;
- Provide design recommendations to maximise potential net gain achievable;
- Provide an indication of the likely outcomes and indicative cost as required.

1.4 PLANNING CONTEXT

1.4.1 The Government 25-year Environment Plan states that the government will “embed environmental net gain principle for development”.

1.4.2 National policy already sets out that planning should provide Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) where possible. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraphs 174(d), 179(b) and 180(d) refer to this policy requirement and the Natural Environment Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides further explanation on how this should be done.

1.4.3 Under the Environment Act 2021, all planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) except for small sites will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain from February 2024. BNG will be required for small sites from April 2024. BNG will be measured using Defra’s biodiversity metric and habitats will need to be secured for at least 30 years. Key points regarding BNG are listed below:

- Minimum 10% gain required calculated using Biodiversity Metric and approval of net gain plan.
- Habitat secured for at least 30 years via obligations/ conservation covenant.
- Habitat can be delivered on site, off site or via statutory biodiversity units.
- There will be a national register for net gain delivery sites.
- The mitigation hierarchy still applies of avoidance, mitigation, and compensation for biodiversity loss.
- Will also apply to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).
- Does not apply to marine development.
- Does not change existing legal environmental and wildlife protections.

1.4.4 Developers will be required to undertake an assessment (using the nationally set BNG metric tool) of the current biodiversity value of the site both prior to and post the development proposal. In the event that the value of the site post-development is less than 10% better than it was prior to development then the developer will have an obligation to provide additional off-site BNG units to achieve the mandatory 10% net gain.

Biodiversity Mitigation Hierarchy (CIEEM, 2021)

Action in order of priority		
1	Avoid	Retain and protect existing habitats.
2	Minimise	Redesign to reduce habitat loss.
3	Restore	Improvement of on-site habitats.
4	Offset / Compensate	Creation of habitats of similar type where it was not previously present or enhance existing habitats elsewhere.
5	Additional Actions	Use to achieve the targeted level of gain.

2 Methodology

2.1 EXISTING HABITAT (BASELINE)

2.1.1 A walkover survey of the site was undertaken by Root3 in April 2026. The methods were based on the standard methodology as detailed by the UK HAB Methodology. A UK HAB Plan has been provided in the appendix of this report.

2.2 PLANNING LAYOUT

2.2.1 The landscape Plan created by PDP Ltd. (Rev. C. Gomersal Landscape proposals._recover-Layout1) has provided a red line boundary as well as the habitats to be incorporated within the site.

2.3 STATUTORY BIODIVERSITY METRIC

2.3.1 The BNG calculation was undertaken utilising The Statutory Biodiversity Metric from DEFRA, the site's UK Habitat map and the Site Plan. The calculation was performed by a technically competent and suitably experienced ecologist as detailed in the British Standard BS8683.

2.3.2 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric uses habitat features as a proxy measure for capturing the importance and value of nature. The metric considers the size, ecological condition, location and proximity to nearby connecting features. The metric enables assessments to be made of the present and forecast future biodiversity value of the site.

2.4 HABITAT SCORING

2.4.1 The Statutory Biodiversity Metric supplies reference documents and user guides in which to accurately evaluate and assess the different habitats on site. The methodology for the baseline and post development calculations are demonstrated in the following sections.

Baseline Units

2.4.2 To assess the quality of a habitat and therefore calculate the units scored the Statutory Biodiversity Metric utilises three scoring factors as detailed below.

Condition

2.4.3 The condition of a habitat is assessed utilising the Condition Sheets provided for each habitat type. These list positive indicators of each habitat and indicate how many of these indicators need to be present to meet certain thresholds of condition. These condition sheets can be found in The Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat condition assessment sheet with instructions tool Technical (Natural England Joint Publication, 2023).

Distinctiveness

- 2.4.4 The distinctiveness of each habitat (area and linear) is automatically assigned by the tool, based upon national records of the occurrence and rarity of each habitat (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric).

Strategic Significance

- 2.4.5 The idea of strategic significance works at a landscape scale. It gives additional unit value to habitats that are in preferred locations for biodiversity and other environmental objectives. Strategic significance utilises published local plans and objectives to identify local priorities for targeting biodiversity and nature improvement, such as Nature Recovery Areas and Local Biodiversity Plans.

Post Development Units

- 2.4.6 Additional factors are implemented when assessing post development habitats.
- Difficulty of creation/enhancement
 - Temporal Risk “Time to target condition”
 - Spatial Risk (when off-site mitigation is necessary)

2.5 LIMITATION OF ASSESSMENT

- 2.5.1 Whilst every effort has been made to provide a comprehensive description of the site, no investigation could ensure the complete characterisation and prediction of the natural environment. The conclusions and recommendations detailed in this report are based upon the site redline boundary and the development proposals as outlined by the client at the time of writing. Should there be any changes to the site redline boundary or development proposals at a later stage, this assessment should be reviewed to determine whether any amendments or additional survey work is required.
- 2.5.2 Habitat areas, both pre-and-post development have been using online mapping and therefore will not be completely accurate.

3 Baseline Conditions – Habitats

3.1 STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE

3.1.1 The site is located within the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

3.1.2 As the West Yorkshire LNRS has been published (DEFRA, 2026), strategic significance has been assigned in accordance with Table 7 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (DEFRA, 2025).

3.1.3 The West Yorkshire LNRS Local Habitat Map was reviewed to inform the assignment of strategic significance for habitats within the site. The site lies within a mapped measure area under the *Built Environment* theme. The relevant mapped measure is “*Measure B2_M02 – Expand and enhance existing mapped priority habitats or create new wetlands on suitable anchor institution land*”. The site also falls within an area identified as “*Areas that could become important to biodiversity*”.

3.1.4 In accordance with Table 7 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide (DEFRA, 2025), all habitats have been assigned ‘Low’ strategic significance. Although the site lies within a mapped measure area, the proposed development does not include habitat creation or enhancement measures considered sufficiently consistent with the identified LNRS measure to justify the assignment of ‘High’ strategic significance.

3.2 HABITATS PRE-DEVELOPMENT

3.2.1 Table 1 summarises the baseline habitats and area size. Please refer to Appendix E for the Condition Assessment Sheets for each habitat if applicable.

3.2.2 Habitats within the site include poor condition modified grassland, bramble and mixed scrub, broadleaved woodland, developed land, ruderals and a total of seventeen individual trees, comprising thirteen trees in moderate condition and four trees in good condition.

Table 1: Habitat Type and Condition Assessment (pre-development)

Existing area habitats		Distinctiveness		Condition	
Habitat Type	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score
Developed land; sealed surface	0.0561	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0
Ruderal / Ephemeral	0.0342	Low	2	Moderate	2
Modified grassland	0.5988	Low	2	Poor	1
Bramble scrub	0.162	Medium	4	Condition Assessment N/A	1
Mixed scrub	0.0571	Medium	4	Moderate	2
Other woodland; broadleaved	0.1148	Medium	4	Moderate	2
Urban tree	0.1059	Medium	4	Good	3
Urban tree	0.1506	Medium	4	Moderate	2

3.3 RETAINED HABITATS

- 3.3.1 An area of developed land comprising the existing access road will be retained.
- 3.3.2 One area of bramble scrub within the eastern grassland habitat parcel will be retained.
- 3.3.3 A total of eleven individual trees will be retained, comprising two good condition trees (one medium and one large) and nine moderate condition trees (six small and three large).

3.4 ENHANCED HABITATS

- 3.4.1 The grassland field to the east of the proposed building footprint will be enhanced and managed to achieve good condition neutral grassland. An appropriate seed mix, such as the Emorsgate EM2F Standard General Purpose Wildflower mix, will be used to increase botanical diversity. The existing sward will be scarified and overseeded, with appropriate long-term management and remedial measures implemented as required to achieve and maintain the target condition. Disturbance within this area is expected to be minimal, as it is clearly separated from the main amenity space by a series of terraces.
- 3.4.2 The bramble scrub along the northern site boundary will be enhanced to mixed scrub through selective thinning and plug planting of native woody species. Appropriate long-term management and remedial measures will be implemented, as required, to achieve and maintain the target condition. The strip of scrub along the southern site boundary will be enhanced using the same methodology.
- 3.4.3 The woodland in the eastern corner of the site will be enhanced from moderate to good condition. The woodland condition assessment identified several opportunities for enhancement, including the eradication of Himalayan balsam, increasing woodland species diversity and structural complexity, the retention and creation of deadwood features, and enhancement of the woodland ground flora. These measures will be delivered through long-term management, monitoring, and remedial actions, where necessary, over the 30-year management period. As the woodland adjoins an area within the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network, its enhancement will strengthen habitat connectivity, contribute to the objectives of the wildlife network, and extend the area of high-quality woodland habitat.

3.5 LOST HABITATS

- 3.5.1 Habitats to be lost as a result of the proposed development include four small, one medium and one large moderate condition trees.
- 3.5.2 Areas of modified grassland and bramble scrub will also be lost to facilitate the proposed development.

3.6 PRE-DEVELOPMENT HABITAT BASELINE

3.6.1 Please refer to Table 2 summarising the Habitat Baseline for the calculation, demonstrating habitats to be retained, enhanced and/or lost.

Table 2: Habitat Baseline

	On-site Baseline	Retained	Enhanced	Lost
Habitats (Area) Units	5.83	1.98	1.74	2.12

3.7 HEDGEROWS PRE-DEVELOPMENT

3.7.1 There are no existing hedgerows present on the site.

4 Habitat Creation

4.1 AREA HABITATS

4.1.1 Habitats to be created within the proposed development include developed land, introduced shrub, amenity lawn (modified grassland), native woody planting (mixed scrub), other neutral grassland and tree planting.

Table 5: Habitat Creation (Area)

Proposed Habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness		Condition		Habitat units delivered
		Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	
Developed land; sealed surface	0.4031	V.Low	0	N/A - Other	0	0.00
Introduced shrub	0.0649	Low	2	Condition Assessment N/A	1	0.13
Modified grassland	0.0429	Low	2	Poor	1	0.08
Mixed scrub	0.0388	Medium	4	Moderate	2	0.26
Other neutral grassland	0.0325	Medium	4	Poor	1	0.12
Urban tree	0.2524	Medium	4	Moderate	2	0.77

4.2 LINEAR HABITATS

4.2.1 Several lengths of native hedgerow are to be planted across the site, comprising single species hornbeam hedging.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The loss of modified grassland is considered to be of low ecological significance, owing to its limited botanical diversity, evidence of nutrient enrichment, and widespread distribution within the surrounding landscape. Its loss is therefore not anticipated to result in a significant adverse effect on biodiversity. The majority of this habitat will be retained and enhanced through the creation of species-rich other neutral grassland, comprising scarification, overseeding with an appropriate native wildflower seed mix, and long-term management. This will substantially increase the botanical diversity and structural complexity of the sward, providing enhanced foraging and nectar resources for invertebrates and other wildlife. In addition to its ecological benefits, the enhanced grassland will contribute positively to the visual amenity experienced by future residents. The proposed enhancement represents a significant improvement over the baseline condition and will leave the site in a measurably better state for biodiversity.
- 5.2 Ecological input informed revisions to the site layout during the design process, resulting in the retention of Tree T9. This reduced the loss of established habitat, maintained structural connectivity across the site and preserved mature tree cover, thereby minimising the ecological impacts of the proposed development.
- 5.3 The enhancement of the existing woodland from moderate to good condition is considered to provide a significant ecological benefit. Measures including the control of Himalayan balsam, diversification of woodland structure, retention and creation of deadwood, and enhancement of the ground flora will increase habitat quality and resilience. As the woodland adjoins the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network, these measures will also strengthen ecological connectivity and contribute to the wider habitat network.
- 5.4 The scheme incorporates substantial habitat enhancement measures that will deliver a development with enhanced landscape and ecological value. The enhancement of species-rich grassland, scrub and woodland will improve habitat quality, increase structural diversity, strengthen habitat connectivity and contribute towards local biodiversity objectives, including the adjacent Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network. In addition to delivering measurable biodiversity gains, the proposed habitats will provide wider environmental benefits, including improved landscape character, increased resilience to climate change, enhanced pollinator resources and opportunities for residents to experience higher-quality green infrastructure.

6 SUMMARY

6.1 This report and the DEFRA Statutory Biodiversity Metric submitted have demonstrated that the proposed habitat creation results in a net gain of 13.39% habitat units. Trading rules have been satisfied. Please see Figure 2 below:

Figure 2: Headline results from the BNG Metric (Metric reference: R3-919-03-EC-02_The_Statutory_Metric_Macro_Enabled_1.0.4-17).

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	0.78
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	0.30
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	<i>Area habitat units</i>	13.39%
	<i>Hedgerow units</i>	N/A
	<i>Watercourse units</i>	0.00%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

6.2 It is recommended that a 30-year Habitat Management Monitoring Plan (HMMP) be conditioned as part of the planning permission to meeting the targeted conditions to post-development habitats. The HMMP will detail full management prescriptions for the full 30-year period required as best practice for biodiversity net gain.

6.3 In Summary, the proposals have been designed in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, retaining and enhancing the site's most valuable habitats while creating additional high-quality habitats. The completed Statutory Biodiversity Metric demonstrates that the development will leave biodiversity in a measurably better state than the pre-development baseline, with long-term ecological benefits secured through a 30-year Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIEEM. 2021. Biodiversity Net Gain Report and Audit Templates.

CIEEM. 2021. Biodiversity Net Gain. Good Practice Principles for Development. A Practical Guide.

DEFRA. 2023. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: Auditing and Accounting for Biodiversity.

DEFRA. 2023. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: Auditing and Accounting for Biodiversity. Condition Assessment Sheets (Excel Format).

DEFRA. 2025. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide.

DEFRA. 2026. Local Nature Recovery Strategies: Responsible Authorities. [Online]. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-nature-recovery-strategies-areas-and-responsible-authorities/local-nature-recovery-strategies-responsible-authorities>

Landscape Plan: Rev. C. Gomersal Landscape proposals.recover-Layout I

The West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy: Local Habitat. West Yorkshire Combined Authority. [Online]. Available from: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b7f3b8fb2c9a4bca9f3d7b29e741ce03>

West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

8 APPENDICES
8.1 Appendix A: Landscape Plan

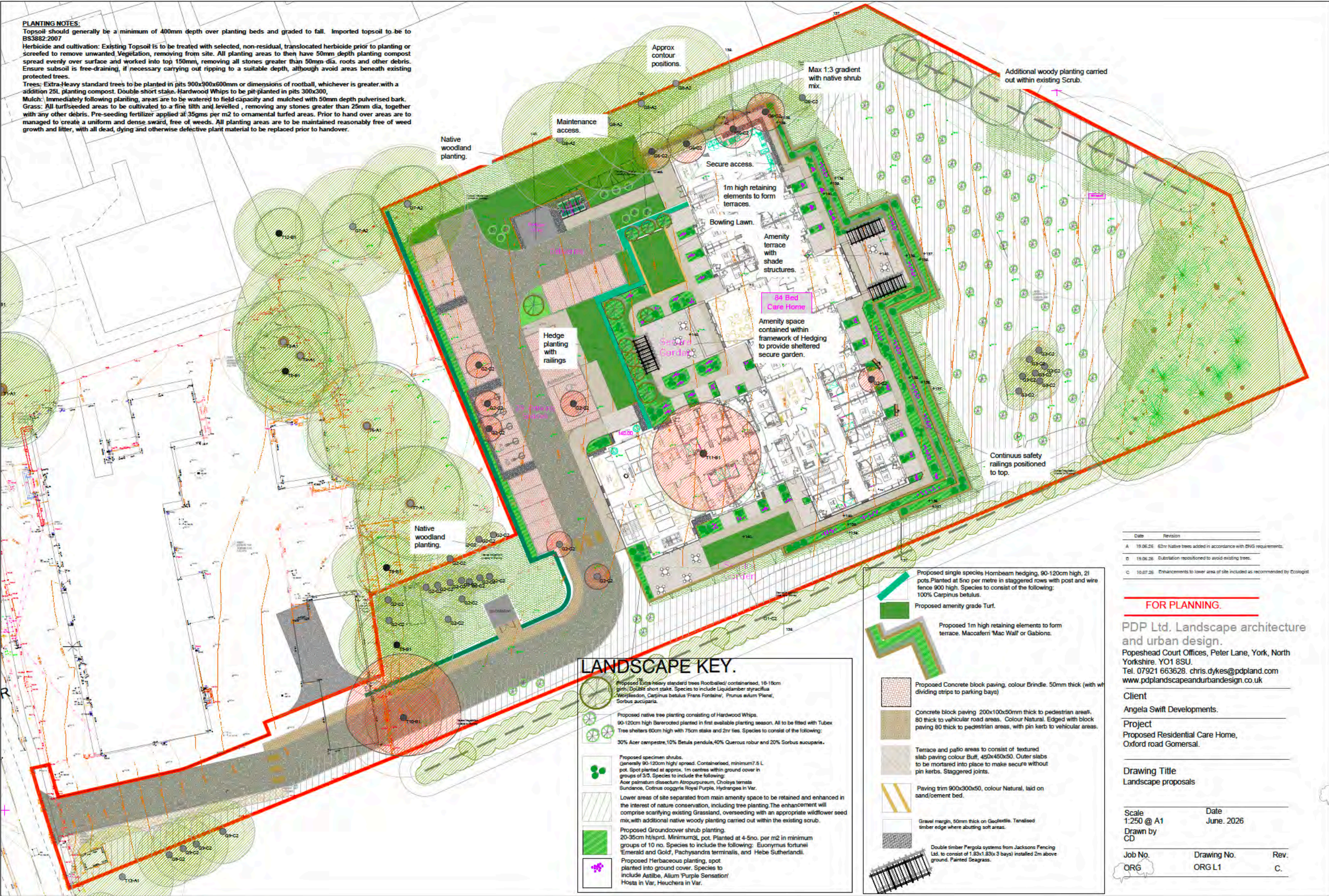


Figure 3: UKHab Baseline Habitat Plan

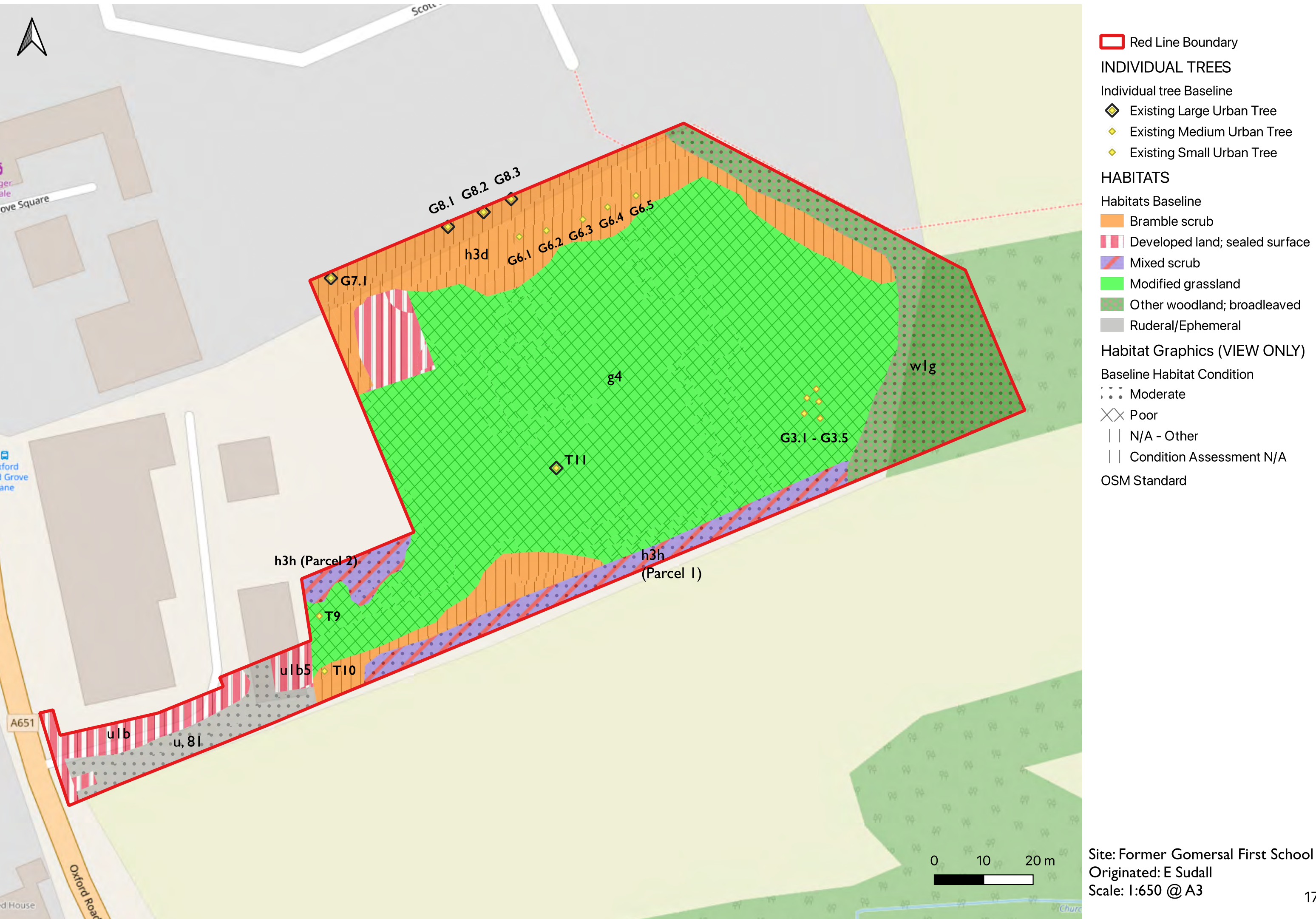
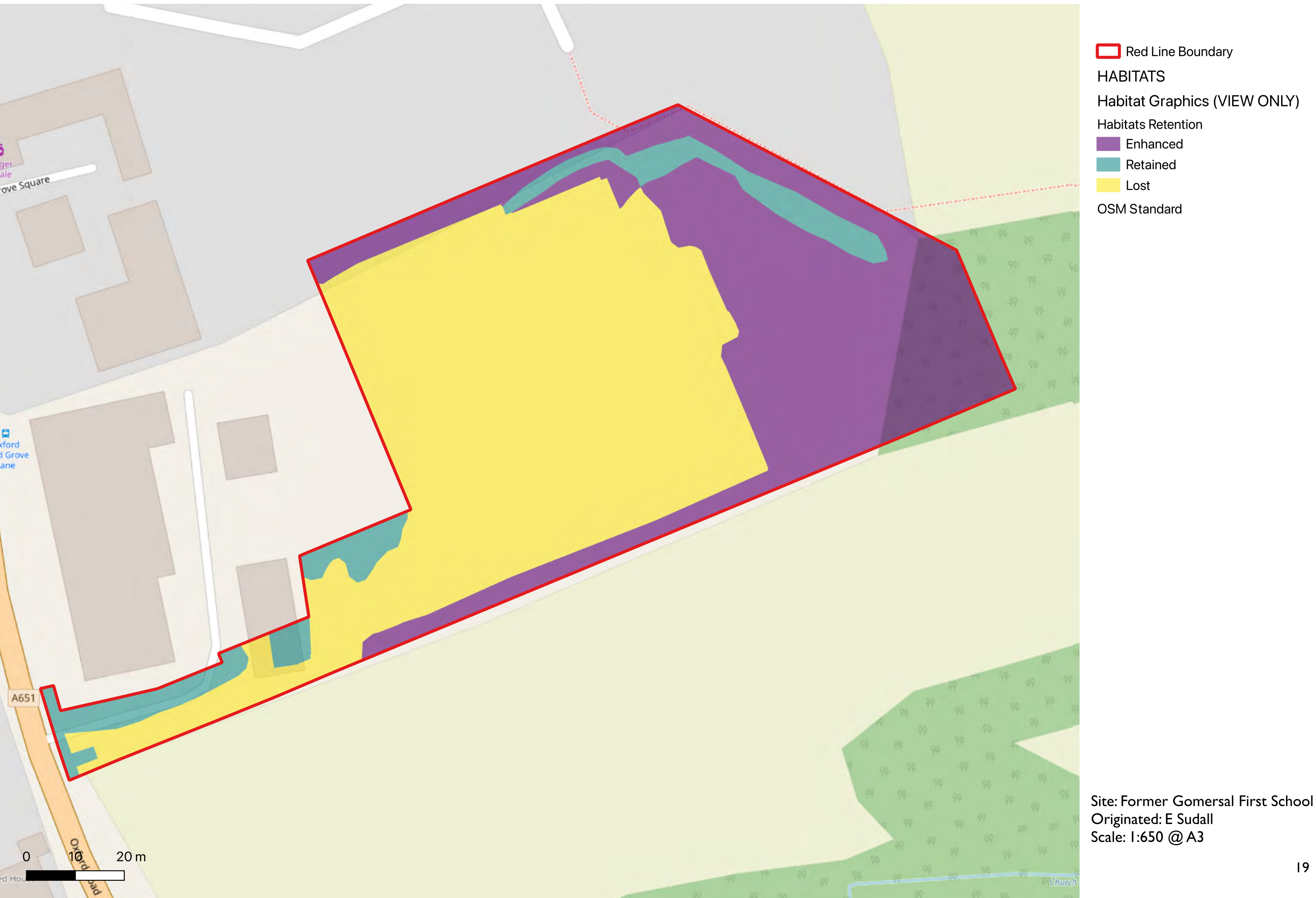


Figure 4: UKHabs Post-development Habitat Plan



Figure 5: Summary of Habitat Areas to be Enhanced, Retained and Lost within the Proposed Development.



8.5 Appendix E: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessments

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type															
Habitat Types															
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees. <i>Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of <u>rural</u> trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</i>															
Habitat Description															
Tree reference numbers in reference to Arboricultural report. T9 is a medium sized field maple, T10 is a medium sized goat willow, T11 is a large sycamore. G3 comprises five small wild cherry trees. G6.1 and G6.2 are two small sycamore trees.															
Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment): Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching. Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only): Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.															
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Gomersal Former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, BD19 4JS				Survey date and Surveyor name		21 st April 2026 E Sudall								
					Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)					Habitat parcel reference										
					T9	T10	T11	G3.1	G3.2	G3.3	G3.4	G3.5		G6.1	G6.2
					Grid reference										
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	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Field maple (T9), goat willow (T10), wild cherry (T11) considered native to the UK. Sycamore (G6.1, G6.2) considered non-native.

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).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Knot hole on T11.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Number of criteria passed		5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓										
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	✓	✓	✓								
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)											
Note that ‘Fairly Good and Fairly Poor’ condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.												
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²												
Footnotes												
Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and: Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)												

Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type															
Habitat Types															
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees. <i>Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of <u>rural</u> trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</i>															
Habitat Description															
G6.3 and G6.4 are two small ash trees. G6.5 and G6.6 are two small hawthorn trees. G7 is a large sycamore located on the northwestern site boundary.															
Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment): Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching. Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only): Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.															
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Gomersal Former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, BD19 4JS				Survey date and Surveyor name		21 st April 2026 E Sudall								
					Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)					Habitat parcel reference										
					G6.3	G6.4	G6.5	G7.1	G8.1	G8.2	G8.3				
					Grid reference										
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	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No			Ash (G6.3, G6.4) and hawthorn (G6.5, G6.6) considered native to UK. Sycamore (G7.1 & G8) considered non-native.	

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).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				G7 considered mature at dbh of 780 mm.
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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No				Ivy present on stem of G7.1.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
Number of criteria passed		4	4	4	5	4	4	4				
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√										
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)				√							
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	√	√	√		√	√	√				
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)											
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.												
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²												
Footnotes												
Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and: Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)												

Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type			
Grassland - Modified grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Gomersal Former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, BD19 4JS	Survey date and Surveyor name	21 st April 2026 E Sudall
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	
Habitat Description			
The majority of the site comprises a tussocky grassland field, formally used as a recreational sport field by the school. Species recorded included perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> , meadow foxtail <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , with frequent hairy bittercress <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> , creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , broad leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> , dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg., and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> . In the western portion of the grassland, occasional bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> and meadow vetchling <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> were noted. Within the southern portion of the grassland, bramble scrub <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg., was noted to be encroaching into the sward. In the western section of the grassland, proportion of ruderal species increased significantly, with common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> and bramble recorded.			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification - -			
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	Eight quadrats used, average of 5 species per quadrat.
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.	Yes	Tussocky sward in places, but lack of management has resulted in varied sward height throughout.

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.	Yes	Accounts for approx. 10%.
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	Some evidence of vehicle access resulting in flattening, in areas but minimal damage noted overall.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Yes	Bare ground recorded in western portion of the grassland, however still amounted to between 1-10%.
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Yes	No bracken recorded.
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Yes	None recorded in grassland.
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)			No
Number of criteria passed			6
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)		
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	✓	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnotes			

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type																
Habitat Types																
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub																
Habitat Description																
Parcel 1: A linear strip of mixed scrub lines the southern boundary, comprising hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> and hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> . Parcel 2: Scattered self-seeded mixed scrub was also recorded towards the northwestern site boundary, comprising field maple <i>Acer campestre</i> , goat willow <i>Salix caprea</i> and bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> scrub. On occasion, these species had self-seeded northeasterly interspersing into the grassland.																
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:		Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk) - -														
For other scrub types see:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification - - - - -														
On-site or off-site, site name and location		On-site Gomersal Former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, BD19 4JS				Survey date and Surveyor name		21 st April 2026 E Sudall								
						Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)						Habitat parcel reference										
						Parcel 1	Parcel 2									
						Grid reference										
Condition Assessment Criteria																
						Criterion passed (Yes or No)							Notes (such as justification)			

A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range).¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species², - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>, sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	No										G1 – comprised sycamore, field maple, hazel and hawthorn. Passes as three native woody species. G2 – comprised goat willow, field maple and bramble. Therefore, only two native woody species and failed.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	No										Both failed as no mature shrubs present.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	Yes										None recorded.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	Yes										Scattered grassland edge to both.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Yes	No										G2 was dense self-seeded scrub with no clearings, glades or rides.
Number of criteria passed		4	3										
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓											
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)												
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	✓										
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)												
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													
Footnotes													
Footnote 1 – Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. Footnote 2 – Native woody species as defined and listed in the Hedgerow Survey Handbook: DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK</i>. 2nd ed. [online]. Defra, London. PBI 195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk). Footnote 3 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran species. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)													

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 6 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type may include: non-native conifers, tree-of-heaven *Alianthus altissima*, holm oak *Quercus ilex*, European turkey oak *Quercus cerris*, cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, snowberry *Symphoricarpos* spp., shallon *Gaultheria shallon*, American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*, buddleia *Buddleja* spp., cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* spp., Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and hybrid bluebells *Hyacinthoides x massartiana*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types			
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved			
Habitat Description			
An area of woodland was present within the eastern corner of the site, extending northwards along the eastern boundary. The woodland comprised a mixed stand of broadleaved and coniferous trees, with broadleaved species forming approximately 85% of the canopy composition. Woodland structure was variable, with a moderately developed shrub layer. Recorded tree species included silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i>, field maple <i>Acer campestre</i>, hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>, sycamore <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>, Scots pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i>, ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>, wild cherry <i>Prunus avium</i> and Austrian pine <i>Pinus nigra</i>. The woodland represented a mixed secondary woodland habitat. The ground flora was dominated by bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, with occasional wild garlic <i>Allium ursinum</i> and ivy-leaved speedwell <i>Veronica hederifolia</i> also recorded. Localised stands of Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> were recorded within the woodland, primarily along the eastern boundary, appearing to spread into the site from adjacent land beyond the site boundary. ukhab – UK Habitat Classification This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk) IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being input into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Gomersal Former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, BD19 4JS	Survey date and Surveyor name	21 st April 2026 E Sudall

Limitations (if applicable)			Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)			
Grid reference		SE 20980 26377	Habitat parcel reference			
Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.	2	Woodland includes at least 2 recognisable age classes; mature canopy trees with younger secondary growth and regenerating saplings.
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .	3	No significant browsing pressure or herbivore damage recorded.
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ³ ≥10% cover.	1	Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> present in 20% of woodland.
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species ⁴ across woodland parcel.	3	Six native species found in woodland including silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> , field maple <i>Acer campestre</i> , hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> , Scots pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> , ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> , and wild cherry <i>Prunus avium</i> .
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	2	Native broadleaved species cover 80% of canopy and shrub layers, although non-native Austrian pine and sycamore present in areas.
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted ⁷ .	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ .	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category ⁷ .	3	Little temporary open space recorded, however woodland is <10ha.
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland ⁸ ; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland ⁸ .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	2	Regeneration present with saplings and young trees recorded throughout woodland, although density variable and not all regeneration classes consistently represented.

H	Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback ⁹ .	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	3	No tree mortality, pests, crown dieback or diseases noted.
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	2	Wild garlic noted which in some cases is a AWI, however only in limited patches and no other indicator species recorded.
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland ¹¹ .	Two storeys across all survey plots ¹¹ .	One or less storey across all survey plots ¹¹ .	3	Woodland exhibits varied vertical structure with canopy, sub-canopy, shrub and ground flora present.
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.	1	No veteran trees recorded.
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	2	Frequent fallen branches and scattered deadwood recorded across woodland floor, although limited/ no standing deadwood and veteran features present.
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident ¹⁴ .	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	2	Localised disturbance and nutrient enrichment evident along woodland edge and adjacent boundaries, including scattered litter, invasive species, however disturbance not extensive across parcel.
Total Score (out of a possible 39)					29	
Condition Assessment Result				Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)				Good (3)		Moderate
Total score 26 to 32				Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)				Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score						
Footnotes						
Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment details: EWBG (No date). <i>Assessing your Woodland's Condition</i> [online]. Available from: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)						
The woodland condition assessment survey methodology is outlined in the EWBG toolkit. However the criteria on this sheet are those specific to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and must be used when assessing woodland condition.						

Footnote 1 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch *Betula* sp., cherry *Prunus* sp. or *Sorbus* sp.: 0 – 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or *Sorbus* species; 0 - 20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years = Intermediate; >60 years = Old. A recognisable age-class should be a consistent recognisable layer across the woodland or stand being assessed. Presence of a few saplings would not indicate that the woodland has an 'age-class' of young trees.

Footnote 2 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 2 for more information. Browsing pressure is considered to be significant where >20% of vegetation visible within each survey plot shows damage from any type of browsing pressure listed.

Footnote 3 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 3 for more information. Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly.

Check for the presence of all plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), particularly the following invasive non-native species: American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*; Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*; Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*; cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*; shallon *Gaultheria shallon*; snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*; variegated yellow archangel *Lamiasstrum galeobdolon* subsp. *argentatum*; rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*; and tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*.

Footnote 4 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 4 and Table 2 for more information. The number of different native tree or shrub species including young trees and shrubs. A list of commonly found native tree and shrub species is provided in Table 2. Not all species listed are native to all parts of the UK. Note a list of commonly found non-native tree species are also included and should be recorded if present.

Footnote 5 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 5 and for more information. The abundance of native tree species in upper (>5 m) and understorey (up to 5 m) layers including young trees and shrubs.

Footnote 6 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 6 for more information. Open space within woodland in this context is temporary open space in which trees can be expected to regenerate (for example, glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not possible or desirable (for example, tarmac, buildings, rivers). Area is at least 10 m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees.

Footnote 7 – Given the increased ratio of edge habitat to woodland where the woodland is <10ha.

Footnote 8 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 8 for more information. This indicator measures regeneration potential of the woodland by considering three classes: seedlings; saplings; and young trees of 4-7 cm DBH. All three classes would fall in the 'young' category of the 'age distribution of trees' indicator, but the regeneration indicator gathers additional information by considering regeneration potential - if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration processes are happening.

Footnote 9 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 9 for more information and Table 3 for a list of diseases and pests and their risk level.

Footnote 10 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 10 directing to NVC key for more information. The 'UKHab to NVC translation table' in the UK Habitat Classification resources may also be useful to assess this.

Footnote 11 – This criterion looks at structural diversity and is useful to understand in conjunction with the age of trees in a woodland. Vertical structure is defined as the number of canopy storeys present. Possible storey values are: 1) Upper; 2) Complex: recorded when the stand is composed of multiple tree heights that cannot easily be stratified into broad height bands (such as upper, middle or lower); 3) Middle; 4) Lower; and 5) Shrub layer. There might be no storeys where the woodland has been felled. See EWBG INDICATOR 11 for more information.

Footnote 12 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 12 for more information. See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:

[Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/644212/Keepers_of_time_-_ancient_and_native_woodland_and_trees_policy_in_England.pdf)

and:

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/644212/Ancient_woodland,_ancient_trees_and_veteran_trees_advice_for_making_planning_decisions.pdf)

EWBG INDICATOR 12 is the relevant indicator.

Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches on the forest floor and stumps (<1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and also deadwood on standing live trees. Diameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter of 20 cm.

Footnote 14 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery, animal poaching or litter.

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type			
Habitat Types Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs Urban - Allotments Urban - Biodiverse green roof Urban - Bioswale Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards Urban - Facade-bound green wall Urban - Ground based green wall Urban - Intensive green roof Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land Urban - Rain garden Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS) Urban - Vacant or derelict land Urban - Bare ground			
Habitat Description The western part of the site includes developed land associated with the former driveway and playground. This area has been colonised by ruderal and ephemeral vegetation. Species recorded included common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> , hairy bittercress <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> , rosebay willowherb <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> , herb robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i> and moss species. Frequent Buddleja <i>Buddleja davidii</i> was also recorded particularly around the base of Building 2.			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats:			UKHab – UK Habitat Classification
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Gomersal Former Gomersal First School, Oxford Road, Gomersal, BD19 4JS	Survey date and Surveyor name	21 st April 2026 Esme Sudall
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types :			
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	No	Colonising vegetation was patchy and exhibited low structural diversity.
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	Yes	Flowering species and mosses.

C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement)² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area³. Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Yes	Buddleja present and considered invasive, but this species is not listed on Schedule 9 WCA.
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land only:			
D	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: - At least four early successional communities (a) to (i); Communities: (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland, (i) pools.		
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for Bioswale and SuDS habitat types only:			
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife ⁴ .		
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.		
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Intensive green roofs only:			
F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).		
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Biodiverse green roofs only:			
G	The roof has a varied depth of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers. Note – to achieve Good condition some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc. are present.		
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)			Yes
Number of criteria passed			2
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):			

• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Good (3)	
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)	✓
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.	Poor (1)	
Results for Green roofs and Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (requiring assessment of 4 criteria only - core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type):		
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (D, F or G).	Good (3)	
• Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR • Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)	
• Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.	Poor (1)	
Results for Bioswale or SuDS (requiring assessment of 5 criteria - core criteria plus additional criteria specified for habitat type):		
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group E)	Good (3)	
• Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR • Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)	
• Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.	Poor (1)	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score		

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 2 – Sources of information about detrimental non-native species can be found on the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS) website:

[Home » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

and Natural England Access to Evidence page should also be checked for up-to-date information:
[Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

For criterion C – For green roof habitat types only – buddleia *Buddleja davidii* should be assessed alongside Schedule 9 species. This species impairs the health of the local ecosystem and reduces the biodiversity potential of the roof. It is also a sign that a roof has not been planted and seeded correctly in subsequent years.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Use professional judgement. Sources of information about non-native species that are not detrimental to native wildlife can be found on the GBNNSS website:

[Alternative plants » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)