

## Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

### Site Address:

Quarry Site Adjacent to, Household Recycling Centre, Bigby Road, Barnetby Le Wold, North Lincolnshire, DN38 6EB

### Client:

Sandstop Quarries Ltd

### Assessment Date:

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

### Project:

This report is prepared to inform a planning application with the North Lincolnshire Council. The proposal is described as:

‘The erection of a porta cabin with associated vehicle parking and storage. Along with the existing quarry to be re-quarried’

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
Draft	0.1	Katie Whitfield BSc (Hons) MSc, Graduate Ecologist	03/07/2025
Reviewed	0.2	Mel Reid BSc (Hons) MRes AMRSB, Principal Ecologist	07/07/2025
Final	1.0	Katie Whitfield BSc (Hons) MSc, Graduate Ecologist	08/07/2025

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### Site Location and Context

A baseline habitat map is provided in **Appendix 1a/1b**, 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 site is centred at National Grid Reference TA 06597 09959 and has an area of approximately 1.2ha. The site is characterised by sparsely vegetated land, other neutral grassland, bramble scrub and scattered trees. The site is surrounded by arable fields. The wider landscape comprises extensive agricultural fields which are predominantly arable.

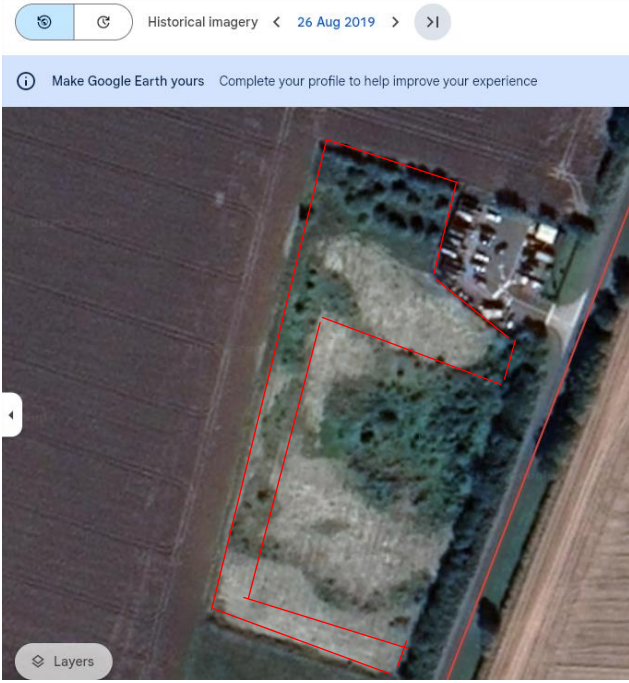
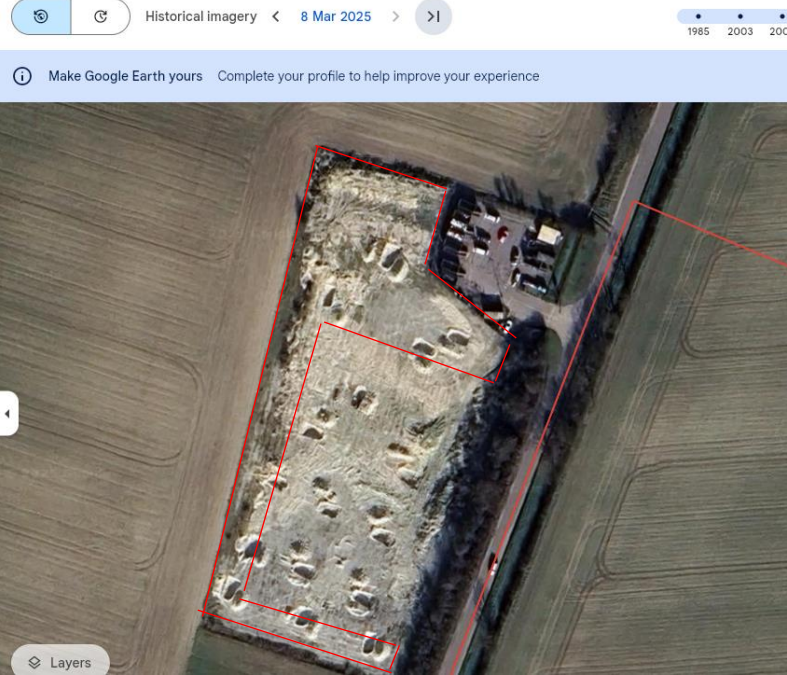
This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- ❖ Statutory BNG Metric – Quarry Site, DN38 6EB – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)
- ❖ Proposed Plan (Keir Architecture, 2025)
- ❖ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) – Quarry Site adjacent to Household Recycling Centre, DN38 6EB – v1 (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025)

### Executive Summary

- ❖ The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+10.32%). As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units.
- ❖ All trading conditions have been satisfied.
- ❖ 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.

Introduction

BNG Informative	
	<p>Date reflected by BNG calculations: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025</p> <p>The baseline biodiversity value of the site is not derived from the site as observed during the PEA field survey (Arbtech Consulting Ltd., 2025) as evidence of habitat degradation had occurred. Therefore, the baseline biodiversity value of the site is derived from assumptions inferred from historic satellite imagery (i.e. GoogleEarth) and street view imagery.</p>
Habitat Degradation Statement	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
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 <sup>th</sup> January 2020.
Metric Version & Publication Date	Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool first published 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 with last updates to metric tools and user guides on 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024.

BNG Target Uplift	+10%		
National Character Area (NCA)	43 – Lincolnshire Wolds		
Strategic Significance	<p>Lincolnshire County Council, the responsible authority for drafting the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for North Lincolnshire Council, has yet to adopt a comprehensive LNRS. As such, the following documents from the adopted North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework (including Supplementary Planning Documents, SPDs) as well as the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), were used to determine strategic significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The Core Strategy, adopted in June 2011 (<a href="https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/planning-policy-local-development-framework/#1591178700859-b856fc83-069c">https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/planning-policy-local-development-framework/#1591178700859-b856fc83-069c</a>)</li> <li>❖ Lincolnshire BAP (<a href="chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/201110-LincolnshireBAP-3rd-edition.pdf">chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/201110-LincolnshireBAP-3rd-edition.pdf</a>)</li> <li>❖ UK BAP (<a href="https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-habitats/">https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/uk-bap-priority-habitats/</a>)</li> </ul>		
	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>Baseline / Post-Development</b>	<b>Justification</b>
	Rural trees (Trees T1 to T4)	Baseline and post-development	Such trees create an ecological stepping stone within native hedgerows connected through the local arable landscape and as such contribute to the natural connectivity of such habitats in its location. As such trees T1-T4 have ‘medium’ strategic significance.

**Limitations**

Since 2020, this area of land has undergone degradation, resulting in sparsely vegetated ground. Within the parcel, areas of other neutral grassland and 17 scattered trees were identified. Based on historical aerial imagery, street view data, and consistency with vegetation elsewhere on site, the trees are considered to be small common hawthorns.

A detailed condition assessment of the trees is not possible; therefore, for the purposes of this assessment, they are assumed to be in good condition as a precautionary worst-case scenario. The areas of other neutral grassland are considered to be in poor condition, consistent with retained grassland sections elsewhere on the site.

## Baseline

Baseline Biodiversity Value: On-Site				
Area-Based Habitats (A-1)				
Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Developed land; sealed surface	0.0326ha	Concrete surfaces are found to the northeast of the site.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' <b>N/A</b> ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance
Sparsely vegetated land	0.2451ha	The majority of the site comprises sparsely vegetated land with ~40% vegetation cover and ruderal species. The habitat parcel is found on a disused quarry with permeable exposed chalk/limestone. Exposed areas of chalk/limestone are interspersed within due to recent digging, with piles of chalk/limestone adjacent. To the east is a strip of sparsely vegetated land comprising a mixture of soils and gravel. Species assemblage includes <b>abundant</b> weld <i>Reseda luteola</i> , creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <b>frequent</b> common ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> , rosebay willowherb <i>Chamaenerion angustifolium</i> , common nettles <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <b>occasional</b> dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg, hairy willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> , ground ivy <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> , oxeye daisy <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> , bramble sp., <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> and <b>rare</b> scarlet pimpernel <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> . Common hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> saplings are interspersed within the habitat parcel.	<b>Poor</b> : passes 3 of 4 criteria.  Assessed using the 'Sparsely Vegetated Land' habitat type condition sheet.	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance
Other neutral grassland (part-retro)	0.2072ha	A strip of unmanaged grassland is found to the west of the site comprising <b>abundant</b> creeping bent, perennial rye grass, <b>frequent</b> common tansy <i>Tanacetum vulgare</i> , <b>occasional</b> hairy willowherb, common nettle, dandelion agg., ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> and <b>rare</b> coltsfoot <i>Tussilago farfara</i> . Sward height is >7cm for ~70% and >12cm for ~30% of habitat. There are 3no scattered trees within the habitat parcel including common hawthorn and common hawthorn saplings within. Areas of bare ground are evident where gravel is observed.	<b>Poor</b> : passes 3 of 6 criteria excluding essential criterion A and F.  Assessed using the 'Grasslands Med/High/V High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance
Scattered trees	Moderate: 0.0163ha	There are four scattered trees found to the west of the site. These are all 'small sized' with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) between 7.5cm and 29.9cm. A further 17 scattered trees were located to the north of site, and are assessed retrospectively due to degradation of the site prior to the PEA survey. See PEA for more information.	<b>Moderate</b> : passes 4 of 6 criteria.  4no. small (T1-T4)  Assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	<b>Medium</b> Strategic Significance

	Good: 0.0692ha		<i>Retrospectively good</i>  17no. small (T5-T21)  Assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	
Bramble scrub	0.0058ha	Patches of bramble scrub are found to the northwest of the site dominated by dense bramble sp. Within this habitat parcel are 2no scattered trees comprising of common elder Sambucus nigra. See PEA for more information.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' <b>N/A</b> ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance

## Post-Development

## Post-Development Biodiversity Value: On-Site

## Area-Based Habitats

	Habitat	Area (ha)	Description	Condition Assessment	Strategic Significance
Retained (A-1)	Developed land; sealed surface	0.0326ha	Sealed surfaces retained in full.	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance
	Rural tree	0.0163ha	Rural trees T1 – T5 are retained.	<b>Moderate condition.</b>	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance
	Bramble scrub	0.0058ha	Bramble scrub retained in full.	<b>N/A</b>	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance
Created (A-2)	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	0.2806ha	The site will be re-quarried results in permeable chalk/limestone surfacing throughout.	Habitat condition pre-determined as ' <b>N/A</b> ' as detailed within the Statutory Biodiversity Condition Assessment Supplement.	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance
	Other neutral grassland	0.1659ha	Along the western boundary will be newly planted grassland with the baseline grassland being dug up to accommodate the reseeded of land. This will include species such as creeping bent, Yorkshire fog, cocks-foot grass, creeping buttercup, ribwort plantain, ox-eye daisy, nettles and thistles.	<b>Poor: Passes 2 of 6 criteria excluding essential criterion A and F.</b>  Assessed using the 'Grassland Med/High/V High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet.	<b>Low</b> Strategic Significance
	Rural tree	0.4072ha	100no. small sized native trees to be provisioned on site.	<b>Moderate: Passes 3 of 6 criteria.</b>  Assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet.	<b>Medium</b> Strategic Significance

**Change of Biodiversity Value**

		Biodiversity Units		
		Area-Based	Linear-Based	Watercourse-Based
<b>On-Site</b>	Baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sparsely vegetated land of poor condition (0.49 units)</li> <li>❖ Other neutral grassland of poor condition (0.83)</li> <li>❖ Bramble scrub (0.02)</li> <li>❖ Rural trees of moderate condition (0.14) and rural trees of good condition, retrospectively (0.91 units)</li> <li>❖ Developed land; sealed surface (no value)</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
	Post-Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Retention of bramble scrub (0.02)</li> <li>❖ Retention of rural trees of moderate condition (0.14)</li> <li>❖ Creation of artificial unvegetated, unsealed surfaces (no value)</li> <li>❖ Creation of other neutral grassland (1.11)</li> <li>❖ Creation of 100 trees (1.37)</li> </ul>		
<b>Overall Net Change</b>		<b>+0.25 (10.32%)</b>		

**Results, Discussion, and Next Steps**

<b>BNG Informative</b>	
<b>Results and Next Steps</b>	<p>The current landscaping proposal generates a net gain of area-based habitat units (+10.32%). As such, the proposed development is compliant with current legislation (Environment Act 2021) and planning policies (National Planning Policy Framework, 2024) as a minimum biodiversity net gain of +10% was achieved for both area- and linear-based habitat units.</p> <p>All trading conditions have been satisfied.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>BNG Mitigation Hierarchy</b>	
<b>Avoidance</b>	Impacts to priority habitats (i.e., native hedgerow within the ownership boundary) have been avoided in full.
<b>Minimisation</b>	Impacts to other notable habitats (i.e., trees) have been minimised with 4/4 trees remaining on site being retained, and those lost prior to the survey compensated for in full.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Creation of other neutral grassland of moderate condition and 100 trees of poor condition have been provisioned to satisfy trading rules.
<b>Offset</b>	N/A: net gain is achieved within the red line boundary

### Appendix 1a: Baseline Habitat Plan prior to degradation



### Appendix 1b: Baseline Habitat Plan post degradation



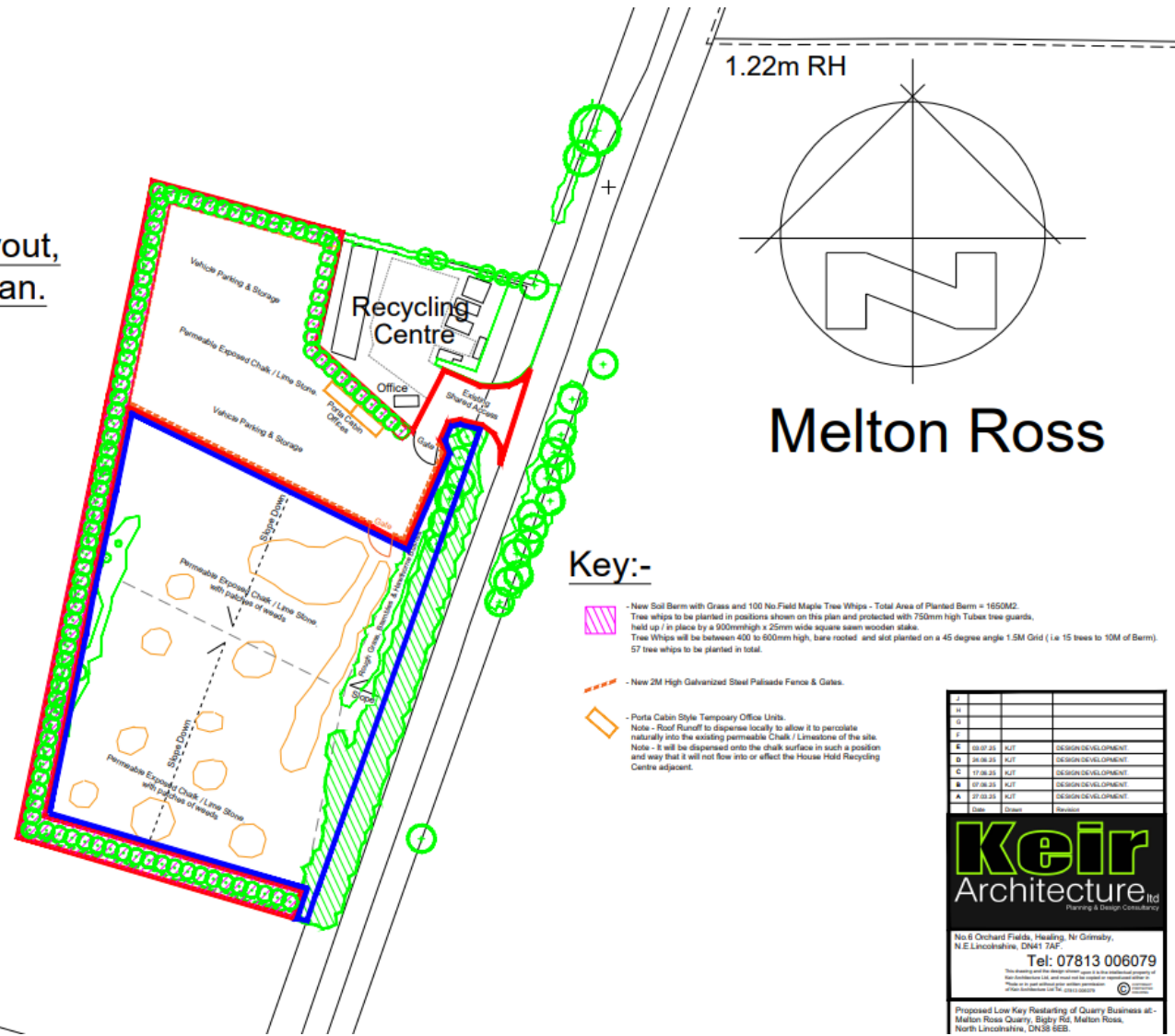
### Appendix 2: Post-Development Habitat Plan






Appendix 3: Proposed Development Plan

Proposed Block, Site, Layout, Landscape & Drainage Plan.

Scale - 1:500 @ A1.  
 Stanfords VectorMap  
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Key:-

-  - New Soil Berm with Grass and 100 No Field Maple Tree Whips - Total Area of Planted Berm = 1650M2. Tree whips to be planted in positions shown on this plan and protected with 750mm high Tubes tree guards, held up / in place by a 900mm high x 25mm wide square sawn wooden stake. Tree Whips will be between 400 to 600mm high, bare rooted and slit planted on a 45 degree angle 1.5M Grid ( i.e 15 trees to 10M of Berm). 57 tree whips to be planted in total.
-  - New 2M High Galvanized Steel Palisade Fence & Gates.
-  - Porta Cabin Style Temporary Office Units.  
 Note - Roof Runoff to disperse locally to allow it to percolate naturally into the existing permeable Chalk / Limestone of the site.  
 Note - It will be dispersed onto the chalk surface in such a position and way that it will not flow into or effect the House Hold Recycling Centre adjacent.

J			
H			
G			
F			
E	03.07.25	KJT	DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
D	24.06.25	KJT	DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
C	17.06.25	KJT	DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
B	07.06.25	KJT	DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
A	07.06.25	KJT	DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
Date:	Drawn:	Revised:	

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Proposed Low Key Restoring of Quarry Business at Melton Ross Quarry, Bigby Rd, Melton Ross, North Lincolnshire, DN38 6EB.



### Appendix 5a: Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

**Sparsely vegetated land**; assessed using 'Sparsely Vegetated Land' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its specific sparsely vegetated habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description, with characteristic indicator species consistently present. <sup>1</sup>	Y	Appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description.
B	The cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> , scrub and trees is less than 25%.	Y	Cover of bracken, scrub and trees is <25%.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species <sup>2</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>3</sup> ) and species indicative of suboptimal condition <sup>4</sup> make up less than 5% of vegetated ground cover.	N	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species. Species indicative of suboptimal condition make up ~40% of habitat parcel.
D	Vegetation cover of vascular and non-vascular plants is between 5 and 50%.	Y	Vegetation cover is ~40%.
Number of criteria passed		3	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 4 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√
Passes 4 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 criteria	Moderate (2)	√
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

**Other Neutral Grassland;** assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type. <b>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate or good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b>	N	Parcel is not a good example of its habitat type due to lack of indicator species in a high proportion.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20% is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Varied sward height.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	N	Cover of bare ground is ~10%.
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%.	Y	Cover of bracken is <20% and cover of scrub is <5%.
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition 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 (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	No physical damage or invasive non-native plant species evident.
<b>Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types</b>			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). <b>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b>	N	There are ~5 vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> .
Essential criterion for good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N	
Number of criteria passed		3	

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
<b>Non-acid grassland types (result out of 6 criteria)</b>		
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)	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F	Poor (1)	

**Rural trees;** assessed using the 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition assessment sheet:

- The tree is a native species.
- Predominately continuous tree canopy, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap >5m wide; individual trees automatically pass this criterion.
- The tree is considered mature.
- There is little or no evidence of adverse anthropogenic impact on tree health so that trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.
- Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present.
- More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.

Criterion	T1	T2	T3	T4
A	✓	✓	✓	✓
B	✓	✓	✓	✓
C				
D	✓	✓	✓	✓
E				
F	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<b>Moderate: 4/6 criteria</b>			

## Appendix 5b: Post-Development Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

**Other Neutral Grassland**; assessed using 'Grasslands Medium/High/Very High Distinctiveness' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes/Justification
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relative to the specific habitat type. <b>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving moderate or good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b>	N	Indicator species not anticipated to be present in a consistently high proportion.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7cm and at least 20% is more than 7cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Varied sward height of such specifications anticipated.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	N	Cover of bare ground anticipated to exceed 5%.
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%.	Y	Management anticipated to control bracken cover, if present.
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition 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 (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	N	Physical damage anticipated to exceed 5% of total area. No invasives anticipated.
<b>Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types</b>			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). <b>Note – this criterion is essential for achieving good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b>	N	Species composition of seed mixes suggests there will likely be less than 10 vascular plant species per m <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Essential criterion for good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)</b>		N	
<b>Number of criteria passed</b>		2	
<b>Condition Assessment Result</b>	<b>Condition Assessment Score</b>	<b>Score Achieved ✓</b>	
<b>Non-acid grassland types (result out of 6 criteria)</b>			
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)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F	Poor (1)	✓	

**Rural Trees**, assessed using 'Individual Trees' habitat type condition sheet:

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)	Notes/Justification
A	The tree is a native species (or more than 70% within the block are native species).	Y	Trees anticipated to be of native origin.
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	Trees are individual trees and thus automatically pass this criterion.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	N	No mature trees on site.
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N	Trees not anticipated to retain >75% of expected canopy due to close proximity of each proposed tree.
E	Natural Ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	None anticipated due to being newly planted.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y	Anticipated to over sail >20% of vegetation.
<b>Number of criteria passed</b>			<b>3</b>
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✓
Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria		Moderate (2)	✓
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria		Poor (1)	