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Land Off Shaw Lane, Carlton, Barnsley

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Vistry Group

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Envance

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
2. Methodology	1
2.1 Scope of the Assessment	1
2.2 Desk Study	3
2.3 Extended UKHab Survey	3
2.4 Biodiversity	3
2.5 Limitations	4
3. Baseline Conditions	5
3.1 Site Description	5
3.2 Designated Sites	5
3.3 Priority Habitat	6
3.4 Waterbodies	6
3.5 Habitat Networks	6
3.6 Site Habitats	7
3.7 Protected Species	8
3.8 Invasive Non-Native Species	10
3.9 Biodiversity	10
4. Evaluation	11
4.1 The Proposed Development	11
4.2 Important Ecological Features and Recommendations	11
References	12
Figures	13
Appendix 1. Legislation and Policy	15
Appendix 2. Photographs	18
Appendix 3. Bird Species Recorded within 2 km of Site	23
Appendix 4. Habitat Condition Assessment	25

Tables

Table 1. The Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.	1
Table 2. Geographical scale of Important Ecological Feature categories.	2
Table 3. Regulatory framework.	3
Table 4. Statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site.	5
Table 5. Non-statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site.	6
Table 6. Priority Habitat within 2 km of the Site.	6
Table 7. Description of Site habitats.	7
Table 8. Biodiversity value of Site habitats.	10
Table 9. Important Ecological Features and Recommendations.	11

Figures

Figure 1. Site location.	13
Figure 2. Baseline habitats.	14

Summary

Envance was commissioned by Vistry Group in January 2026 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a parcel of land off Shaw Lane, Carlton, Barnsley (the 'Site'). This was required in relation to an outline planning application for the construction of up to 215 residential dwellings at the Site.

The Site is approximately 7.7 hectares in area. Habitats present are listed below:

- arable cropland with other neutral grassland field margins
- pond
- individual rural trees
- native hedgerow
- line of trees.

The hedgerow is Priority Habitat and is considered of importance to nature conservation at the Local Level. The other habitats are not Priority Habitats and are of importance to nature conservation at the Less than Local Level.

Important Ecological Features relevant to the Proposed Development

1. Nearby nature reserves

Dearne Valley Wetlands Site of Special Scientific Interest, Carlton Marsh Local Nature Reserve and Barnsley Canal Local Wildlife Site are all located within 40 m of the Site and may be hydrologically and/or ecologically connected to the Site.

2. Hedgerow Priority Habitat

All hedgerow within the Site is Priority Habitat.

3. Great crested newts

The Site has low potential to support great crested newts. However, there is a pond within the Site and ecological records suggest newts are present in a local pond approximately 200 m to the south.

4. Nesting birds (common and widespread species)

Hedgerow habitat within the Site may support active birds' nests during the bird breeding season.

Recommendations

1. A Construction Environmental Management Plan should demonstrate how pollution and disturbance to nearby nature reserves will be avoided during the construction phase.
2. Hedgerow should be retained, enhanced and connectivity improved.
3. An eDNA test for great crested newt presence at the Site pond is recommended.
4. Appropriate checks for active nests should be carried out if vegetation and/or ground clearance is scheduled during the nesting season.
5. A Biodiversity Net Gain plan (and thirty-year Habitat Management Plan) should be prepared to demonstrate how a minimum 10 % gain for the Proposed Development will be achieved.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Envance was commissioned by Vistry Group in January 2026 to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of a parcel of land off Shaw Lane, Carlton, Barnsley (the 'Site'; central National Grid Reference SE 37390 10331). The Site location is shown in **Figure 1**. The PEA was required in relation to an outline planning application for the construction of up to 215 residential dwellings together with associated infrastructure, open space, landscaping, and drainage works (the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 This report documents survey findings and evaluates the likely Important Ecological Features of the Site in line with CIEEM (2017; 2018) and CIRIA (2019) guidance. Methodologies employed are described and an evaluation of the Site is given, with recommendations for any further survey work and/or mitigation measures included, where appropriate.

2. Methodology

2.1 Scope of the Assessment

- 2.1.1 The predicted Zone of Influence arising from the Proposed Development is shown in **Table 1**. The field survey area focussed on the Site. However, adjacent land was also viewed, where possible, and aerial photography for the area was also examined.

Table 1. The Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.

Zone of Influence: radial distance from Site	Potential Receptors
Up to 5 km	Internationally important sites for nature conservation
Up to 2 km	All other Important Ecological Features

- 2.1.2 Important Ecological Features for the Site have been assessed against the geographical scale categories set out in **Table 2** and the regulatory (legal and planning policy) framework set out in **Table 3** (see also **Appendix 1**). Such features require further specific assessment within the Ecological Impact Assessment process.
- 2.1.3 Important Ecological Features for the scale and nature of this project have been identified as anything at the Local level or above. This level has been set as these features are most likely to result in significant effects if they are impacted due to the size, scale and nature of the Proposed Development. Ecological features valued at Less than Local level are not considered to be important in this context. The presence of an Important Ecological Feature may ultimately represent a constraint on the design and/or layout of a project.

Table 2. Geographical scale of Important Ecological Feature categories.

Geographical level of importance	Category
International	Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar sites.
National (U.K., England).	<p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR).</p> <p>Ancient Woodland.</p> <p>Habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity (Priority Habitat and Priority Species) as listed on Schedule 41 of the NERC Act (2006) including ecologically important hedgerows under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.</p> <p>Red List (using IUCN criteria¹) and nationally rare or scarce species and Birds of Conservation Concern².</p>
Regional (Northern England)	<p>Sites with habitats which exceed the county-level designations but fall short of SSSI selection criteria.</p> <p>Resident, or regularly occurring populations of species which may be considered at an International, European, UK or National level where: the loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at this scale; or the population forms a critical part of a wider population at this scale; or the species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale. This may include regularly occurring, locally significant populations of a species listed as being nationally scarce, which occurs in 16-100 10 km squares in the UK, or in a Regional Biodiversity Action Plan. It may also include a regularly occurring, locally significant population/number of a regionally important species.</p>
County (South Yorkshire)	Local Nature Reserves (LNR), non-statutory designated wildlife sites (Local Wildlife Sites).
Local (immediate local area importance)	<p>Designated Sites including LNRs and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) designated in the local context.</p> <p>Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the local context (e.g. species-rich hedgerows, ponds etc.). It may also include sites that retain other elements of semi-natural vegetation that due to their size, quality or the wide distribution of such habitats within the local area are not considered for local designations.</p> <p>Populations/assemblages of species that appreciably enrich the biodiversity resource within the local context.</p>
Less than Local (within the Site and immediate vicinity)	Very low importance and rarity, local scale. Habitats and/or species that are of limited ecological importance due to their size, species composition or other factors.

¹ <https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/categories-and-criteria>.

² <https://www.bto.org/our-work/science/publications/reports/birds-conservation-concern>.

Table 3. Regulatory framework.

Legislation and Policy
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)
Hedgerow Regulations 1997
Environment Act 2021
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2025
Barnsley Local Plan

2.2 Desk Study

- 2.2.1 A desk study was undertaken to inform the requirements for survey and obtain additional ecological information outside the scope of field survey. The following information was sought and considered:
- records of notable protected and Priority Species within 2 km of the Site;
 - records of Priority Habitats and Ancient Woodland;
 - details of any statutory sites of ecological interest;
 - details of any non-statutory sites of ecological interest;
 - presence of any ponds or other waterbodies within 250 m of the Site boundary.
- 2.2.2 The Multi Agency Geographic Information Centre (MAGIC) website (www.magic.gov.uk) was consulted along with publicly available aerial imagery. Records of specially protected/notable species were purchased from Barnsley Biological Records Centre (BBRC) for a 2 km radius around the Site. Only recent records (2016 – present) were considered in this report.
- 2.2.3 Previous ecology survey reports for the Site were also reviewed as appropriate (Rachel Hacking Ecology 2023a,b).

2.3 Extended UKHab Survey

- 2.3.1 An extended UKHab survey of the Site was undertaken by Envance ecologist Dermot McKee on 12th January 2026. The survey identified Site habitats according to the UK Habitat Classification system (UKHab, 2023) and was ‘extended’ to consider the potential of the habitats to support protected or notable species. Weather conditions during the survey were good.
- 2.3.2 Plant names follow Stace (2019) and an indication of the relative abundance of individual plant species is given using the DAFOR scale (D = dominant, A = abundant, F = frequent, O = occasional, R = rare).
- 2.3.3 Invasive plant or animal species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) were recorded as seen.

2.4 Biodiversity

- 2.4.1 The condition of Site habitats was assessed according to current guidelines (UKGov, 2026). The baseline biodiversity value of Site habitats was calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric

(UKGov, 2026).

2.5 Limitations

- 2.5.1 This report serves to indicate the value of the Site in nature conservation terms based upon the survey data gathered. As with any survey of this kind, the information collected defines the habitat types present within the Site and their condition and is not intended to be a record of every species present.
- 2.5.2 All areas of the Site were readily accessible and weather conditions during the survey were good. It is considered that a robust assessment of the Site has been made without any significant limitations.
- 2.5.3 The assessment for non-statutory designated sites is based on information provided by the local biological record holder and no visits have been made to designated sites. Any absence of desk study records cannot be relied upon to infer absence of a species/habitat as the absence of records may be a result of under-recording within the given search area.
- 2.5.4 Ecological surveys are limited by factors that affect the presence of plants and animals, such as the time of year, weather, migration patterns and behaviour. This survey was undertaken outside of the optimum season for conducting habitat and botanical surveys. However, given the agricultural nature of the habitat within the Site, this is not viewed as a significant limitation.
- 2.5.5 The botanical survey does not constitute a Phase 2 pre-construction survey that would include accurate GIS mapping for invasive or protected plant species.
- 2.5.6 Attention was paid to the presence of any invasive species listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). However, the detectability of such species varies due to a number of factors, e.g. time of year, site management, etc., and hence the absence of invasive species should not be assumed even if no such species were detected during the Phase 1 survey.
- 2.5.7 The majority of ecological data remain valid for only short periods due to the inherently transient nature of the subject. The survey results contained in this report are considered accurate for 18 months, assuming no significant considerable changes to the Site conditions and overall nature and scale of development.

3. Baseline Conditions

3.1 Site Description

3.1.1 The Site is approximately 7.673 hectares in area and comprises an agricultural field bordered by hedgerow and a fenceline. It is located in Carlton, north-west Barnsley, and is surrounded by industrial agricultural land and urban development (**Figure 1**). A railway corridor is immediately adjacent to the east, Shaw Lane is immediately adjacent to the south, and the Barnsley Canal is located to the west. Minor ecological connectivity between the Site and the wider green landscape is provided via the railway corridor and the canal.

3.2 Designated Sites

Statutory

- 3.2.1 There are no internationally important sites for nature conservation within 5 km of the Site.
- 3.2.2 Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI and Carlton Marsh LNR are located to the east of the Site (**Table 4**). Ecological connectivity between the Site and the SSSI/LNR is poor because there is no directly linking habitat. Shaw Lane and the railway line are isolating barriers between the Site and the SSSI/LNR. However, there may be hydrological connectivity between the Site and the SSSI/LNR, although Rachel Hacking Ecology (2023a) report that the drainage scheme for the Site will ensure that only clean water will be released into the local environment.

Table 4. Statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site.

Name and designation	Summary Interest	Location Relative to the Site (closest point)	Ecological Connectivity with Site
Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI	Wetland habitat important for supporting water birds.	40 m south-east	Poor
Carlton Marsh LNR (concomitant with Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI)	Wetland habitat important for supporting water birds.	40 m south-east	Poor

3.2.3 The close proximity of Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI and Carlton Marsh LNR is a possible constraint for the Proposed Development, and both sites are considered to be Important Ecological Features.

Non-Statutory

3.2.4 There are two non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation within 2 km of the Site (**Table 5**). Rabbit Ings LWS has negligible ecological connectivity with the Site and is unlikely to be affected by the Proposed Development in any significant way. The Barnsley Canal, on the other hand, has close proximity to the Site and has moderate potential ecological connectivity with the Site. Its location may be a constraint to the Proposed Development, and it is considered to be an Important Ecological Feature.

Table 5. Non-statutory designated sites within 2 km of the Site.

Name and designation	Summary Interest	Approximate Location relative to Site (closest point)	Ecological Connectivity with Site
Barnsley Canal LWS	Wetland	40 m south-west	Moderate
Rabbit Ings LWS	Open grassland and scrub	1 km north-east	Negligible

3.3 Priority Habitat

- 3.3.1 Three Priority Habitat types occur within 2 km of the Site (**Table 6**). However, there is no significant ecological connectivity between the Site and these Priority Habitats, and their presence is not considered to be a constraint for the Proposed Development.
- 3.3.2 The Site contains native hedgerow Priority Habitat. This is discussed in section 3.6 below.

Table 6. Priority Habitat within 2 km of the Site.

Priority Habitat Type	Location Relative to Site (closest point)	Ecological Connectivity with Site
Deciduous woodland	Small parcels of this habitat throughout the landscape. Nearest parcel 50 m to the south-west.	Poor – separated from Site by Shaw Lane
Good quality semi-improved grassland	750 m south-east	Poor – separated from Site by Shaw Land and Railway corridor
Traditional orchard	1.1 km south-west	None – separated from Site by urban development

3.4 Waterbodies

- 3.4.1 There is a pond within the Site and a pond approximately 200 m to the south of the Site (**Figure 1**). These are discussed further in sections 3.6 and 3.7.
- 3.4.2 The Barnsley Canal is located approximately 40 m to the south-west of the Site as discussed in section 3.2.
- 3.4.3 There are no rivers or other water bodies within the Site or adjacent to the Site.

3.5 Habitat Networks

- 3.5.1 The Site does not appear to be within any formal habitat network.

3.6 Site Habitats

3.6.1 Site habitats are described in **Table 7** and mapped in **Figure 2**. Photographs are shown in **Appendix 2**.

Table 7. Description of Site habitats.

Habitat	Description
Cereal crop c1c	<p>The majority area of the Site is cereal cropland (Photograph 1).</p> <p>This habitat is common and widespread and is of importance to nature conservation at the Less than Local level. The presence of this habitat type is not a potential constraint for the Proposed Development.</p>
Other neutral grassland g3c	<p>There are 1 m wide grassland margins around the border of the Site and around the border of the pond. This is species-poor habitat and highly affected by nutrient input and, probably, herbicide input. Species present include false oat-grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>, creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, cock’s foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>, ground ivy <i>Glechoma hederacea</i>, bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. and nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>.</p> <p>This habitat is common and widespread and is of importance to nature conservation at the Less than Local level. The presence of this habitat type is not a potential constraint for the Proposed Development.</p>
Individual rural tree 200	<p>There are five individual rural trees adjacent to the railway fence along the eastern border of the Site (Photograph 8). They are all semi-mature ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>. T1, T2, T3 are small-sized and T4, T5 are medium-sized.</p> <p>This is not Priority Habitat. It is common and widespread and is of importance to nature conservation at the Less than Local level. The presence of this habitat type is not a potential constraint for the Proposed Development.</p>
Pond (non-priority) r1g, 41	<p>There is a small pond (P1) in the middle of the field (Photograph 9). It appears to be part of the field drainage system. The water was turbid and the quality was poor. It is highly likely that nutrient and herbicide input have strongly affected this habitat. Aquatic species present included frequent common duckweed <i>Lemna minor</i> and occasional water mint <i>Mentha aquatica</i> with common reedmace <i>Typha latifolia</i> and great willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> as frequent emergents. Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is present in the surrounding other neutral grassland field margin and there are four small-sized willow species <i>Salix</i> sp. plants.</p> <p>This is not Priority Habitat. It is common and widespread and is of importance to nature conservation at the Less than Local level. The presence of this habitat type is not a potential constraint for the Proposed Development.</p>

Habitat	Description
Other native hedgerow h2a6	<p>The Site is bordered by five lengths of species-poor, defunct, common hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> hedgerow (Photographs 2-6).</p> <p>This is Priority Habitat and an Important Ecological Feature for the Proposed Development.</p>
Line of Trees 33	<p>A line of trees runs along part of the southern border of the Site, alongside Shaw Lane (Photograph 7). Trees present are semi-mature field maple <i>Acer campestre</i>, willow species <i>Salix</i> sp., and occasional common hawthorn.</p> <p>This is not Priority Habitat. It is common and widespread and is of importance to nature conservation at the Less than Local level. The presence of this habitat type is not a potential constraint for the Proposed Development.</p>

3.7 Protected Species

Amphibians

- 3.7.1 BBRC returned five recent records for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* from within 2 km of the Site. The closest record was a positive eDNA test from a pond approximately 220 m to the south of the Site (**Photograph 10**; P2 **Figure 1**). The other four records were from Rabbit Ings LWS, approximately 1.7 km to the north-east of the Site.
- 3.7.2 BBRC returned five records for common toad *Bufo bufo* and seven records for smooth newt *Lissotriton vulgaris* from within 2 km of the Site. These were all from Carlton Marsh LNR and Rabbit Ings LWS. Site habitats are unlikely to support significant numbers of either species.
- 3.7.3 No amphibians were observed during the Site visit and no evidence for amphibian presence within the Site was found. Pond P1 within the Site (**Photograph 9**; **Figure 2**) has low potential to support great crested newts because it is isolated by cropland (which is very low-quality terrestrial habitat for newts) and has poor water quality. Newts are unlikely to travel to the Site from pond P2, and to cross Shaw Lane (which is a significant barrier to dispersal), because there is an abundance of much higher quality habitat closer to P2, especially to the south. Furthermore, a previous survey found pond P1 dry during mid-April (Rachel Hacking Ecology, 2023b). Nevertheless, as a precaution, great crested newts are considered to be a potential constraint for the Proposed Development and are an Important Ecological Feature. The Site is considered unlikely to support significant numbers of any other amphibian species.

Badgers

- 3.7.4 BBRC returned a single recent record of badger *Meles meles* from within 2 km of the Site. This was a footprint found in Carlton Marsh LNR approximately 750 m to the south of the Site.
- 3.7.5 No evidence for the presence of badgers was found during the Site visit. Site habitats are unsuitable for supporting badgers setts because they are open and exposed and have no banking or other areas secure from water-logging in which to dig. There is a low possibility that individuals may occasionally commute through the Site because animals can wander widely. However, it is unlikely that the Site is of significance for badgers in any way.

Bats

- 3.7.6 BBRC returned seventeen recent records of bats from within 2 km of the Site. These were for the following species: Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* (two records), noctule *Nyctalus noctula* (six records), common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (six records) and pipistrelle species (six records). These were all from Carlton Marsh LNR to the south of the Site.
- 3.7.7 There are no buildings or other structures within the Site. Individual trees within the Site are all semi-mature and have not developed any potential roost features (i.e. cavities, crevices, loose bark, woodpecker holes etc) that could support roosting bats. Roosting bats are highly unlikely to be present within the Site at any time.
- 3.7.8 Site habitats are considered of negligible potential suitability for supporting commuting and foraging bats. This is because the majority area of the Site is open and exposed agricultural field, and the Site hedgerows are under-developed, discontinuous and poorly connected to other areas of good habitat for bats in the local landscape.
- 3.7.9 Roosting, commuting and foraging bats are not considered to be a potential constraint for the Proposed Development and are not further discussed in this report.

Birds

- 3.7.10 BBRC returned seventy-six recent records of notable bird species from within 2 km of the Site (see **Appendix 3** for list; most of the records from the local designated sites). Of these, it is possible that the Site may support non-breeding dunnock, fieldfare, mistle thrush, redwing and wren. It is also possible that dunnock, whitethroat and wren may nest in very low numbers in the hedgerow within the Site.
- 3.7.11 The following species were recorded along hedgerow H2 during the Site visit: twenty-five fieldfare, eighteen redwing, one woodpigeon, five red-legged partridge. An old magpie nest was present in hedgerow H3.
- 3.7.12 The hedgerows are likely to provide nesting and foraging opportunities for common and widespread bird species typical of farmland and urban-fringe environments. Site habitats are unlikely to support any other specially protected or otherwise notable birds species.
- 3.7.13 Common and widespread species of nesting birds are considered to be an Important Ecological Feature, and the presence of active nests may be a potential constraint for the Proposed Development.

Reptiles

- 3.7.14 BBRC returned seven recent records of reptiles from within 2 km of the Site. These were all for grass snakes *Natrix Helvetica* observed in Carlton Marsh LNR (six records) and the Barnsley Canal (one record).
- 3.7.15 Site habitats are not considered suitable for supporting any reptile species because they lack the spatial and structural complexity typically required and are not connected with any other identified habitat of good quality for reptiles in the local area. On this basis reptile species are unlikely to be present on Site and are not considered to be a potential constraint for the Proposed Development.

Riparian mammals

- 3.7.16 BBRC returned three recent records of water vole *Arvicola amphibius* from within 2 km of the Site. Two of these records were of sightings on the Barnsley Canal, approximately 300 m to the north-west of the Site. The third was of field signs at Athersley Memorial Park approximately 1.7 km to the west. No records of otter *Lutra lutra* were returned.
- 3.7.17 Site habitats are unsuitable for supporting water voles and/or otters due to the lack of watercourses on or adjacent to the Site. On this basis, water voles and otters are not considered to be potential

constraints for the Proposed Development and are not further discussed in this report.

Other Notable Species

3.7.18 BBRC returned six records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* and seven records of brown hare *Lepus europaeus* from within 2 km of the Site. No evidence for either species was found within the Site during the visit, and it is considered unlikely that the Site is of any significance for either species. This is because of the intensive agricultural nature of Site habitats and, in particular, the lack of developed field margins.

3.8 Invasive Non-Native Species

3.8.1 BBRC returned records of a number of invasive non-native species of plant from within 2 km of the Site. These were for: New Zealand pygmyweed (six records), Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* (two records), Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera* (five records) and variegated yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon* subsp. *Argentatum* (one record).

3.8.2 No INNS of plants or animals were observed within, or adjacent to, the Site during the survey. On this basis, invasive non-native species are not currently considered to be a potential constraint for the Proposed Development.

3.9 Biodiversity

3.9.1 The total baseline biodiversity value of Site habitats is 16.72 Habitat Units (HU) and 2.64 Hedgerow Units (HeU). This is shown in **Table 8**. Condition Assessments are shown in **Appendix 4** and reference should also be made to the accompanying Statutory Biodiversity Metric Excel spreadsheet (1025 SBM 120126).

Table 8. Biodiversity value of Site habitats.

Habitat	Condition	Distinctiveness	Strategic Significance	Biodiversity Value
Cereal crop	N/A	low	low	14.33 HU
Grassland	poor	low	low	2.01 HU
Pond P1	poor	low	low	0.02 HU
Rural trees	moderate	low	low	0.36 HU
Total				16.72
Hedgerow H1	moderate	low	low	0.26 HeU
Hedgerow H2	moderate	low	low	0.62 HeU
Hedgerow H3	moderate	low	low	0.94 HeU
Hedgerow H4	moderate	low	low	0.32 HeU
Hedgerow H5	moderate	low	low	0.28 HeU
Line of trees	poor	low	low	0.22 HeU
Total				2.64

4. Evaluation

4.1 The Proposed Development

- 4.1.1 The Proposed Development is for the construction of housing and associated infrastructure within a field which is currently used for arable farming.

4.2 Important Ecological Features and Recommendations

- 4.2.1 Important Ecological Features have been identified for the Proposed Development. These are listed in **Table 9** with recommendations for further survey and/or mitigation, as appropriate.

Table 9. Important Ecological Features and Recommendations.

Important Ecological Feature	Description	Recommendations
Dearne Valley Wetlands SSSI, Carlton Marsh LNR, Barnsley Canal LWS	Nearby nature reserves that may be hydrologically connected and/or ecologically connected with the Site.	A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should demonstrate how the construction phase will avoid pollution and other disturbance to the local landscape.
Hedgerow Priority Habitat	All hedgerow within the Site is Priority Habitat and of significant value for nature conservation. The NERC Act (2006) and the NPPF (2025) require special consideration of Priority Habitat within the planning process.	Hedgerow habitat should be retained, enhanced and connectivity improved. A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) plan should be prepared to demonstrate how this will be appropriately achieved. A minimum 10% net gain will be required.
Great crested newts	The Site has low potential to support great crested newts. However, records suggest a nearby pond supports newts.	Pond P1 should be further investigated for the possible presence of great crested newts. In the first instance this should involve eDNA analysis of water samples (this must be done 15 th April to 30 th June).
Nesting birds	Hedgerows may support nesting birds. All wild birds, their nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).	If clearance is scheduled during bird nesting season, check for active nests no more than 48 hours prior. Establish a no disturbance exclusion zone if nests are found.

- 4.2.2 It should be noted that a Biodiversity Gain Plan and Habitat Management Plan should be prepared to demonstrate how compensation for the loss of habitat within the Site will be appropriately achieved. This can only be fully done when final landscape plans for the Site are produced. A minimum 10% net gain will be required, and this may not be entirely possible within the Site (and therefore off-site compensation may be required).

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Figures

Figure 1. Site location.



Key

 Site Boundary

0 100 200 m


Land Off Shaw Land, Carlton, Barnsley

Figure 1. Survey Area

Date	Jan 2026
Scale	1:5000@A3
Drawing Ref:	1025/PEA/Fig1

Carlton

P2



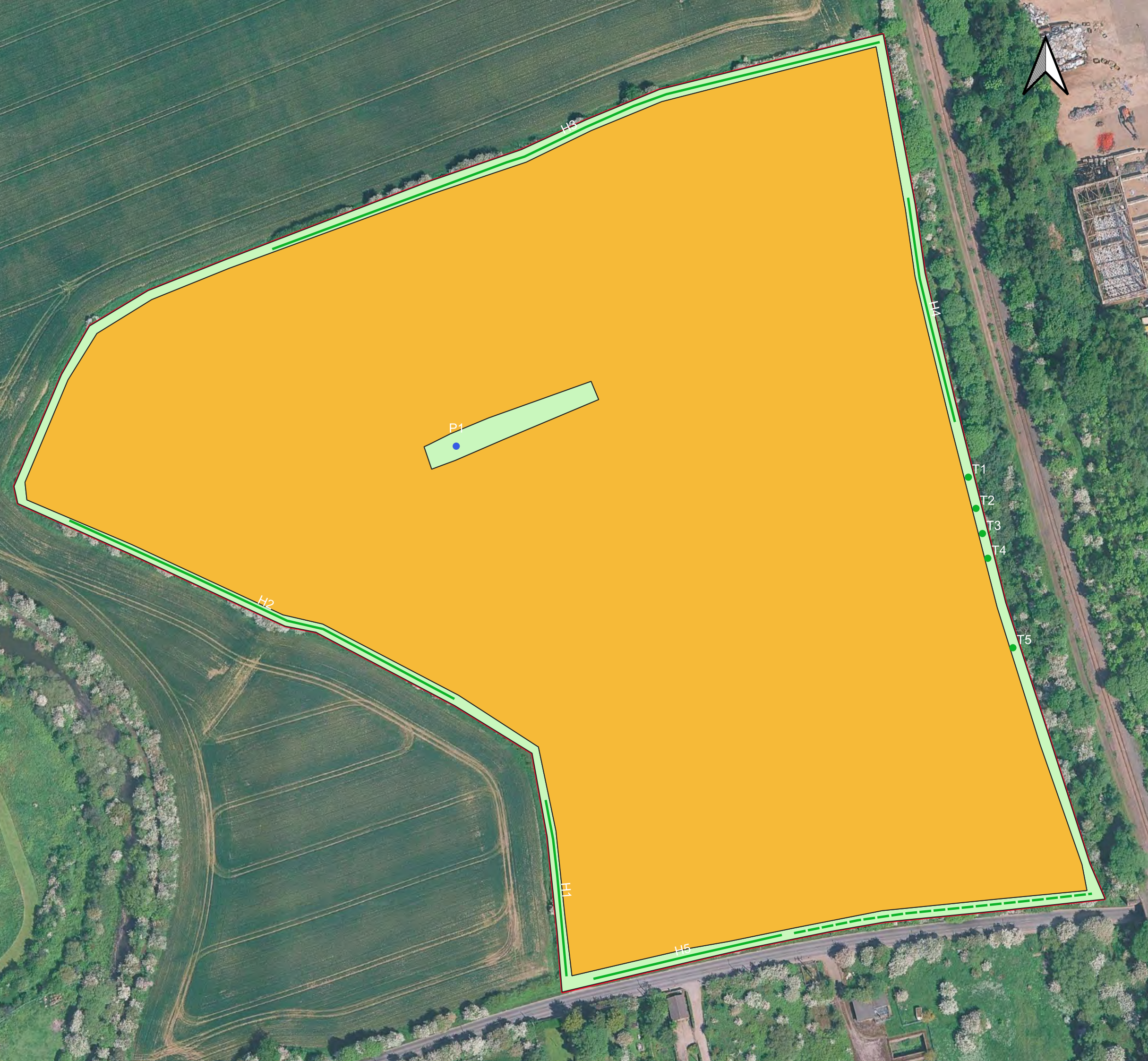
Unit 9 Acorn Business Park
Heaton Lane
Stockport
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SK4 1AS

0161 327 1 723

enquiries@envanceuk.com

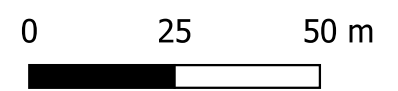
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Figure 2. Baseline habitats.



Key

- Site boundary
- Cereal crop
- Other neutral grassland
- Other native hedgerow
- Line of trees
- Rural tree
- Pond P1



Land Off Shaw Land, Carlton, Barnsley

Figure 2. Site Habitats

Date	Jan 2026
Scale	1:1300@A3
Drawing Ref:	1025/PEA/Fig2



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Appendix 1. Legislation and Policy

Legislation

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) allows for the designation of National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), to protect areas containing habitats and species of national or international importance.

The 1981 Act also provides for the protection of certain species. These include nesting birds, with additional special protection for birds listed within Schedule 1, as well as a range of other protected animals listed in Schedule 5 (including reptiles, water vole and certain species of invertebrates). A number of protected plant species are also listed within Schedule 8.

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 all badgers and their setts are protected from disturbance. The Act also includes provisions to allow Natural England to grant licences permitting interference with a badger sett in the course of development. Such a licence will normally incorporate conditions to ensure that undue disturbance and suffering to badgers is avoided during the development works.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into force on 1st October 2006. Section 41 (S41) of the Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

The S41 list is used to guide decision-makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006, to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England, when carrying out their normal functions.

The Conservation of Species and Habitats 2017 (as amended)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) provide domestic implementation of the EU Habitats Directive 1992. Under the Regulations, species listed in Annex II of the Directive are given strict protection in the UK as European protected species and it is an offence intentionally or recklessly to disturb or to harm a European protected species.

Projects which are likely to affect European protected species are subject to assessment criteria. Under Part 5 of the Regulations a licence may be granted for a project affecting a European protected species for specific purposes.

Natural England is the licensing authority for derogation licenses. A derogation licence may only be granted, provided:

- that there is no satisfactory alternative; and
- the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of a European protected species at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

All public authorities are required to have regard to the provisions of the Habitats Directive in the exercise of their functions under Regulation 9 of the Habitats Regulations. Guidance on the application of the Habitats Regulations is set out in the Joint ODPM and Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) circular 06/2005 & 01/2005.

Hedgerow Regulations 1997

Under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, provision is made for the notification of “important” hedgerows. To qualify for notification, hedgerows must fulfil a range of criteria relating to their historical, landscape or wildlife

character. In accordance with the Regulations, the intention to remove any hedgerow should be notified to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) via a hedgerow removal notice. The LPA may issue a Hedgerow Retention Notice to prevent the loss of an “important” hedgerow. Where permission is granted to remove an “important” hedgerow, the LPA may impose conditions to mitigate the loss.

Environment Act 2021

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is a way of creating and improving natural habitats. BNG makes sure development has a measurably positive impact (‘net gain’) on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development. The Environment Act makes a minimum 10% BNG mandatory for development projects. The statutory biodiversity metric calculation tool must be used in order to demonstrate this requirement and a 30-year habitat management plan must be produced which describes how habitats will be maintained and managed.

Policy

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2025) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Section 15 of the NPPF deals with conserving and enhancing the natural environment. Habitats and biodiversity are specifically referenced in paragraphs 179 to 182, as copied below.

Paragraph 192 is of particular relevance and is copied below.

‘To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

- Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
- b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.’

Barnsley Local Plan

Policy BIO1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by:

Protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value and sites of geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and geological sites of international, national and local significance, ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance identified via Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (for list of the species and habitats of principal importance) and in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan.

Maximising biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities in and around new developments. Conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the boroughs natural assets such as the river corridors of the Don, the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors.

Proposals will be expected to have followed the national mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate) which is used to evaluate the impacts of a development on biodiversity interest.

Protecting ancient and veteran trees where identified. Encouraging provision of biodiversity enhancements.

Development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature or habitat, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured. Development which adversely effects a European Site will not be permitted unless there is no alternative option and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI).

Appendix 2. Photographs

All following photographs taken by Dermot McKee on 12th January 2026



Photograph 1. Cropland habitat.



Photograph 2. Hedgerow H1.



Photograph 3. Hedgerow H2.



Photograph 4. Hedgerow H3.



Photograph 5. Hedgerow H4.



Photograph 6. Hedgerow H5.



Photograph 7. Line of trees.



Photograph 8. Individual rural trees.



Photograph 9. Pond P1.



Photograph 10. Pond P2.

Appendix 3. Bird Species Recorded within 2 km of Site

Recent records of bird species from within 2 km of the Site. **Red** text = species of high conservation concern (Stanbury *et al.* 2021); **amber** text = species of moderate conservation concern (Stanbury *et al.* 2021); **green** text = species of low conservation concern (Stanbury *et al.* 2021); ¹ = listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); * = Priority Species.

Table 9. Bird species recorded within 2 km of Site by BBRC.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Avocet ¹	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Bittern ¹ *	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Black-tailed Godwit ¹	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Cuckoo *	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Fieldfare ¹	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>
Garganey ¹	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>
Grasshopper Warbler *	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Greenshank ¹	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Grey Partridge *	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
House Sparrow *	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucooides</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Lapwing *	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Lesser Redpoll *	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>
Pintail ¹	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>

Land Off Shaw Lane, Carlton, Barnsley
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Redwing ¹	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
Reed Bunting *	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Spotted Flycatcher *	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Tree Sparrow *	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Whimbrel ¹	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>
Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Yellowhammer *	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Barn Owl ¹	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Brambling ¹	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
Hobby ¹	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Kingfisher ¹	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Little Ringed Plover ¹	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Peregrine ¹	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Pintail ¹	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Cetti's Warbler ¹	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
Red Kite ¹	<i>Milvus milvus</i>

Appendix 4. Habitat Condition Assessment

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types			
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland Grassland - Lowland meadows Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland Grassland - Other neutral grassland Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.] Grassland - Upland acid grassland Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland Grassland - Upland hay meadows Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site, Land off Shaw Lane	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	SE 37383 10338	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Habitat Description			
Agricultural field margin (1 m width). Influenced strongly by nutrient input and, probably, herbicide. Unmanaged. False oat-grass frequent, cock's foot frequent, nettle frequent, bramble frequent, cleavers frequent, creeping thistle occasional, ground ivy occasional. Area = 0.503 hectares (total).			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	Species-poor and eutrophied.
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	Rank sward. Unmanaged.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	Yes	Bareground minimal.
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	Bracken absent but cover of bramble 5-10% in places.

E	<p>Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition³ 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 species⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.</p>	No	Sub-optimal species prevalent and approximately 5 - 10% cover. No INNS apparent.
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	<p>There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count).</p> <p>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.</p>	No	Species-poor. Approximately 5 species per m ² .
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		1	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	POOR	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Notes			
<p>Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description.</p> <p>Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.</p> <p>Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal 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>Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.</p> <p>Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).</p>			

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.			
Please see separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of Rural trees.			
Habitat Description			
Five rural trees. All close together along railway fence. All semi-mature ash with signs of die-back. T1, T2, T3 small-sized. T4, T5 medium-sized.			
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.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site, Land off Shaw Land, Barnsley.	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	SE 37506 10332	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	All ash.
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	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	All semi-mature.
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.	No	All have die-back. All likely to be affected by nutrient and herbicide application to adjacent agricultural field.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	Trees not mature/developed enough.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	All canopies oversailing vegetation.
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	MODERATE	
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 score²			

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type			
Habitat Type			
Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)			
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)			
Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170) [Use this condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools, use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes]			
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental ponds, use Lake condition sheet for Ornamental lakes]			
Habitat Description			
Pond P1. Small pond (part of drainage system) in the middle of an agricultural field. Common reedmace occasional, great willowherb frequent, common duckweed frequent, watermint occasional. Water quality looked poor, with high turbidity (likely strongly affected by nutrient and herbicide input). Area = 0.004 hectares.			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
For ponds (non-priority) – see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site, land off Shaw Lane, Barnsley.	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	SE 37314 10356	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland¹ and non-woodland):			
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.	No	Water quality appeared poor, with high turbidity.
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.	No	Pond completely surrounded by agricultural field.
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	No	High cover of common duckweed (>10%).
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	No	A drainage pipe is present at the eastern end of the habitat.
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams ² , pumps or pipework.	No	The pond appears to be part of an agricultural drainage system.
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species ³ .	Yes	No INNS apparent.
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	Fish unlikely to be present.
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:			

H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) ⁴ cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	No	Difficult to assess properly in winter, but considered unlikely.
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Yes	High level of shading but probably <50%.
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√
Results for woodland ponds which require assessment of 7 core criteria			
Passes 7 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria		Moderate (2)	
Passes 4 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)	
Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria			
Passes 9 criteria		Good (3)	
Passes 6 to 8 criteria		Moderate (2)	
Passes 5 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)	POOR
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnote 1 - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.			
Footnote 2 – This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> .			
Footnote 3 - 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 according to their level of impact</i> [online]. Available from:			

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types				
Habitat Type				
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch				
Habitat Description				
Native hedgerow associated with bank or ditch. Defunct hawthorn hedgerow along an agricultural drainage ditch, 65 m length.				
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 and UK Habitat Classification:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026	
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A	
Grid reference	SE 37353 10215	Habitat parcel reference	H1	
Condition Assessment Details				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. 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.				
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.				
Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.				
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	
			The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	No	Narrow (<1.5 m) in many places.
			The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	No	Defunct
			This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	No	Defunct
			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).	

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	1 m field margins adjacent to hedgerow
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No	Nettle, cleavers etc >20% cover.
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 ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Yes	INNS not apparent
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Little direct physical damage apparent.

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 ⁸), 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.		
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.		

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

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		2 -- MODERATE

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees

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

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types				
Habitat Type				
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch				
Habitat Description				
Native hedgerow. Outgrown, defunct hawthorn hedgerow, 155 m length.				
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 and UK Habitat Classification:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026	
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A	
Grid reference	SE 37222 10306	Habitat parcel reference	H2	
Condition Assessment Details				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. 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.				
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.				
Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.				
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	No Defunct
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).	No Defunct

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	1 m field margins adjacent to hedgerow
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No	Nettle, cleavers etc >20% cover.
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 ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Yes	INNS not apparent
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Little direct physical damage apparent.

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 ⁸), 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.		
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.		

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

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		2 -- MODERATE

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees

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

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types				
Habitat Type				
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch				
Habitat Description				
Native hedgerow associated with bank or ditch. Defunct hawthorn hedgerow along an agricultural drainage ditch, 235 m length.				
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 and UK Habitat Classification:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026	
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A	
Grid reference	SE 37353 10215	Habitat parcel reference	H3	
Condition Assessment Details				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. 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.				
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.				
Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.				
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	
The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).				
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	No	Narrow (<1.5 m) in many places.
The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).				
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	No	Defunct
This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).				
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	No	Defunct
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).				

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	1 m field margins adjacent to hedgerow
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No	Nettle, cleavers etc >20% cover.
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 ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Yes	INNS not apparent
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Little direct physical damage apparent.

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 ⁸), 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.		
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.		

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

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		2 -- MODERATE

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees

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

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types				
Habitat Type				
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch				
Habitat Description				
Native hedgerow. Severly cut, narrow, hawthorn hedgerow along railway fence, 80 m length.				
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 and UK Habitat Classification:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026	
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A	
Grid reference	SE 37492 10398	Habitat parcel reference	H4	
Condition Assessment Details				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. 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. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook. Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.				
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Yes	
		The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).		
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	No	Narrow and restricted over most of length
		The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).		
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	No	Defunct
		This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).		
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	No	Defunct
		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).		

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	1 m field margins adjacent to hedgerow
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No	Nettle, cleavers etc >20% cover.
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 ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Yes	INNS not apparent
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Little direct physical damage apparent.

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 ⁸), 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.		
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.		

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

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		2 -- MODERATE

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees

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

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types				
Habitat Type				
Native hedgerow Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Native hedgerow with trees Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch Species-rich native hedgerow with trees Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch				
Habitat Description				
Native hedgerow associated with bank or ditch. Defunct hawthorn hedgerow along an agricultural drainage ditch, side of road/agricultural field, length 70 m.				
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 and UK Habitat Classification:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026	
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A	
Grid reference	SE 37353 10215	Habitat parcel reference	H5	
Condition Assessment Details				
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. 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.				
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.				
Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.				
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes				
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	No Defunct
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).	No Defunct

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	1 m field margins adjacent to hedgerow
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	No	Nettle, cleavers etc >20% cover.
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 ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora' ⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .	Yes	INNS not apparent
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	Little direct physical damage apparent.

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 ⁸), 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.		
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.		

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

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		2 -- MODERATE

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees

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

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Line of trees Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch Ecologically valuable line of trees Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch			
Habitat Description			
Line of trees associated with bank or ditch. Field maple, willow sp., with occasional hawthorn. Road on one side, agricultural field on the other. Ditch, probably draining field and road (water quality very poor, much litter). Length 110 m.			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ . For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook. Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On site, land off Shaw Lane, Barnsley	Survey date and Surveyor name	12/01/2026
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	SE 37489 10186	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	All trees native.
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Yes	Canopy relatively continuous.
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No veteran or mature trees present.
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	No	Road adjacent on one side, agricultural field adjacent on the other.
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	No	Difficult to judge but trees likely strongly impacted by nutrient input from vehicles and agriculture.
Number of criteria passed			2
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	POOR	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnotes			