



BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN STATEMENT

5 Birkdale Road, Worthing

On behalf of: Enhance Developments JD Ltd

Client:	Enhance Developments JD Ltd			
Project:	5 Birkdale Road, Worthing			
Reference:	LLD3696-ECO-REP-005-00-BNG			
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00	28/05/2024	Ben Lapham	Catherine O'Reilly MCIEEM	Catherine O'Reilly MCIEEM

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Validity:

This report is valid for 18 months from the date of the final survey visit. If works have not commenced by this date, an updated site visit should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist to assess any changes in the habitats present on site, to inform whether surveys should be updated.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Lizard Landscape Design and Ecology has been commissioned to provide a Biodiversity Net Gain Statement for 5 Birkdale Road, Worthing. This report has been written with due regard to best practice guidance for ecological report writing (CIEEM, 2017) and the Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development (CIEEM, 2019) and the Biodiversity Net Gain User Guide (DEFRA, 2023).

1.2 The development does not appear to qualify under any exemption and will therefore be subject to the standard Biodiversity Gain condition.

Site Overview

1.3 The red line covers an area of c. 0.04 hectares (ha) consisting of an existing residential building with an associated driveway, patio and garden. The site is located in a residential area of Worthing.



Photograph No. 1: Front garden of existing residential building, comprised of modified grassland.



Photograph No. 2: Rear garden of existing residential building

Surrounding Landscape

- 1.4 The site is set within a suburban location and surrounded by moderately dense residential land. A recreation ground is located c. 500m N, with open countryside beginning c. 1.2km NW.

Development Proposals

- 1.5 It is understood that the proposals are for the demolition of the existing garage building to allow for the construction of 1no. residential building in addition to the existing house. This will also result in the construction of a new driveway area over the existing front garden.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk Study - Assigning Strategic Significance

- 2.1.1 Strategic significance has been assessed using the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Adur and Worthing, as per table 7 of the User Guide (DEFRA, 2023). Where sites were found to be located within any designated area, such as Areas of Particular Importance for Biodiversity (APIB) or an Area that Could become of particular importance for Biodiversity (ACB), policy statements and management plans for the relevant area were then examined. High strategic significance was then assigned to any habitat creation or enhancement measures identified as a priority within these documents.
- 2.1.2 All baseline habitats, and proposed habitat creation or enhancement measures not identified within these documents were assigned low strategic significance.

2.2 Desk Study – Statutory Designated Sites and Irreplaceable Habitat

- 2.2.1 To identify any designated sites for nature conservation, irreplaceable habitat and/or priority habitats (the presence of which may influence the feasibility of delivering BNG) within or adjacent to the Site, the Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) and The Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory (2024) were reviewed.

2.3 Baseline Habitat Assessment

- 2.3.1 A baseline habitat assessment in accordance with the UK Habitats Classification Manual (UKHabs Ltd., 2023) was undertaken on the 6th May 2026 by Ben Lapham. No habitat degradation had taken place prior to the survey and the baseline data is considered to be an accurate reflection of the ecological value of the site. Full details of the habitats present summarised herein.

2.3.2 All area based and linear habitats were mapped on site with the aid of aerial imagery and topographical survey where available. The condition of habitats was assessed in accordance with *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology* (DEFRA, 2023).

2.3.3 The habitats, their condition and strategic importance were input into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (DEFRA, 2023). The area of habitats which would be retained or enhanced based upon the current proposals was also added to the calculator. This allowed the existing baseline value and loss of biodiversity units to be established.

2.4 Post-Development Habitats

2.4.1 The proposed landscape plan has been used to inform the post-development scenario. This plan was converted from CAD software to a GIS environment where it was overlaid on the baseline habitat data. Areas of proposed post development intervention (habitat creation and/or habitat retention / enhancement), including the built development, were calculated using QGIS.

2.4.2 The proposed habitats and strategic importance were input into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool (DEFRA, 2023). Target condition scores were assigned based upon what could realistically be achieved on site. The area of habitats which would be retained or enhanced based upon the current proposals was also added to the calculator.

2.4.3 The Metric takes into account whether habitat creation or enhancement is delivered in advance of any impact, or whether there will be any significant delay in an intervention relative to the impact. Where delays in habitat creation are anticipated, or habitat creation is to be undertaken in advance, this has been included within the metric and fully explained within section 3 of this report. Where no delays or advance creation shall occur, a standard temporal multiplier has been applied to created habitats.

2.4.4 Once all measures have been input into The Biodiversity Metric Calculation, the overall change in value of the site could then be determined.

2.5 Mitigation Hierarchy

2.5.1 Biodiversity net gain planning practice guidance and Articles 37A and 37D of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, sets out a list of priority actions to ensure adherence to the Biodiversity Gain Hierarchy:

- First, in relation to onsite habitats which have a medium, high and very high distinctiveness (a score of four or more according to the statutory biodiversity metric), the avoidance of adverse effects from the development and, if they cannot be avoided, the mitigation of those effects; and
- Then, in relation to all onsite habitats which are adversely affected by the development, the adverse effect should be compensated by prioritising in order, where possible, the enhancement of existing onsite habitats, creation of new onsite habitats, allocation of registered offsite gains and finally the purchase of biodiversity credits.

2.6 Survey Constraints / Considerations

2.6.1 Areas and linear lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10m² and measurements input to the metric using three decimal places. Due to the output of the Metric being displayed to two decimal places, slight imprecision in output may occur.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Strategic Significance, Irreplaceable Habitat and Designated Sites.

- 3.1.1 The site is not within any ecological designation, such as a *Biodiversity Opportunity Area* or *Nature Improvement Area* and no habitats on site are directly referenced in any local plan or other such document. Habitats on site have therefore been classified as being of low strategic significance.
- 3.1.2 There is no irreplaceable habitat within or immediately adjacent to the site.
- 3.1.3 The site is not location within any statutory designated site.

3.2 Baseline Habitat Value

Habitat Degradation

- 3.2.1 No site clearance or habitat degradation was evident, and the baseline information gathered is considered to be a true presentation of the on-site habitats at the time of the survey.

Existing On-Site Habitats

- 3.2.2 The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment concluded that the existing baseline biodiversity value of the site was **0.03** Habitat Units, consisting of:
- 0.022ha of developed land; sealed surface providing 0 habitat units (condition assessment N/A)
 - 0.003ha of introduced shrub providing 0.01 habitat units (condition assessment N/A)
 - 0.011ha of modified grassland in poor condition providing 0.02 habitat units.

- 3.2.3 A full condition assessment for each existing habitat type is detailed in Appendix A.

Habitat Retention

- 3.2.4 Some of the existing habitat on site is to be retained in its current condition, meaning the retention of 0.01 habitat units comprised of:
- All existing developed land; sealed surface

- 0.006ha of modified grassland in poor condition.

3.3 Baseline Hedgerow Value

- 3.3.1 No linear habitats above the minimum mapping unit size are present on site.

3.4 Baseline Watercourse Value

- 3.4.1 No watercourses are present on site.

3.5 Proposed Habitat Creation

- 3.5.1 Proposals are to result in the creation of new habitats on site. The proposed habitats would result in the provision of would deliver **0.03** habitat units and include:

- 0.003ha of developed land; sealed surface which includes the new residential dwelling and associated car parking area.
- 0.004ha of vegetated garden providing 0.01 habitat units
- 0.0081ha of individual urban tree providing 0.02 habitat units
- 0.001ha of introduced shrub providing 0.00 habitat units

- 3.5.2 Condition assessment of all proposed habitats other than the new trees is not applicable and a standard score has been assigned to these habitats. The proposed trees have been assigned a target condition of 'moderate' which is considered to be achievable within the context of the site.

- 3.5.3 A full target condition assessment for each proposed habitat creation type is detailed in Appendix B.

3.6 Proposed Hedgerows / Watercourses

- 3.6.1 No new hedgerows or watercourses are proposed within the scheme.

3.7 Proposed Habitat Enhancements

- 3.7.1 No habitat enhancements are proposed within the scheme.

3.8 Adherence to the Mitigation Hierarchy

Avoidance and Mitigation

- 3.8.1 The scheme has been designed to minimise the removal of habitats in the south of the site as far as possible.

Compensation

- 3.8.2 New habitat creation has focused on medium distinctiveness habitats which are appropriate to the location and size of habitat parcels, in this case through the planting of individual trees. Due to the small habitat size and expected usage, it was not considered possible to enhance the existing modified grassland in the south of the site.

3.9 Trading Summary

- 3.9.1 All trading rules have been satisfied.

3.10 Overall Results

- 3.10.1 Once all retention, enhancement and habitat creation measures are taken into the account, the scheme currently results in the delivery of **0.03** Habitat Units, resulting in a net increase of **0.02** units and a **65.76%** change in Habitat Units.
- 3.10.2 None of the on-site gains are significant, and therefore a formal Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan (HMMP) should not be required.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Metric calculations have identified that the proposed scheme would result in over +10% Biodiversity Net Gain, complying with the current Local Planning policy, subsequent to the provision of legal agreement / conservation covenant, to ensure that the proposed habitats are delivered for at least 30 years.

5.0 REFERENCES

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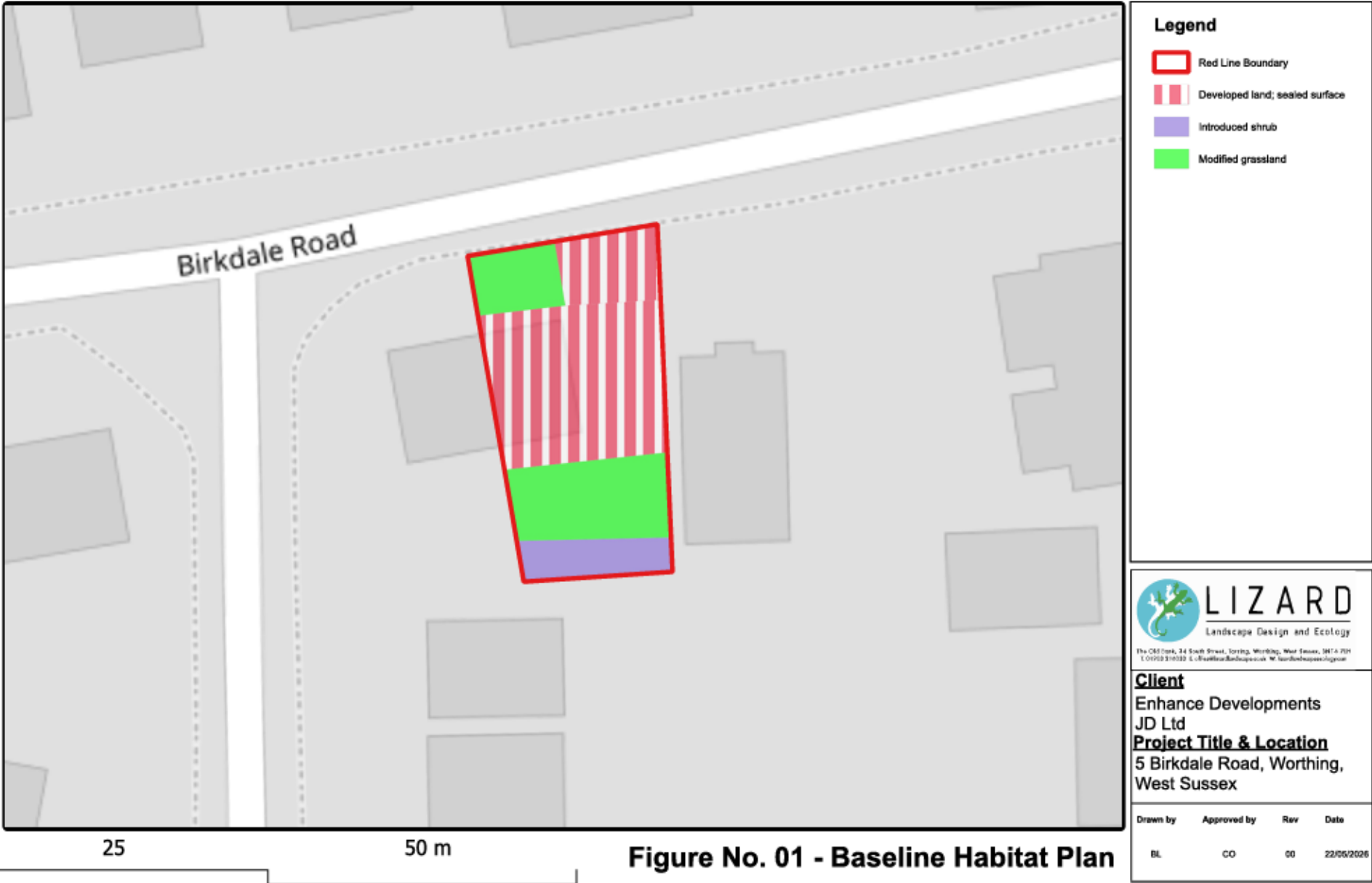
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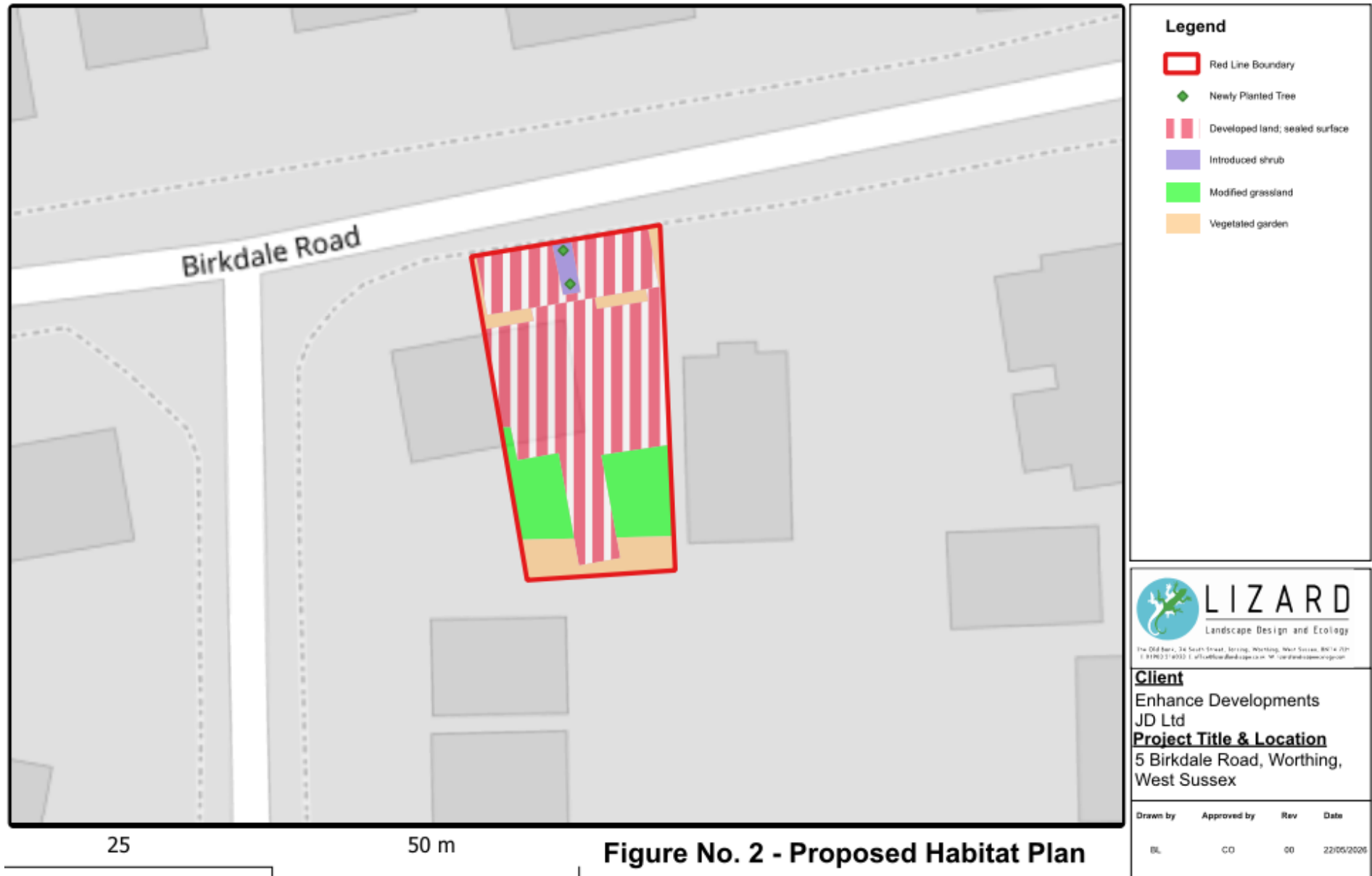
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Appendix A – Condition Assessment for Existing Habitats

Modified Grassland in Poor Condition:

Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference										
		Front	Rear									
Condition Assessment Criteria		Grid reference										Notes (such as justification)
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										
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	No									3-4 species per m2
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	No									No variation, frequently mowed
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	Yes									No scrub present
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	Yes									No physical damage
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	No	No									Continuous lawn coverage
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Yes	Yes									No bracken
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Yes	Yes									No INNS
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		No	No									
Number of criteria passed		4										
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)	✓	✓									

Appendix B – Target Condition Assessment for Proposed Habitats

Proposed Individual Trees = Moderate Condition

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).	Y	Native species proposed
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).	Y	Automatic pass
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	N	Trees will not reach maturity in BNG period
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Y	Trees planted in locations where heavy crown reduction etc is not expected.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	Unlikely to develop within BNG period.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Trees planted within grassland areas.
Number of criteria passed		4	
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)	X	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		