



APPENDIX 4.9 -  
BIODIVERSITY METRIC 4.0 HABITAT CONDITION  
ASSESSMENT SHEETS

HAMBLE AIRFIELD  
HAMBLE LE RICE  
HAMPSHIRE

NOVEMBER 2023

ON BEHALF OF CEMEX



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

LC Ecological Services Limited (LCES) were commissioned by CEMEX UK to conduct baseline and post-intervention habitat condition assessments to support a post-development site restoration plan and associated Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment for the land at the former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL (approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807). This work is required as part of the supporting ecological assessments for a planning application for phased aggregate extraction on the site, including the erection of a processing plant with silt lagoons and associated infrastructure, and post-quarrying restoration of the land.

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

- Proposed Habitats for Site Restoration Plan - Hamble Airfield 05.09.2023 (LCES, 2023a)
- Biodiversity Metric 4.0 - Hamble Airfield (Phased) 05.09.2023 (LCES, 2023b)
- Ecological appraisal & desk study - Hamble Airfield 30.11.2021 (LCES, 2021)
- Environmental Statement for the Former Hamble Airfield - Chapter 10 Ecology and Biodiversity (Updated and amended) (CEMEX UK, 2022)

Section 2 of this report details the methodologies adopted for the baseline and post-intervention habitat condition assessments and section 3 provides the full results of each separate assessment. Appendix I includes relevant site photography taken during the baseline habitat condition assessment fieldwork.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 *Baseline habitat condition assessments***

An update site visit and baseline habitat condition assessment was undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 by senior ecologist Andrew Heideman. This fieldwork involved a detailed assessment of each habitat type present on site using the relevant standard habitat condition assessment sheets, included as Technical Annex 1 of Biodiversity Metric 4.0 (Natural England, 2023). The specific methods detailed on each separate condition assessment sheet were followed and an appropriate score and any relevant supporting notes were recorded against each individual criteria on the sheets. In addition to this, relevant photographic evidence of the baseline habitat conditions was also gathered during the fieldwork.

#### Limitations

The site visit and baseline habitat condition assessment was undertaken in early August which is within the optimal summer period for conducting botanical surveys and assessments of habitat condition. On the date of the site visit the weather conditions were very poor (heavy rain and strong winds) and there were also some accessibility restrictions on-site due to extensive stands of dense and impenetrable bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Nevertheless, it is considered that a valid assessment was completed.

### **2.2 *Post-intervention habitat condition assessments***

Post-intervention habitat condition assessments were undertaken by LCES in October 2023, with input also provided by CEMEX UK, to support and provide justification for the proposed habitat types and associated condition scores as presented in the site restoration plan and associated BNG assessment (LCES, 2023a and 2023b). This work involved a detailed assessment of each proposed and retained/enhanced habitat type in the site restoration scheme using the relevant standard habitat condition assessment sheets, included as Technical Annex 1 of Biodiversity Metric 4.0 (Natural England, 2023). The specific methods detailed on each separate condition assessment sheet were followed and an appropriate score and any relevant supporting notes were recorded against each individual criteria on the sheets, including outline details on the proposed habitat creation and/or management prescriptions considered necessary and appropriate to achieve the targeted condition scores.

## 3.0 RESULTS

### 3.1 Baseline Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

#### 3.1.1 Grassland Habitat

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)			
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland			
Site name and location	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	On-site or off-site	On-site
Limitations (if applicable)	Very poor weather conditions (heavy rain and strong winds) on the date of the assessment. Some accessibility restrictions on-site due to extensive stands of dense and impenetrable bramble ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.). However, it is considered that a valid assessment was completed.	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Habitat Description			
<p>The vast majority of the grassland habitat recorded on site comprised rank and overgrown swards that were dominated by tussocks of coarse grasses. However, there was also an element of unimproved and more botanically-interesting acid grassland present amongst some sections of the sward, particularly in the north-east region of the site where it appears that there may have been a higher level of wild grazing by deer and rabbits taking place. For more details refer to the Ecological Appraisal document (LCES, 2021).</p>			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	<p>The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present.</p> <p><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>	No	<p>The grassland on site is becoming an increasingly poor representation of the identified habitat type, mainly due to long-term neglect of the site, as well as dog and equine fouling. Indicator species of acid grassland, including sheep's sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>),</p>

			early hair-grass ( <i>Aira praecox</i> ), heath speedwell ( <i>Veronica officinalis</i> ) and broom fork-moss ( <i>Dicranum scoparium</i> ), are now scarce and mostly restricted to the far north of the site where evidence of wild grazing is more prevalent.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No	The vast majority of the sward on site is rank and overgrown, far exceeding seven centimetres in average height (refer to appendix I). Some areas of shorter sward maintained by wild deer and rabbit grazing are present in the far north of the site (refer to appendix I), although these account for less than 20% of the total grassland area on site.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens <sup>1</sup> .	No	There is very limited cover of bare ground across the areas of grassland habitat on site due to the sward being mostly rank with significant accumulations of thatch. There are some minor patches of bare ground along pathways used by the public for recreation and in areas where there is evidence of wild grazing, but it is considered that this collectively accounts for less than 1% cover across the whole grassland habitat area on site.
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%.	No	Bramble cover across the areas of grassland habitat on site is

			extensive and it continues to increase in the absence of any management intervention.
E	<p>Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition<sup>2</sup> 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.</p> <p>If any invasive non-native plant species<sup>3</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA<sup>4</sup>) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.</p>	Yes	<p>The negative grassland indicator species creeping thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) is relatively abundant on site and forms locally-dominant patches within the sward (refer to appendix I).</p> <p>However, it is not considered to account for more than 5% of the total grassland habitat area on-site.</p>
<b>Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types</b>			
F	<p>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).</p> <p><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>	No	A total of five representative one metre <sup>2</sup> quadrat samples of the grassland vegetation on site were recorded and each one comprised less than 10 vascular plant species.
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N/A	
Number of criteria passed		1	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
<b>Acid Grassland Types (Result out of 5 criteria)</b>			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	✓	
<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)		
<b>Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score</b>			
N/A			
<b>Notes</b>			



**Footnote 1** – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.

**Footnote 2** - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: 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*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

**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, by applying professional judgement.

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

### 3.1.2 Native Hedgerows (H1 and H2, refer to LCES 2021)

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types			
Habitat Type			
Native hedgerow with trees			
Habitat Description			
<p>A total of two established, species-rich native hedgerows were recorded on site, one alongside the northern boundary (H1) and one alongside the north-eastern boundary (H2) (refer to LCES 2021). These hedgerows comprised a good variety of native woody species, including numerous mature standard pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) trees, and reasonably diverse field layer vegetation which included a number of woodland axiophytes, such as wood sage (<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>), dog's mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>) and bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>). The hedgerows ranged from approximately 1.5 to 4 metres in average height and 1.5 to 3.5 metres in average width and appeared to have been left largely unmanaged. Both hedgerows were noted to have a significant number of gaps. For more details refer to LCES 2021.</p>			
<p>See the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide Section 9. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.</p>			
Site name and location	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	On-site or off-site	On-site
Limitations (if applicable)	Very poor weather conditions (heavy rain and strong winds) on the date of the assessment. Some accessibility restrictions on-site due to extensive stands of dense and impenetrable bramble ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.). However, it is considered that a valid assessment was completed.	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	Habitat parcel reference	N/A

Condition Assessment Criteria					
<p>A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook<sup>1</sup> and Favourable Conservation Status document<sup>2</sup>. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.</p> <p>Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the ‘favourable condition’ criteria.</p>					
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes					
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for ‘favourable condition’	Description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	<p>The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.</p> <p>Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p> <p>A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is &gt;1.5 m height).</p>	H1 - Yes H2 - Yes	Both hedgerows exceeding 1.5 metres in average height across their total lengths.
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	<p>The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.</p> <p>Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are &gt;0.5 m in height.</p> <p>Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p>	H1 - Yes H2 - Yes	Both hedgerows exceeding 1.5 metres in average width across their total lengths.
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy	This is the vertical ‘gappiness’ of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance	H1 - Yes H2 - No	Hedgerow H1 has dense vertical shrubby

		<0.5 m for >90% of length	from the ground to the lowest leafy growth.  Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).		growth from near ground level and therefore meets this criterion.  Hedgerow H2 has numerous significant gaps between mature standard trees with only sparse and 'leggy' shrub growth. It is therefore considered to fail this criterion.
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small).  Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	H1 - Yes H2 - No	Hedgerow H1 mostly has dense horizontal shrubby growth, with any gaps comprising less than 10% of the total length.  Hedgerow H2 has numerous significant gaps in its horizontal shrubby layer exceeding 10% of the total length. Some bare gaps between standard trees are approximately five metres or more in length.
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow.  Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow.  This criterion recognises the	H1 - Yes H2 - Yes	Hedgerow H1 and H2 are both considered to meet this criterion. The ground and perennial vegetation of hedgerow H1 is largely undisturbed, aside from one informal access

		one side of the hedgerow (at least).	value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.		gap used by the public. Hedgerow H2 has some minor disturbance where gaps have been used as access points by deer and the public, as well as a minor amount of fly-tipping. However, the total ground disturbance for hedgerow H2 is considered to be less than 10% of the total hedgerow length.
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	H1 - Yes H2 - Yes	Hedgerows H1 and H2 do not exhibit any signs of significant soil nutrient enrichment.
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>3</sup> ) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website <sup>4</sup> , as well as the BSBI website <sup>5</sup> where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' <sup>6</sup> contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website <sup>7</sup> .	H1 - Yes H2 - Yes	Hedgerows H1 and H2 both meet this criterion, although one Turkey oak ( <i>Quercus cerris</i> ) tree was noted in hedgerow H1.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.  This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or	H1 - Yes H2 - Yes	Hedgerows H1 and H2 both meet this criterion, although some minor fly-tipping was noted in hedgerow H2.

			rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).		
<b>Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only</b>					
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient <sup>8</sup> ), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	H1 - Yes H2 - Yes	Hedgerows H1 and H2 both meet this criterion. Young and mature specimens of pedunculate oak ( <i>Quercus robur</i> ) and ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ) were present in both hedgerows and there were numerous mature standard trees present per 20 to 50 metres of both hedgerow lengths.
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	H1 - Yes H2 - Yes	Hedgerows H1 and H2 both meet this criterion. All hedgerow trees appeared to be in good, healthy and undamaged condition with no significant signs of disease noted.

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

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in	3

	total; <b>AND</b> No more than 1 failure in any functional group.		
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; <b>AND</b> <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2	
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; <b>OR</b> <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1	
<b>Score achieved:</b>		<b>H1 - 3 (Good)</b> <b>H2 - 2 (Moderate)</b>	

**Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score**

N/A

**Footnotes**

**Footnote 1** – DEFRA (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK.* [online] Available on:

[layout  
\(hedgelink.org.uk  
\)](http://hedgelink.org.uk)

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**Footnote 2** – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) *Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows.* [online] Available on:

[Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows  
- RP2943 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk/rp2943)

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**Footnote 3** – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

**Footnote 4** – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) *The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain.* Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on:

[The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain \(Species Status](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/271116/Species_Status_7_1-116.pdf)

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**Footnote 5** – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). *Definitions: wild, native or alien?* [online] Available on:

[Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland \(bsbi.org\)](#) -

**Footnote 6** – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) *Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. [online] Available on:

[Acknowledgements | Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora \(brc.ac.uk\)](#) -

**Footnote 7** – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNS) (2022) Available on:

[Home » NNS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#) -

**Footnote 8** – 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#) -

### 3.1.3 Woodland habitat

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)			
<b>Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved</b>			
Habitat Description			
<p>Two narrow bands of regenerating broadleaved woodland were recorded adjacent to the northern-western boundaries of the site. The canopies of these woodland stands were generally of a young stage of growth and were mostly dominated by semi-mature specimens of pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) and silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>), together with occasional to rare sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>). The understory layers largely consisted of a mixture of field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>) and blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), together with pedunculate oak, sycamore and silver birch saplings. The field layers were generally species-poor throughout and mostly dominated by ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>), bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) and bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>). However, a number of desirable woodland indicators were also present in occasional to rare abundance, including bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>), dog's mercury (<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>), soft shield-fern (<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>) and broad buckler-fern (<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>).</p>			
<p><a href="#">ukhab – UK Habitat Classification</a></p> <p>This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here:  <a href="#">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)</a></p> <p>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.</p>			
Site name and location	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice,	On-site or off-site	On-site

		Hampshire, SO31 4NL				
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>		Very poor weather conditions (heavy rain and strong winds) on the date of the assessment. Some accessibility restrictions on-site due to extensive stands of dense and impenetrable bramble ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.). However, it is considered that a valid assessment was completed.	<b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b>			N/A
<b>Grid reference</b>		Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	<b>Habitat parcel reference</b>			N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria						
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
<b>A</b>	<b>Age distribution of trees</b>	Three age-classes <sup>1</sup> present.	Two age-classes <sup>1</sup> present.	One age-class <sup>1</sup> present.	3	Young, intermediate and old specimens of pedunculate oak are present and relatively well represented across the woodland habitat on site. Although, old specimens of oak were generally infrequent.
<b>B</b>	<b>Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage</b>	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland <sup>2</sup> .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is	3	No evidence of any significant browsing



			present in 40% or less of whole woodland <sup>2</sup> .	present in 40% or more of whole woodland <sup>2</sup> .		damage noted. Access into the woodland stands is restricted by dense bramble thickets in most places.
<b>C</b>	<b>Invasive plant species</b>	No invasive species <sup>3</sup> present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <sup>3</sup> <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species <sup>3</sup> >10% cover.	3	Aside from sycamore trees, no other problematic, non-native invasive species were recorded.
<b>D</b>	<b>Number of native tree species</b>	Five or more native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> across woodland parcel.	3	More than five native tree and shrub species present.
<b>E</b>	<b>Cover of native tree and shrub species</b>	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	3	Both canopy and understorey layers are dominated by native tree and shrub species.
<b>F</b>	<b>Open space within woodland</b>	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> . Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted <sup>7</sup> .	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> .	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> . But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category <sup>7</sup> .	2	Some substantial gaps in the canopy and understorey cover were present across the woodland areas on site, accounting for up to 30% of the total wooded areas on site.
<b>G</b>	<b>Woodland regeneration</b>	All three classes present in woodland <sup>8</sup> ; trees	One or two classes only present in	No classes or coppice regrowth	2	Young trees and saplings of native

		4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	woodland <sup>8</sup> .	present in woodland <sup>8</sup> .		species, including pedunculate oak and field maple, were noted, however no native tree or shrub seedlings were observed.
<b>H</b>	<b>Tree health</b>	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback <sup>9</sup> .	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present <sup>9</sup> .	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present <sup>9</sup> .	2	Some signs of ash dieback disease were noted amongst the mature canopy specimens of ash, although in all cases the extent of the crown dieback was not severe.
<b>I</b>	<b>Vegetation and ground flora</b>	Recognisable NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present.	1	The woodland field layer vegetation was generally poorly developed and limited in extent with no particular woodland NVC plant communities being identifiable. The field and ground layers were generally species-poor throughout and mostly dominated by ivy,

						bramble and bracken. However, a number of desirable woodland indicators were also present low abundance, including bluebell, dog's mercury, butcher's-broom ( <i>Ruscus aculeatus</i> ), and broad buckler-fern.
J	<b>Woodland vertical structure</b>	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland <sup>11</sup> .	Two storeys across all survey plots <sup>11</sup> .	One or less storey across all survey plots <sup>11</sup> .	2	Only two storeys of vertical woody growth present, comprising a canopy of mature trees and understorey of mature shrubs and younger trees. No further vertical structural complexity was recorded.
K	<b>Veteran trees</b>	Two or more veteran trees <sup>12</sup> per hectare.	One veteran tree <sup>12</sup> per hectare.	No veteran trees <sup>12</sup> present in woodland.	1	No veteran trees were identified within the areas of woodland habitat on site.
L	<b>Amount of deadwood</b>	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have	1	Very little deadwood, either standing or fallen, was

		deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .	parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .	deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .		noted within the areas of woodland habitat on site.
<b>M</b>	<b>Woodland disturbance</b>	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident <sup>14</sup> .	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground <sup>14</sup> .	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground <sup>14</sup> .	3	No evidence of any significant nutrient enrichment or damaged ground was identified.
<b>Total Score (out of a possible 39)</b>						<b>29</b>
<b>Condition Assessment Result</b>				<b>Condition Assessment Score</b>	<b>Result Achieved</b>	
Total score >32 (33 to 39)				Good (3)	<b>Moderate (2)</b>	
Total score 26 to 32				Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)				Poor (1)		
<b>Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score</b>						
N/A						
<b>Footnotes</b>						
<p>Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment methodology: EWBG (No date). <i>Assessing your Woodland's Condition</i> [online]. Available from: <a href="http://www.sylvia.org.uk">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylvia.org.uk)</a></p> <p>When applying this condition sheet, good practice would be to use the methodology associated with the EWBG toolkit.</p> <p><b>Footnote 1</b> - See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch <i>Betula</i> sp., cherry <i>Prunus</i> sp. or <i>Sorbus</i> sp.: 0 – 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and &gt;150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or <i>Sorbus</i> species; 0 - 20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years =Intermediate; &gt;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.</p> <p><b>Footnote 2</b> - See EWBG method INDICATOR 2 for more information. Browsing pressure is considered to be significant where &gt;20% of vegetation visible within each survey plot shows damage from any type of browsing pressure listed.</p> <p><b>Footnote 3</b> - 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.</p> <p>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 <i>Lysichiton</i></p>						

*americanus*; Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*; Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*; cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*; shallon *Gaultheria shallon*; snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*; variegated yellow archangel *Lamiastrum 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](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61424/ancient-woodland-and-trees-policy-in-england.pdf)  
([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

and:

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61424/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions.pdf) ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

**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.

### 3.1.4 Scattered rural trees

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Type(s)			
Individual trees - Rural trees			
Habitat Description			
Scattered trees recorded on site mostly comprising young and semi-mature specimens of pedunculate oak ( <i>Pedunculate oak</i> ), English elm ( <i>Ulmus procera</i> ), cherry ( <i>Prunus sp</i> ), bird cherry ( <i>Prunus padus</i> ), silver birch ( <i>Betula pendula</i> ), ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), whitebeam ( <i>Sorbus aria</i> agg.), sycamore ( <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> ) and rowan ( <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> ). These trees were largely recorded in the southern half of the site.			
<b>Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment):</b> Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching.			
<b>Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only):</b> 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 must overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.			
Site name and location	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	On-site or off-site	On-site
Limitations (if applicable)	Very poor weather conditions (heavy rain and strong winds) on the date of the assessment. Some accessibility restrictions on-site due to extensive stands of dense and impenetrable bramble ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.). However, it is considered that a valid assessment was completed.	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
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	The majority (>70%) of the scattered trees recorded on site are UK native species.
B	The tree canopy is predominantly	Yes	All of the scattered trees assessed on

	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).		site meet this criterion and have healthy, continuous canopies.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Only one of the assessed trees on site meets this criterion. All other assessed trees were either of small or medium size.	A mature pedunculate oak tree adjacent to the eastern boundary with a breast height diameter of approximately 1.4 metres.
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	All of the assessed trees pass this criterion and no evidence of any adverse human impacts was identified.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Only one of the assessed trees on site meets this criterion. All other assessed trees were either of small or medium size and did not support any obvious ecological niches.	A mature pedunculate oak tree adjacent to the eastern boundary which supported a small amount of deadwood (a number of dead and rotting limbs) with splits and cavities.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	All of the assessed trees pass this criterion and supported healthy spreading canopies oversailing the vegetation beneath.
<b>Number of criteria passed</b>		<b>23 small trees and 21 medium trees all pass 4 criteria.</b> <b>1 large tree passes 6 criteria.</b>	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	<b>1 large tree achieves a Good (3) condition score.</b>
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	<b>23 small trees and 21 medium trees all pass 4 criteria and achieve a Moderate (2) condition score.</b>
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.		
<b>Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score</b>		
N/A		
<b>Footnotes</b>		
<p><b>Footnote 1</b> - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: <a href="https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/keepers-of-time-ancient-and-native-woodland-and-trees-policy-in-england.pdf">Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a> and: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions.pdf">Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>		

## 3.2 Post-intervention Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

### 3.2.1 Existing / retained acid grassland within the project buffer

<b>Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)</b>			
<b>UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)</b>			
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland (proposed uplift in condition from 'Poor' to 'Moderate')			
<b>Site name and location</b>	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	<b>On-site or off-site</b>	On-site
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>	N/A	<b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b>	N/A
<b>Grid reference</b>	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	<b>Habitat parcel reference</b>	N/A
<b>Habitat Description / Enhancement Proposals</b>			
Approximately 6.39ha of retained 'Poor' condition acid grassland habitat within the project buffer zone to be enhanced to 'Moderate' condition via annual mowing in late-summer (between mid-August and late-			



September) together with the thorough removal of all arisings (e.g. via hay bailing). There will also be 2 metre width margins of taller and rougher sward created adjacent to scrub stands by instead mowing these margins and collecting the arisings on a bi-annual rotation. This measure will create more variety of sward structure within the 'stand-off' zones and thereby offer more opportunities and resources for wild fauna.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criteria on passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	<p>The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present.</p> <p><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>	No	The grassland habitat will generally be a poor representation of the identified habitat type and mostly dominated by common species. However, the proposed management regime is expected to result in a substantial improvement in the botanical diversity of the sward and promote the increased establishment of desirable acidic grassland indicator species, such as sheep's sorrel ( <i>Rumex acetosella</i> ).
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Yes	The proposed grassland management regime, in combination with wild grazing by deer and rabbits, is expected to result in a heterogeneous sward of varying average height.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens <sup>1</sup> .	Yes	The proposed grassland management regime, in combination with wild grazing by deer and rabbits, as well as trampling by the public using the permissive footpath route, is expected to result in a degree of ground disturbance across this grassland area.
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%.	No	The existing level of bramble scrub cover across this area of

			grassland will be retained, exceeding 5%.
E	<p>Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition<sup>2</sup> 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.</p> <p>If any invasive non-native plant species<sup>3</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA<sup>4</sup>) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.</p>	Yes	With the proposed grassland management regime implemented, negative grassland indicator species such as creeping thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> ) and common nettle ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> ) would be relatively infrequent across the sward.
<b>Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types</b>			
F	<p>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).</p> <p><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>	Yes	It is expected that the proposed management regime will result in a substantial improvement in the overall botanical diversity of the sward, and in almost all cases > 10 vascular plant species will be present per one metre <sup>2</sup> .
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N/A	
Number of criteria passed		4	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
<b>Acid Grassland Types (Result out of 5 criteria)</b>			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
<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)		
<p><b>Footnote 1</b> – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.</p> <p><b>Footnote 2</b> - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>, broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i>, white</p>			

clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

**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, by applying professional judgement.

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

### 3.2.2 Restored acid grassland areas across the project site

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)			
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland (proposed Moderate condition)			
Site name and location	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	On-site or off-site	On-site
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Habitat Creation / Management Proposals			
<p>Approximately 36.74ha of land across the project area, including within the proposed community access meadow area, to be restored to an acid grassland habitat of moderate botanical value and condition.</p> <p>The pre-existing topsoil layer on site will be preserved during the quarrying works and then replaced once the extraction voids have been backfilled and returned to former levels. Then these proposed areas of grassland will be created via a combination of sowing a suitable native species meadow seed mixture for acid soils, strewing green hay from an appropriate local source, and natural colonisation and regeneration of the sward from the soil seed bank.</p> <p>Once the sward has become established, after a period of between 4 and 5 years, it will then be managed via annual mowing in late summer (between mid-August and late-September) with the collection and removal of all of the arisings (e.g. via hay bailing) followed by autumn / winter 'aftermath' grazing by low densities of cattle and/or sheep. There will also be 2 metre width margins of taller and rougher sward created adjacent to scrub stands by leaving these margins unmown and only grazed by livestock each year. This additional measure will create more variety of sward structure within the grassland habitat across the site and thereby offer more opportunities and resources for wild fauna.</p>			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criteria on passed	Notes (such as justification)

		(Yes or No)	
A	<p>The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present.</p> <p><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>	No	The grassland habitat will generally be a poor representation of the identified habitat type and mostly dominated by common species. However, there is expected to be a substantial level of botanical diversity in the sward, including multiple desirable grassland indicator species and acidic grassland indicator species such as sheep's sorrel ( <i>Rumex acetosella</i> ).
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Yes	The proposed grassland creation and management regime, in combination with wild grazing by deer and rabbits, is expected to result in a heterogenous sward of varying average height.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens <sup>1</sup> .	Yes	The proposed grassland management regime, in combination with wild grazing by deer and rabbits, as well as some trampling by the public using the community access meadow, is expected to result in a degree of ground disturbance across this grassland area.
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%.	No	Scattered scrub planting across this area of grassland will exceed 5%.
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition <sup>2</sup> 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.	Yes	With the proposed grassland management regime implemented, negative grassland indicator species such as creeping thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> ) and common nettle ( <i>Urtica</i>

	If any invasive non-native plant species <sup>3</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>4</sup> ) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.		<i>dioica</i> ) would be relatively infrequent across the sward.
<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>	Yes	It is expected that the proposed habitat creation and management regime will result in a good level of overall botanical diversity in the sward, and in almost all cases > 10 vascular plant species will be present per one metre <sup>2</sup> .
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N/A	
Number of criteria passed		4	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
<b>Acid Grassland Types (Result out of 5 criteria)</b>			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
<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)		
<b>Footnote 1</b> – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.			
<b>Footnote 2</b> - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.			
<b>Footnote 3</b> – 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, by applying professional judgement.			
<b>Footnote 4</b> – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

### 3.2.3 Creation of scattered scrub habitat across the project site

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type			
<p>Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub (proposed 'Moderate' condition)</p> <p>Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub (proposed 'Moderate' condition)</p>			
Habitat Creation / Management Proposals			
<p>Approximately 2.97 ha of hawthorn dominated scrub and 3.49 ha of gorse scrub will be created across the project area, planted out as scattered stands of varying size and shape, as depicted on the site restoration plan.</p> <p>The scrub stands will be planted out with the native species mixtures as whips and then enclosed with stock fencing to ensure that the whips are protected from both wild and livestock grazing on the site. Planting and aftercare of the scrub whips will all follow horticultural best practice methods to ensure successful establishment of the habitat.</p>			
Site name and location	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	On-site or off-site	On-site
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	<p>The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type.</p> <p>At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species<sup>1</sup>, with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>, common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>, sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>, which can be up to 100% cover).</p>	Yes	All proposed scrub planting will comprise 100% native species.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran <sup>2</sup> ) shrubs are all present.	Yes	At the end of the target management period it is expected that well-

			established scrub habitat will have formed, including a full range of growth stages.
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species <sup>3</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>4</sup> ) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition <sup>5</sup> make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes	Any invasive species establishing within the created scrub stands will be appropriately eradicated during annual management.
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	1.5 metre buffer margins of uncut grass will be left surrounding all created scrub stands to allow scrub edge vegetation to form.
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	It is not considered that this will be achievable within the target management period and the scrub planting has not been designed to incorporate rides and clearings.

		Number of criteria passed	4
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)		
<b>Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score</b>			
N/A			
<b>Footnotes</b>			
<p><b>Footnote 1</b> – 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. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).</p> <p><b>Footnote 2</b> - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran species. Available from: <a href="https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61222/Keepers_of_time_-_ancient_and_native_woodland_and_trees_policy_in_England.pdf">Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a> and <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61222/Ancient_woodland,_ancient_trees_and_veteran_trees_advice_for_making_planning_decisions_-_GOV.UK.pdf">Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p> <p><b>Footnote 3</b> – 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.</p> <p><b>Footnote 4</b> – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).</p> <p><b>Footnote 5</b> - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type may include: non-native conifers, tree-of-heaven <i>Alianthus altissima</i>, holm oak <i>Quercus ilex</i>, European turkey oak <i>Quercus cerris</i>, cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>, snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp., shallon <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>, American skunk cabbage <i>Lysichiton americanus</i>, buddleia <i>Buddleja</i> spp., cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp., Spanish bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> and hybrid bluebells <i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.</p>			

### 3.2.4 Existing / retained native hedgerow H2

<b>Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types</b>			
<b>Habitat Type</b>			
Native hedgerow with trees (proposed uplift in condition from Moderate to Good)			
<b>Habitat Enhancement Proposals</b>			
Native hedgerow H2 will be enhanced via gap planting using a variety of native woody shrub species and by implementing a suitable low intensity management regime, comprising light bi-annual flailing with the hedgerow being sculpted into a rounded A-shape during flailing.			
See the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide Section 9. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the ‘favourable condition’ criteria.			
<b>Site name and</b>	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-	<b>On-site or</b>	On-site



<b>location</b>	Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL		<b>off-site</b>	
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>	N/A		<b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b>	N/A
<b>Grid reference</b>	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807		<b>Habitat parcel reference</b>	N/A
<b>Condition Assessment Criteria</b>				
<p>A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook<sup>1</sup> and Favourable Conservation Status document<sup>2</sup>. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.</p> <p>Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the ‘favourable condition’ criteria.</p>				
<b>Hedgerow favourable condition attributes</b>				
<b>Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)</b>	<b>Criteria - the minimum requirements for ‘favourable condition’</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Criterion passed (Yes or No)</b>	<b>Notes (such as justification)</b>
<b>Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types</b>				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	Hedgerow H2 already meets this criterion.
		<p>The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees.</p> <p>Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p> <p>A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is &gt;1.5 m height).</p>		
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	Hedgerow H2 already meets this criterion.
		<p>The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.</p> <p>Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are &gt;0.5 m in height.</p>		

			Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).		
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	<p>This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth.</p> <p>Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).</p>	Yes	The proposed gap planting using native shrub species will ensure that Hedgerow H2 has continuous dense vertical shrubby growth from near ground level along the majority of its length and therefore meets this criterion.
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	<p>This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small).</p> <p>Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the &gt;5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).</p>	Yes	The proposed gap planting using native shrub species will ensure that Hedgerow H2 has continuous dense shrubby growth along the majority of its length and therefore meets this criterion.
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	<p>This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow.</p> <p>Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow.</p> <p>This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation,</p>	Yes	Hedgerow H2 already meets this criterion.

			heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.		
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Yes	Hedgerow H2 already meets this criterion.
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>3</sup> ) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website <sup>4</sup> , as well as the BSBI website <sup>5</sup> where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' <sup>6</sup> contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website <sup>7</sup> .	Yes	Hedgerow H2 already meets this criterion.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.  This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Hedgerow H2 already meets this criterion.
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient <sup>8</sup> ), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	Yes	Hedgerow H2 already meets this criterion.

		veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.			
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Yes	Hedgerow H2 already meets this criterion.

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

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; <b>AND</b> No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; <b>AND</b> <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of	1

	more than 5 attributes; <b>OR</b> <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).		
<b>Score achieved:</b>		<b>3 (Good)</b>	
<b>Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score</b>			
N/A			
<b>Footnotes</b>			
<p><b>Footnote 1</b> – DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK.</i> [online] Available on: <a href="http://hedgelinek.org.uk">layout (hedgelinek.org.uk)</a> -</p> <p><b>Footnote 2</b> – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) <i>Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows.</i> [online] Available on: <a href="http://naturalengland.org.uk">Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk)</a> -</p> <p><b>Footnote 3</b> – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).</p> <p><b>Footnote 4</b> – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) <i>The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain.</i> Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on: <a href="http://jncc.gov.uk">The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7)   JNCC Resource Hub</a> -</p> <p><b>Footnote 5</b> – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). <i>Definitions: wild, native or alien?</i> [online] Available on: <a href="http://bsbi.org">Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain &amp; Ireland (bsbi.org)</a> -</p> <p><b>Footnote 6</b> – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) <i>Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora.</i> [online] Available on: <a href="http://brc.ac.uk">Acknowledgements   Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk)</a> -</p> <p><b>Footnote 7</b> – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNS) (2022) Available on: <a href="http://nonnativespecies.org">Home » NNS</a> -</p> <p><b>Footnote 8</b> – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: <a href="http://publishing.service.gov.uk">Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a> -</p> <p>and <a href="http://www.gov.uk">Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a> -</p>			

### 3.2.5 Native hedgerow creation

<b>Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types</b>				
<b>Habitat Type</b>				
Native hedgerow with trees ( <b>proposed 'Good' condition</b> )				
<b>Habitat Enhancement Proposals</b>				
Creation of approximately 0.97 kilometres of native hedgerow on site, comprising a new hedgerow along the entire south-east boundary of the site, and another across the north-eastern corner of the site (enclosing the 'community access meadow' area). The new hedgerow planting will incorporate a diverse range of native shrubs, as well as native standard trees (refer to the planting scheme included in the site restoration plan). This hedgerow creation will be a substantial long-term enhancement to the site, improving habitat connectivity both on and off-site and providing a valuable resource for wild fauna.				
See the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide Section 9. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.				
<b>Site name and location</b>	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL		<b>On-site or off-site</b>	On-site
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>	N/A		<b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b>	N/A
<b>Grid reference</b>	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807		<b>Habitat parcel reference</b>	N/A
<b>Condition Assessment Criteria</b>				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook <sup>1</sup> and Favourable Conservation Status document <sup>2</sup> . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable condition' criteria.				
<b>Hedgerow favourable condition attributes</b>				
<b>Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)</b>	<b>Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Criterion passed (Yes or No)</b>	<b>Notes (such as justification)</b>
<b>Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types</b>				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or	Yes  Expected to meet this criterion within the target management

			<p>isolated trees.</p> <p>Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p> <p>A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is &gt;1.5 m height).</p>		<p>period. The planted hedgerow development will be monitored annually, and targeted management prescriptions implemented as and when required.</p>
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	<p>The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees.</p> <p>Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are &gt;0.5 m in height.</p> <p>Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).</p>	Yes	<p>Expected to meet this criterion within the target management period. The planted hedgerow development will be monitored annually, and targeted management prescriptions implemented as and when required.</p>
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	<p>This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth.</p> <p>Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).</p>	Yes	<p>Expected to meet this criterion within the target management period. The planted hedgerow development will be monitored annually, and targeted management prescriptions implemented as and when required.</p>
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	<p>This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter</p>	Yes	<p>Expected to meet this criterion within the target management</p>

			<p>how small).</p> <p>Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the &gt;5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).</p>		<p>period. The planted hedgerow development will be monitored annually, and targeted management prescriptions implemented as and when required. Any significant gaps will be planted up at the earliest opportunity with new native tree or shrub whips.</p>
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	<p>&gt;1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for &gt;90% of length:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and</li> <li>· Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).</li> </ul>	<p>This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow.</p> <p>Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow.</p> <p>This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.</p>	Yes	<p>Expected to meet this criterion within the target management period. The planted hedgerow development will be monitored annually, and targeted management prescriptions implemented as and when required.</p>
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	<p>Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate &lt;20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.</p>	<p>The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.</p>	Yes	<p>Considered unlikely that there will be any significant nutrient enrichment of the hedgerow vegetation as the site does not adjoin farmland and there are no plans to improve the on-site soils with manures or fertiliser.</p>



D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA <sup>3</sup> ) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website <sup>4</sup> , as well as the BSBI website <sup>5</sup> where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' <sup>6</sup> contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website <sup>7</sup> .	Yes	Hedgerow management will target the removal of any establishing non-native species.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.  This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Expected to meet this criterion within the target management period. The planted hedgerows will be checked annually for any signs of damage. Any dead or very damaged hedgerow specimens will be replaced at the earliest opportunity with new native tree or shrub whips.
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only					
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient <sup>8</sup> ), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	No	Impossible to meet this criterion within the target management period.

		hedgerow.			
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Yes	Expected to meet this criterion within the target management period. The planted hedgerow trees will be checked annually for any signs of damage. Any dead or very damaged hedgerow tree specimens will be replaced at the earliest opportunity with new native tree whips.

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

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; <b>AND</b> No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; <b>AND</b> <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; <b>OR</b>	1

	Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).		
<b>Score achieved:</b>		<b>3 (Good)</b>	
<b>Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score</b>			
N/A			
<b>Footnotes</b>			
<p><b>Footnote 1</b> – DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK.</i> [online] Available on:  <a href="http://hedgelink.org.uk/layout">layout</a>  <a href="http://hedgelink.org.uk">hedgelink.org.uk</a></p>			
<p><b>Footnote 2</b> – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) <i>Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows.</i> [online] Available on:  <a href="http://naturalengland.org.uk">Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows</a>  <a href="http://naturalengland.org.uk">- RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk)</a></p>			
<p><b>Footnote 3</b> – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).</p>			
<p><b>Footnote 4</b> – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) <i>The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain.</i> Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on:  <a href="http://jncc.gov.uk">The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7)   JNCC Resource Hub</a></p>			
<p><b>Footnote 5</b> – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). <i>Definitions: wild, native or alien?</i> [online] Available on:  <a href="http://bsbi.org">Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain &amp; Ireland (bsbi.org)</a></p>			
<p><b>Footnote 6</b> – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) <i>Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora.</i> [online] Available on:  <a href="http://brc.ac.uk">Acknowledgements   Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk)</a></p>			
<p><b>Footnote 7</b> – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on:  <a href="http://nonnativespecies.org">Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)</a></p>			
<p><b>Footnote 8</b> – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:  <a href="http://publishing.service.gov.uk">Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a>  and  <a href="http://www.gov.uk">Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>			

### 3.2.6 Existing / retained woodland habitat

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type						
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)						
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved (proposed uplift in condition from 'Moderate' to 'Fairly Good')						
Habitat Enhancement Proposals						
<p>Approximately 0.48ha of the existing broadleaved woodland habitat on site (the vast majority) will be retained and enhanced to a 'Fairly Good' condition via a suite of measures, including clearance of bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) thickets, gap planting using a suitable mixture of native tree and shrub species, provision of deadwood habitat including log and brushwood heaps and loggeries or log pyramids, and some minor coppicing works and removal of some non-native species such as sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>).</p> <p>It is not considered possible to enhance this habitat type to 'Good' condition within the target time period, however a general improvement in overall condition is considered to be achievable if measures are implemented.</p>						
<p><a href="#">ukhab – UK Habitat Classification</a></p> <p>This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: <a href="#">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)</a></p> <p>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.</p>						
<b>Site name and location</b>	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	<b>On-site or off-site</b>	On-site			
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>	N/A	<b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b>	N/A			
<b>Grid reference</b>	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	<b>Habitat parcel reference</b>	N/A			
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 <sup>1</sup> present.	Two age-classes <sup>1</sup> present.	One age-class <sup>1</sup> present.	3	The retained woodland habitat already achieves 'Good' on

						this criterion.
<b>B</b>	<b>Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage</b>	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland <sup>2</sup> .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland <sup>2</sup> .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland <sup>2</sup> .	3	The retained woodland habitat already achieves 'Good' on this criterion.
<b>C</b>	<b>Invasive plant species</b>	No invasive species <sup>3</sup> present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <sup>3</sup> <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species <sup>3</sup> >10% cover.	3	The retained woodland habitat already achieves 'Good' on this criterion.
<b>D</b>	<b>Number of native tree species</b>	Five or more native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> across woodland parcel.	3	The retained woodland habitat already achieves 'Good' on this criterion.
<b>E</b>	<b>Cover of native tree and shrub species</b>	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	3	The retained woodland habitat already achieves 'Good' on this criterion.
<b>F</b>	<b>Open space within woodland</b>	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> . Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted <sup>7</sup> .	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> .	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> . But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category <sup>7</sup> .	3	Proposed gap planting with native trees and shrubs will improve the score to 'Good' on this criterion.
<b>G</b>	<b>Woodland regeneration</b>	All three classes present in woodland <sup>8</sup> ; trees	One or two classes only present in	No classes or coppice regrowth	3	The proposed management

		4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	woodland <sup>8</sup> .	present in woodland <sup>8</sup> .		and enhancement measures should help to promote more variety in woodland regeneration classes and more seedlings.
<b>H</b>	<b>Tree health</b>	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback <sup>9</sup> .	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present <sup>9</sup> .	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present <sup>9</sup> .	2	This condition criterion is unlikely to be improved within the target management period.
<b>I</b>	<b>Vegetation and ground flora</b>	Recognisable NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present.	1	This condition criterion is unlikely to be improved within the target management period.
<b>J</b>	<b>Woodland vertical structure</b>	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland <sup>11</sup> .	Two storeys across all survey plots <sup>11</sup> .	One or less storey across all survey plots <sup>11</sup> .	2	This condition criterion is unlikely to be improved within the target management period.
<b>K</b>	<b>Veteran trees</b>	Two or more veteran trees <sup>12</sup> per hectare.	One veteran tree <sup>12</sup> per hectare.	No veteran trees <sup>12</sup> present in woodland.	1	This condition criterion is impossible to improve within the target management period.
<b>L</b>	<b>Amount of deadwood</b>	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood,	2	The proposed management and enhancement measures will provide

		dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .	as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .	such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .		a significant increase in ground-level deadwood habitat across the retained woodland areas.
<b>M</b>	<b>Woodland disturbance</b>	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident <sup>14</sup> .	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground <sup>14</sup> .	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground <sup>14</sup> .	3	The retained woodland habitat already achieves 'Good' on this criterion.
<b>Total Score (out of a possible 39)</b>						<b>32</b>
<b>Condition Assessment Result</b>				<b>Condition Assessment Score</b>	<b>Result Achieved</b>	
Total score >32 (33 to 39)				Good (3)	<b>Moderate (2) or 'Fairly Good' (improvement on baseline condition score)</b>	
Total score 26 to 32				Moderate (2)		
Total score <26 (13 to 25)				Poor (1)		
<b>Footnotes</b>						
Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment methodology: EWBG (No date). <i>Assessing your Woodland's Condition</i> [online]. Available from: <a href="http://www.sylva.org.uk/Woodland-Wildlife-Toolkit">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)</a>						
When applying this condition sheet, good practice would be to use the methodology associated with the EWBG toolkit.						
<b>Footnote 1</b> - See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch <i>Betula</i> sp., cherry <i>Prunus</i> sp. or <i>Sorbus</i> sp.: 0 – 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or <i>Sorbus</i> 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.						
<b>Footnote 2</b> - 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.						
<b>Footnote 3</b> - 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 *Lamium 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)

and:

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

**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.

### 3.2.7 Woodland habitat creation

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)			
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved (proposed Moderate condition)			
Habitat Creation / Management Proposals			
<p>Approximately 2.88ha of broadleaved woodland planting on the site using a suitable mix of native tree and shrub species that are typical of an acid pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) / silver birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>) woodland community. This planting will be located in the far north of the site alongside the northern, north-eastern and north-western boundaries (as depicted on the site restoration plan) and this will bolster and enhance existing woodland habitat connectivity both on and off site.</p> <p>The new woodland stands will be planted out with the native species mixtures as whips and then enclosed with stock fencing to ensure that the whips are protected from both wild and livestock grazing on the site. Planting and aftercare of the whips will all follow horticultural best practice methods to ensure successful establishment of the habitat.</p> <p>The woodland planting blocks will be managed, maintained and enhanced via a suite of measures, including clearance of any bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) thickets and or dense stands of bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) or common nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), minor coppicing works and removal of any garden escapes or other non-native species such as sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>), provision of deadwood habitat including log and brushwood heaps and loggeries or log pyramids.</p>			
<p><a href="#">ukhab – UK Habitat Classification</a></p> <p>This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here:  <a href="#">Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk)</a></p> <p>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.</p>			
<b>Site name and location</b>	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	<b>On-site or off-site</b>	On-site
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>	N/A	<b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b>	N/A
<b>Grid reference</b>	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	<b>Habitat parcel reference</b>	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria			

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)
A	<b>Age distribution of trees</b>	Three age-classes <sup>1</sup> present.	Two age-classes <sup>1</sup> present.	One age-class <sup>1</sup> present.	1	It is considered only possible to achieve one tree age class (small / young) within the target management period where specimens are grown from whips.
B	<b>Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage</b>	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland <sup>2</sup> .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland <sup>2</sup> .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland <sup>2</sup> .	3	All new woodland planting will be protected with stock fencing which will prevent any browsing damage.
C	<b>Invasive plant species</b>	No invasive species <sup>3</sup> present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, other invasive species <sup>3</sup> <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species <sup>3</sup> >10% cover.	3	The new woodland planting will be checked on an annual basis for presence of any invasive plant species and these will be appropriately eradicated wherever they are encountered.
D	<b>Number of native tree species</b>	Five or more native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species <sup>4</sup> across woodland parcel.	3	The proposed woodland planting mixture will comprise > five native tree and shrub

						species and there will regularly be > five native woody species present across each planting block.
<b>E</b>	<b>Cover of native tree and shrub species</b>	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native <sup>5</sup> .	3	The proposed woodland planting mixture will comprise > five native tree and shrub species and there will regularly be > five native woody species present across each planting block.
<b>F</b>	<b>Open space within woodland</b>	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> . Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted <sup>7</sup> .	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> .	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space <sup>6</sup> . But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category <sup>7</sup> .	3	The entire woodland habitat resource on the restored site (including both the existing stands and the new planting) will be substantially below 10ha in total area and any temporary open spaces will be < 20% in total.
<b>G</b>	<b>Woodland regeneration</b>	All three classes present in woodland <sup>8</sup> ; trees 4 - 7 cm	One or two classes only present in woodland <sup>8</sup> .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in	3	At the end of the target management period it is

		Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.		woodland <sup>8</sup> .		considered that all three woodland regeneration classes could potentially be present amongst the new planting. This aspect will be monitored and natural regeneration of native tree and shrub species within the new woodland planting blocks will be encouraged wherever possible via clearance of bramble and coppice management techniques.
<b>H</b>	<b>Tree health</b>	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback <sup>9</sup> .	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present <sup>9</sup> .	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present <sup>9</sup> .	3	The health of all planted specimens will be monitored on an annual basis and any dead or severely diseased specimens will be removed and replaced. Ash ( <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ), which is highly susceptible to ash dieback

						disease ( <i>Hymenoscyphus fraxineus</i> ), will not be incorporated within the proposed woodland planting mixture.
I	<b>Vegetation and ground flora</b>	Recognisable NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community <sup>10</sup> at ground layer present.	1	It is considered unlikely that a recognisable NVC woodland plant community will be established within the target management period. Although the botanical development of the created woodland blocks will be monitored at regular intervals during the target management period.
J	<b>Woodland vertical structure</b>	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland <sup>11</sup> .	Two storeys across all survey plots <sup>11</sup> .	One or less storey across all survey plots <sup>11</sup> .	2	It is considered that a distinct tree and shrub stratum will likely be achieved by the end of the target management period.
K	<b>Veteran trees</b>	Two or more	One veteran	No veteran	1	This

		veteran trees <sup>12</sup> per hectare.	tree <sup>12</sup> per hectare.	trees <sup>12</sup> present in woodland.		condition criterion is impossible to achieve within the target management period.
L	<b>Amount of deadwood</b>	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities <sup>13</sup> .	2	A significant amount of ground-level deadwood habitat will be created across the new woodland planting areas.
M	<b>Woodland disturbance</b>	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident <sup>14</sup> .	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground <sup>14</sup> .	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground <sup>14</sup> .	3	No significant nutrient enrichment or ground damage would be expected during the target management period as the woodland planting blocks will be secured with stock fencing and the site does not adjoin any intensively managed agricultural land.
<b>Total Score (out of a possible 39)</b>					<b>31</b>	
<b>Condition Assessment Result</b>				<b>Condition Assessment Score</b>	<b>Result Achieved</b>	

Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	<b>Moderate (2)</b>
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)	

**Footnotes**

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment methodology: EWBG (No date). *Assessing your Woodland's Condition* [online]. Available from:

[Woodland Wildlife Toolkit \(sylva.org.uk\)](http://sylva.org.uk)

When applying this condition sheet, good practice would be to use the methodology associated with the EWBG toolkit.

**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 *Lamiastrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum*; rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*; and tree-of-heaven *Alianthus 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)

and:

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

**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.

### 3.2.8 Scattered rural tree planting

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Type(s)			
Individual trees - Rural trees (proposed Moderate condition)			
Habitat Creation / Management Proposals			
Planting a total of 41 scattered trees on site using a mix of suitable native species, but mostly pedunculate oak.			
The new trees will be planted out as whips and each enclosed with stock fencing to ensure that the whips are protected from both wild and livestock grazing on the site. Planting and aftercare of the whips will all follow horticultural best practice methods to ensure successful establishment.			
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 must overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.			
Site name and location	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire,	On-site or off-site	On-site



	S031 4NL		
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>	N/A	<b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b>	N/A
<b>Grid reference</b>	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	<b>Habitat parcel reference</b>	N/A
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	All of the proposed scattered tree planting will comprise UK native species, mostly pedunculate oak.
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	It is considered that this criterion will be met by the end of the target management period and all planted trees will have developed healthy, continuous canopies.
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	No	This criterion will be impossible to achieve within the target management 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.	Yes	It is expected that all of the new planted trees will pass this criterion and there will be only a very low risk of adverse human impact. This aspect will be monitored during the trial management period and any severely damaged trees will be replaced.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	It is generally not expected that this criterion will be met within the target management period as the planted trees will not be sufficiently mature specimens to have

			developed such ecological niche features.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	It is considered that this criterion will be met by the end of the target management period and all planted trees will have developed healthy, continuous canopies that over-sail the vegetation beneath.
Number of criteria passed		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)	<b>It is expected that all of the planted scattered trees will pass 4 criteria and achieve a Moderate (2) condition score.</b>	
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			
N/A			
Footnotes			
<p><b>Footnote 1</b> - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: <a href="https://publishing.service.gov.uk">Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)</a> and: <a href="https://www.gov.uk">Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>			

### 3.2.9 Wetland habitat creation

<b>Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type</b>
Habitat Type(s)
<b>Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat) (proposed Moderate condition)</b>
Habitat Creation / Management Proposals
Creation of three shallow waterbodies (pools), covering a total combined area of approximately 0.8ha of land, which will be planted with a suitable mix of native macrophytic plant species.

<p>Ongoing management of these pools will include annual to biannual cutting and removal of established macrophytic vegetation wherever it is becoming particularly dense, control of competitive species such as bulrush (<i>Typha latifolia</i>) and common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) where they become established, clearance and removal of undesirable free-floating surface water vegetation (duckweeds (<i>Lemna spp</i>) and filamentous algae) using hand nets, removal of any non-native and invasive plant species where they become established, and periodic removal of silt and organic debris accumulations. There will also be some interaction with and marginal grazing by low densities of livestock for short periods during the autumn and winter months, although this will only apply to the northern pool as it will be situated within a larger area where autumn and winter livestock grazing is proposed.</p>			
<p><a href="#">ukhab – UK Habitat Classification</a> - -</p> <p>For ponds (non-priority) – see the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Technical Annex 2.</p>			
<b>Site name and location</b>	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	<b>On-site or off-site</b>	On-site
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>	N/A	<b>Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)</b>	N/A
<b>Grid reference</b>	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	<b>Habitat parcel reference</b>	N/A
<b>Condition Assessment Criteria</b>		<b>Criterion passed (Yes or No)</b>	<b>Notes (such as justification)</b>
<b>Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland<sup>1</sup> and non-woodland):</b>			
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	Yes	Water quality is expected to be good for both pools with the proposed management regime being implemented. Any interaction with livestock will only be for short time periods and of low intensity and is therefore not expected to adversely

			affect the water quality.
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	Yes	Both pools will be entirely surrounded by 'Medium' distinctiveness habitats comprising a mosaic of grassland and scattered scrub.
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	No	Water surface accumulations of duckweed and filamentous algae may potentially exceed 10% cover in a given year during the target monitoring period. However, management measures will aim to prevent this via clearance and removal of undesirable free-floating surface water vegetation using hand nets.
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Yes	There will be no artificial connections.
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams <sup>2</sup> , pumps or pipework.	Yes	The water levels in the pools will be entirely allowed to

			fluctuate naturally.
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species <sup>3</sup> .	Yes	The pools will be monitored for the presence / establishment of any non-native species. Where any non-native species are discovered, these will be appropriately eradicated.
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Yes	It is not proposed that the pools will be stocked with any fish.
<b>Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:</b>			
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) <sup>4</sup> cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	No	It is considered unlikely that more than 50% of the pool areas on site will be covered by desirable macrophytic vegetation, comprising a diverse mixture of emergent, submerged and free-floating plant species. However, the development of the macrophytic vegetation within the pools will be monitored

			during the trial management period and targeted management interventions undertaken where required.
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Yes	The proposed stands of scrub planting on site have been set back from the two pools so that they will not cause any adverse shading impacts and an open area of grassland habitat surrounds each pool.
<b>Number of criteria passed</b>		<b>7</b>	
<b>Condition Assessment Result</b>	<b>Condition Assessment Score</b>	<b>Score Achieved</b> x/✓	
<b>Results for woodland ponds which require assessment of 7 core criteria</b>			
Passes 7 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
<b>Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria</b>			
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
<b>Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score</b>			
N/A			
<b>Footnote 1</b> - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.			
<b>Footnote 2</b> - This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> .			
<b>Footnote 3</b> - Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021) <i>Classification of aquatic alien species</i>			

according to their level of impact [online]. Available from:

[UKTAG classification of alien species working paper v8.pdf \(wfd.uk.org\)](#)

- Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern *Azolla filiculoides*, Australian swamp stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*, parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* and Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* (on the bank).
- Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, zebra mussels *Dreissena polymorpha*, killer shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*, demon shrimp *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes*, carp *Cyprinus carpio*.

**Footnote 4** - If the pond is seasonal (as in, it dries out in most summers) then emergent species alone are likely to be found.

### 3.2.10 Damp / pond edge grassland habitat creation

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)			
Grassland - Other neutral grassland (proposed Moderate condition)			
Site name and location	The former Hamble Airfield, Hamble-le-Rice, Hampshire, SO31 4NL	On-site or off-site	On-site
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	Approximate central Grid Ref: SU 47765 07807	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Habitat Creation / Management Proposals			
<p>Areas of damp ground, either surrounding the two waterbodies (pools) or for locations where surface water drainage is required, covering a total combined area of approximately 1.83ha of land, will be prepared and then seeded with a suitable native pond edge or marshy grassland seed mixture.</p> <p>Once these damp grassland swards have become established, after a period of between 4 and 5 years, they will then be managed via annual mowing in late summer (between mid-August and late-September) with the collection and removal of all of the arisings (e.g. via hay bailing), followed by autumn / winter 'aftermath' grazing by low densities of cattle and/or sheep.</p>			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on	Yes	It is expected that the target damp grassland

	<p>its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present.</p> <p><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>		<p>habitat will establish where the proposed seeding is undertaken on the relevant sections of damp ground on site. The initial establishment of the vegetation will be monitored and supplementary seeding and/or removal of any undesirable species will be undertaken as necessary to ensure that the habitat establishes successfully.</p>
B	<p>Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.</p>	No	<p>During the peak summer growing season, when there is a cessation of livestock grazing on site, it is expected that these damp grassland swards will all exceed 7 cm in average height. Damp grassland habitat that has a significant component of rushes (<i>Juncus spp</i>) and tall forbs typically comprises a taller sward during the peak growing season. Notwithstanding the above notes, this condition aspect will be continually monitored during the trial management period to check whether outcomes are better or worse than expected.</p>
C	<p>Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens<sup>1</sup>.</p>	No	<p>The proposed damp grassland habitat areas are expected to form a relatively continuous tall sward with minimal bare ground cover. Poaching damage by low numbers of livestock during the autumn and winter period is</p>



			<p>expected to be minimal and will repair in the growing season. The damp grassland habitat will also be confined to the areas of the site where public access is excluded.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above notes, this condition aspect will be continually monitored during the trial management period to check whether outcomes are better or worse than expected.</p>
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	These areas of damp grassland will be maintained as open habitat without any scrub establishment.
E	<p>Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition<sup>2</sup> 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.</p> <p>If any invasive non-native plant species<sup>3</sup> (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA<sup>4</sup>) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.</p>	Yes	With the proposed grassland management regime implemented, negative grassland indicator species such as creeping thistle ( <i>Cirsium arvense</i> ) and common nettle ( <i>Urtica dioica</i> ) would be infrequent across the sward.
<b>Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types</b>			
F	<p>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).</p> <p><b>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</b></p>	Yes	It is expected that the proposed habitat creation and management regime will result in a good level of overall botanical diversity in the sward, and in almost all cases > 10 vascular plant species will be present per one metre <sup>2</sup> .
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		Yes	
Number of criteria passed		4	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
<b>Acid Grassland Types (Result out of 5 criteria)</b>			
Passes 5 criteria		Good (3)	

Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
<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)		
<p><b>Footnote 1</b> – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.</p> <p><b>Footnote 2</b> - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>, broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i>, white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.</p> <p><b>Footnote 3</b> – 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, by applying professional judgement.</p> <p><b>Footnote 4</b> – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).</p>			

## 4.0 REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX I: Baseline site photography (02/08/2023)



**Photo 1:** overview of the grassland habitat on site depicting a distinctly rank and overgrown sward largely dominated by coarse grass species



**Photo 2:** another view of the grassland habitat on site depicting locally-dominant patches of the negative indicator species creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)



**Photo 3:** overview of the dominant habitat type present across the site comprising a mosaic of rank base-poor grassland and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) scrub



**Photo 4:** example view of one of the grassland vegetation quadrat samples recorded on site for the baseline condition assessment, depicting a distinctly species-poor sward with less than 10 vascular plant species recorded per metre<sup>2</sup>





**Photo 5:** localised small patches of shorter sward acid grassland in the far north of the site being maintained by wild deer and rabbit grazing, these shorter swards were also generally species-poor



**Photo 6:** the acid grassland indicator species sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) and early hair-grass (*Aira praecox*) photographed amongst the swards in the north of the site during the baseline condition assessment, other acid grassland species noted included broom fork-moss (*Dicranum scoparium*) and juniper haircap (*Polytrichum juniperinum*)



**Photo 7:** overview of native hedgerow H1 showing relatively dense shrub layer and a number of mature standard pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees



**Photo 8:** overview of native hedgerow H2 showing numerous mature standard pedunculate oak trees and a relatively gappy shrub layer





**Photo 9:** substantial gaps noted in the shrub layer of hedgerow H2



**Photo 10:** view within part of the broadleaved woodland habitat area adjacent to the north-western boundary of the site showing a relatively well-established habitat with mature canopy and understorey layers



**Photo 11:** regenerating small native trees and shrubs photographed within the broadleaved woodland habitat area in the north-west of the site



**Photo 12:** a notable mature (possible veteran) specimen of pedunculate oak recorded alongside the eastern boundary of the site and assessed to be in 'Good' condition, this particular tree will be retained within the project buffer zone



**Photo 13:** example photo showing a small specimen of pedunculate oak on site assessed to be in 'Moderate' condition