Whitcher Wildlife Ltd.
Ecological Consultants.

LAND SOUTH OF DONCASTER ROAD, DARFIELD, DEVELOPMENT PHASE ONE.

OS REF: SE 40239 04991.

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT.

Ref No: **240123/PHASE1/BNG.**

Date: **26th June 2024.**

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1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. A hybrid planning application is being submitted for the development of a large residential estate to the south of Doncaster Road, within the village of Darfield, Barnsley. The application is for full planning permission within the northern section of the development, known as 'Phase one', and for outline planning permission within the southern section of the site, known as 'Phase two'. Phase one also includes a drainage basin which will be situated to the south of the development.

1.2. Whitcher Wildlife Ltd were therefore commissioned to undertake a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of the entire site, to determine the baseline calculations of the entire survey area and determine what is required to allow the development to achieve a net gain.

1.3. Due to the nature of the application, full details of phase two are not yet available and therefore, it is not possible to complete finalised calculations on that section. Therefore, this assessment deals only with phase one of the development, for which plans are finalised.

1.4. An initial site visit was carried out on 17th January 2024 when a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was carried out. This ascertained rough baseline calculations including broad habitats and sizes, but detailed calculations could not be done due to survey being carried out well outside the optimum survey season.

1.5. Repeat visits have been undertaken throughout June to allow for an updated assessment of the habitats, including for condition assessments of each habitat parcel. A combination of both the initial survey and these repeat surveys make up the findings of this assessment.

1.6. Much of the information within this report is also included within the PEA but is also included here where deemed relevant. A summary of habitats across both phase one and phase two can be seen within the PEA.

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2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY.

2.1. All surveys were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) survey standards and advice.

2.2. A baseline survey was carried out of the site to establish the baseline biodiversity value of the area. Prior to visiting the site, the survey area was cross referenced to maps and aerial photographs to give a general idea of the habitats and potential issues within the area and to identify potential access and walking routes.

2.3. The survey area was walked where access was agreed. All habitats within and immediately around the survey area were documented and the dominant species within that habitat listed in line with the UK Habitat Classification methodology to identify the primary habitat types throughout the survey area. All primary habitats are accompanied by secondary codes which are used to add further specific details where necessary. Each primary habitat and unique set off secondary codes will be shown individually in the appended annotated map.

2.4. All habitat surveys, including the initial Preliminary Ecological Appraisal were undertaken by Mitchel Greenhalgh, Managing Director of Whitcher Wildlife, and an Ecological Consultant with an array of experience in conducting surveys on a variety of flora and fauna in a professional capacity. Mitchel holds a level two Natural England survey licence in respect of both bats and great crested newts, a NatureScot licence in respect of bats and Natural England class licences for various invertebrates. He is also working towards gaining further survey licences. He has attended courses run by CIEEM, the Species Recovery Trust and the FSC and also holds a BSc in environmental science attained from the University of Leeds. He is an Associate member of CIEEM and he is therefore committed to continuous professional development.

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION.

3.1. The Survey Area.

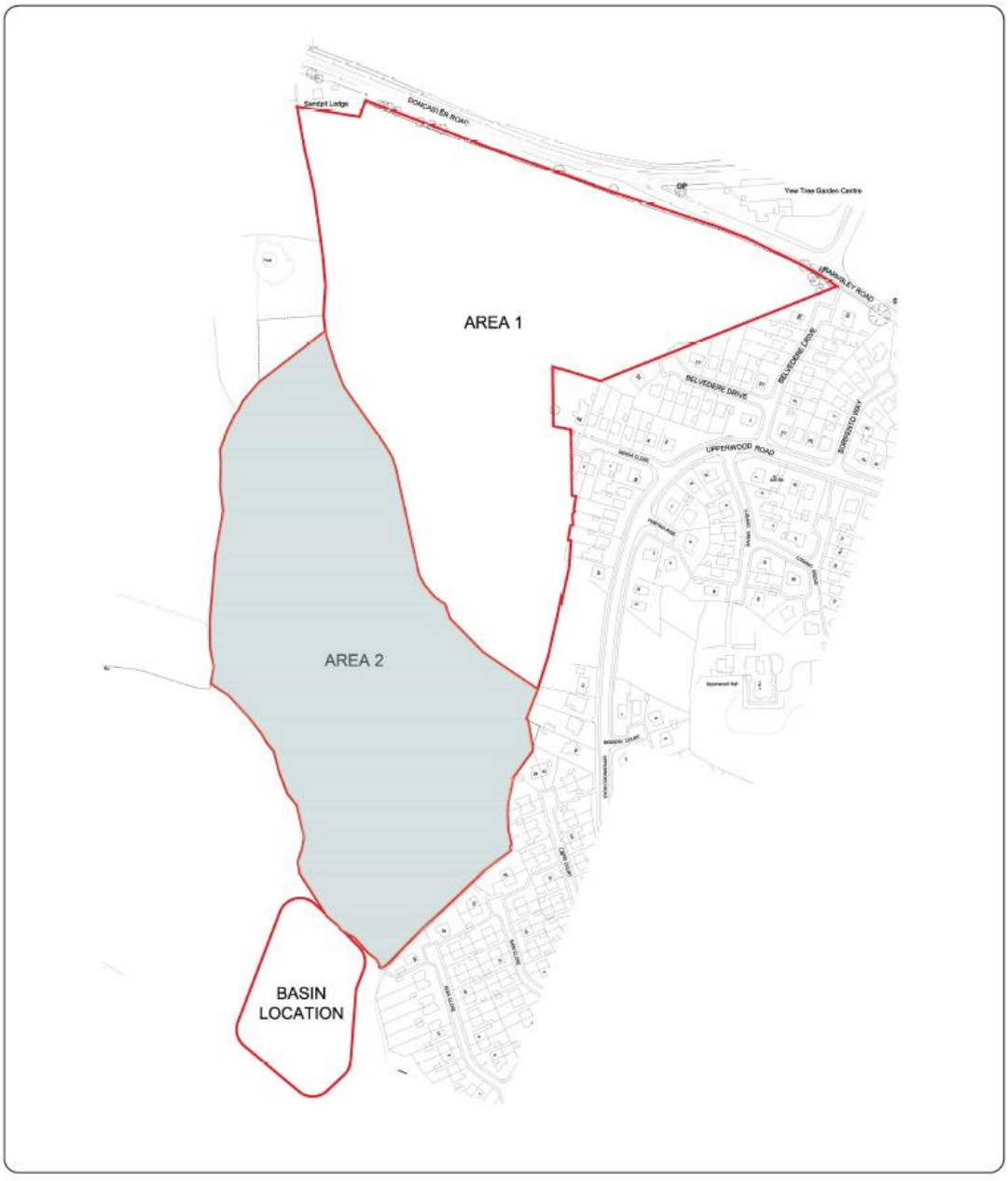
3.1.1. The overall survey area comprises mainly arable land, separated into two main fields. It is located to the west of the north end of the village of Darfield, south of Doncaster Road and west of Upperwood Road and the 'Italian' estate.

3.1.2. Historic aerial imagery and maps show that the bulk of the site has been arable for a considerable length of time, having never been shown as land used for any other purpose.

3.1.3. Within the centre of the site is the old Darfield Quarry, which was then used as landfill for a number of years before being capped and left undisturbed.

3.1.4. The aerial map below shows the approximate location of the entire survey area, marked by the red shape.

3.1.5. However, phase one comprises only the northern section, which is shown as 'Area 1' on the below drawing, and the basin which is shown as 'basin location'.



3.1.6. The further surroundings comprise predominantly arable land, residential housing estates, scattered woodland and grassland pockets.

3.2. Description of Habitats.

3.2.1. Appendix I and III of this report contains an annotated map marked up with the varying habitats within phase one The habitats within phase one are: -

- c1c – Cereal Crops
- g4 – Modified Grassland
- g3c – Other Neutral Grassland
- w1f7 – Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland
- h3h – Mixed Scrub
- h2a5 – Species-rich Native Hedgerow
- r1g – Other Standing Water

3.2.2. c1c – Cereal Crops.

3.2.2.1. Secondary codes: 516 active management.

3.2.2.1.1. A large part of phase one is made up by a large arable field, which is used for producing wheat.

3.2.2.1.2. The southern part of this field is also considered to be arable, but the crop appears to have failed, and likely does so consistently. This area of the site is nominated by black grass (*Alopecurus myosuroides*), with some other arable weeds present.

3.2.2.2. Secondary codes: 517 recent management.

Within the proposed basin location, to the west of the footpath, is a parcel of land which has been cropped in the past but at present is barren with arable weeds. To the further south and west, a barley crop is present within the field.

3.2.3. g4 – Modified Grassland.

3.2.3.1. At the northern and northwestern end of the survey area, there is an area of grassland that is left uncropped and contains a species-poor sward. The dominant species within the habitat is Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), which is accompanied by cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), rough meadow grass (*Poa*

trivialis), perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*), Italian rye grass (*Lolium multiflorum*), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and barren brome (*Anisantha sterilis*). Forbs such as creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) are also present but rare within the habitat.

3.2.3.2. The condition assessment for this habitat is shown below. This habitat passes five of the seven criteria but fails the first which is essential and is therefore assessed as being of poor condition.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m^2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.** Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m^2 (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	**No**
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	**No**
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	**Yes**
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	**Yes**
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	**Yes**
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	**Yes**
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	**Yes**
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)	**No**

	Number of criteria passed	5
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/✓**
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	✓

3.2.4. g3c – Other Neutral Grassland.

3.2.4.1. Secondary codes: 10 scattered scrub, 104 other grazed. – **ONG1.**

3.2.4.1.1. Within the old tip area of the site, there are still some relatively open areas which remain as grassland, although likely not for much longer as the scrub is encroaching heavily. The sward is short in places, likely due to rabbit grazing, but this varies across the habitat parcel.

3.2.4.1.2. Species composition varies throughout the habitat but is generally diverse and includes the following species: red fescue (*Festuca rubra* agg.), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*), rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), weld (*Reseda luteola*), biting stonecrop (*Sedum acre*), ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*), false fox sedge (*Carex otrubae*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), hedge bedstraw (*Galium album*), cutleaf cranesbill (*Geranium dissectum*), dove's foot cranesbill (*Geranium molle*), hedgerow cranesbill (*Geranium pyrenaicum*), meadow cranesbill (*Geranium pratense*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), lesser trefoil (*Trifolium dubium*), smooth hawksbeard (*Crepis capillaris*), white campion (*Silene latifolia*), lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*), teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), willowherbs (*Epilobium* spp.), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), broadleaved plantain (*Plantago major*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), common centaury (*Centaurium erythraea*), common mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus*

acris), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), black horehound (*Ballota nigra*), early forget-me-not (*Myosotis ramosissima*), field forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis*), wood forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvatica*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*).

3.2.4.1.3. The scrub within this grassland is taking over the habitat, with open grassland extremely limited. Without any management, the site is likely to succeed to scrub within the coming years regardless of the development.

3.2.4.1.4. The scrub is described further on in this report, but within the grassland, species typically include Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), sweetbriar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), *Rubus* spp., including *R. armeniacus* and *R. Caesius*, hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), gorse (*Ulex europeaus*), whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), plum (*Prunus domestica*) and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

3.2.4.2. Secondary codes: 10 scattered scrub, 128 tall or tussocky sward. – **ONG2.**

Just south of the grassland described above, is a parcel of rank grassland that has a taller sward. This was also being heavily encroached upon by scrub and included species such as Yorkshire Fog (Holcus lanatus), false oat grass (Arrhenatherum elatius), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*) creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*), nettle (Urtica dioica) and common poppy (Papaver rhoeas). The scrub within this habitat comprises mainly bramble (*Rubus* sp.), gorse (*Ulex europeaus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings.

3.2.4.3. Secondary codes: 10 scattered scrub, 104 other grazed. – **ONG4.**

Around the perimeter of the southern field, just south of the ditch but still within phase one, is a grass margin which sits between the woodland and arable field. It is relatively species poor, with its grasses finely grazed by rabbits. Species include fescue (*Festuca*

sp.), false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), willowherbs (*Epilobium* spp.), selfheal (*Prunella vulgaris*), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*), smooth sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*) and a solitary southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*). Bramble (*Rubus* sp.) is becoming dominant within this habitat.

3.2.4.4. Secondary codes: 128 tall or tussocky sward. – **ONG5.**

Within the proposed basin area to the east of the footpath, is a grassland with a tall sward dominated by coarse grasses. Species include false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), white campion (*Silene latifolia*), red campion (*Silene dioica*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), curled dock (*Rumex crispus*), broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), common field speedwell (*Veronica persica*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale* agg.).

3.3.4.4. The condition assessments for these habitats are shown below. ONG1 is assessed as being of good condition, ONG5 is assessed as being of moderate condition and ONG2 and ONG4 are assessed as being of poor condition.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)			
		ONG1	ONG2	ONG4	ONG5
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	**Yes**	**No**	**No**	**No**
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[1].	**Yes**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	**No**	**No**	**No**	**Yes**
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition[2] and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types					
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m^2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	**Yes**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		**Yes**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Number of criteria passed		**5**	**2**	**2**	**3**

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓			
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)		✓	✓	

3.2.5. w1f7 – Other Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland

3.2.5.1. Secondary codes: 12 scattered bracken, 60 long continuity habitat. – **W1.**

3.2.5.1.1. To the northwest of the survey area, there is a section of mature woodland which is shown on historic maps from at least the mid-1800s, although smaller than it is now. Its age is evident as the size of the trees indicate it has been present for some time.

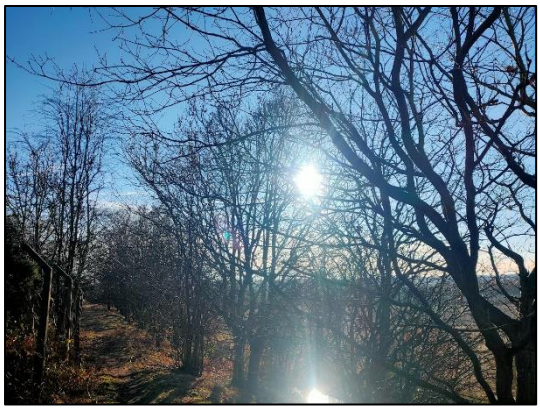
3.2.5.1.2. Species generally comprise sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), which is the dominant species, field maple (*Acer campestre*), oak (*Quercus robur*), and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), with smaller species such as elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) also present. The understory comprises bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), willowherbs (*Epilobium* spp.) and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*). Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*) and creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) are present with the damper flushes.

3.2.5.1.3. Just outside the survey area, the ground flattens and becomes wetter. Here, crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) is the dominant species, accompanied by silver birch (*Betula pendula*) and alder (*Alnus glutinosa*).

3.2.5.1.4. This woodland is covered by a grouped Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

3.2.5.2. Secondary codes: 10 scattered scrub, 528 walking or cycling route. – **W2.**

Extending southwards from W1 described above, is further woodland that is evidently younger. Oak (*Quercus robur*) is the dominant species here. Tree density here is lower and the trees are largely immature or semi-mature. A footpath runs through this section of woodland.



3.2.5.3. Secondary codes: 10 scattered scrub, 31 secondary woodland. – **W3.**

There is a small section of woodland which has established within a triangle of land, south of Darfield Garden Centre. Tree species include sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), oak (*Quercus robur*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), lime (*Tilia* sp.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), with understory species comprising sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), bramble (*Rubus* sp.), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), deutzia (*Deutzia scabra*), cuckoo pint (*Arum maculatum*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), rose (*Rosa* sp.), dogwood (*Cornus* sp.) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Many trees have a sparse covering of ivy (*Hedera helix*).

3.2.5.4. Secondary codes: 10 scattered scrub, 12 scattered bracken. 60 long continuity habitat. – **W4.**

3.2.5.4.1. Within the centre of the site, extending from the eastern boundary inwards is another large parcel of woodland. This again shows on historic maps and has therefore been present for some time. This woodland has a dense scrubby understory within its southern section, but is sparser on the east towards Upperwood road, likely reflecting the difference in public accessibility. The woodland comprises oak (*Quercus robur*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), lime (*Tilia* sp.), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and small amounts of yew (*Taxus baccata*). The understory comprises bramble (*Rubus* sp.), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*) saplings, bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), wood millet (*Milium effusum*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*) and daffodils (*Narcissus* sp.). One of the hawthorns within this woodland is classed as a veteran tree.

3.2.5.4.2. Selected trees within this woodland are covered by TPOs.

3.2.5.5. The condition assessments for these habitats are shown below. W1 is assessed as being of good condition, whereas W2, W3 and W4 are assessed as being of moderate condition.

Condition Assessment Criteria								
Indicator		**Good (3 points)**	**Moderate (2 points)**	**Poor (1 point)**	**Score per indicator**			
					W1	**W2**	**W3**	**W4**
A	**Age distribution of trees**	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
B	**Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage**	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
C	**Invasive plant species**	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] >10% cover.	**3**	**2**	**3**	**3**
D	**Number of native tree species**	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	**3**	**2**	**3**	**3**
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species**	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
F	**Open space within woodland**	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	**2**	**2**	**1**	**2**
G	**Woodland regeneration**	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**

		(DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.						
H	**Tree health**	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	**3**	**3**	**2**	**3**
I	**Vegetation and ground flora**	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
J	**Woodland vertical structure**	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
K	**Veteran trees**	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**
L	**Amount of deadwood**	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**
M	**Woodland disturbance**	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	**3**	**3**	**2**	**3**
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)	**33**	**28**	**28**	**32**

Condition Assessment Result	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Result Achieved**			
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	✓			
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)		✓	✓	✓
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)				

3.2.5.6. Secondary codes: 33 line of trees.

3.2.5.6.1. There are numerous individual lines of trees within phase one. The first of these, known as **LOT1**, is a row of mostly cherry (*Prunus avium*) trees which form part of the northwestern boundary, between the site and neighbouring field. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is also frequent.

3.2.5.7. Secondary codes: 34 Ecologically valuable line of trees.

3.2.5.7.1. The second, known as **LOT2**, is a line of deciduous trees that form part of the woodland to the west of the survey. This line of trees includes oak (*Quercus robur*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), cherry (*Prunus avium*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

3.2.5.7.2. The third, known as **LOT4**, is a line of trees which extends around the eastern perimeter of the old tip. It comprises sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), oak (*Quercus robur*) and whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*).

3.2.5.7.3. The fourth and final in phase one, known as **LOT5**, is located at the north of the old tip and comprises purely sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

3.2.5.7. The condition assessments for these habitats are shown below. All lines of trees pass either three or four of the five criteria and are therefore assessed as being of moderate condition.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)			
		LOT1	LOT2	LOT4	LOT5
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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	Yes	Yes	Yes
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	Yes	No	No
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	No	No	No
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.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)				
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)				

3.2.6. h3h - Mixed Scrub.

3.2.6.1. Secondary codes: 524 invasive non-native species. – **S1.**

3.2.6.1.1. The largest section of scrub is located within the old tip area and dominates much of the centre of the site. This section of scrub is varied in its maturity and species composition, but it is difficult to separate into smaller parcels.

3.2.6.1.2. Species present within this scrub include species described before in ONG1, along with elder (*Sambucus nigra*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), buddleia (*Buddleja davidii*), oak (*Quercus robur*) saplings, willow-leaved cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster salicifolius*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and silver birch (*Betula pendula*) along with an understory of a variety of species previously described in ONG1.

3.2.6.2. **S2.**

A smaller parcel of dense scrub is present between the southern arable field and the woodlands. Species within this include gorse (*Ulex europeaus*), broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), bramble (*Rubus* sp.), oak (*Quercus robur*), turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) and elder (Sambucus nigra).

3.2.6.3. The condition assessments for both of the scrub habitats described above are shown below. Both pass either three or four of the five criterion and are therefore assessed as being of moderate condition.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	
		S1	S2
A	The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type. At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species[1], with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	**Yes**	**Yes**
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran[2]) shrubs are all present.	**Yes**	**No**
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition[5] make up less than 5% of ground cover.	**No**	**Yes**
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	**Yes**	**Yes**
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	**Yes**	**No**

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

3.2.7. h2a5 – Species-rich Native Hedgerow.

3.2.7.1. Secondary codes: 317 recent management. – **H1.**

3.2.7.1.1. The longest hedgerow on site is the one that comprises most of the northern and lies between the survey area and Barnsley Road / Doncaster Road. This hedgerow comprises hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Leading along Barnsley Road, species-richness reduces as it becomes predominantly hawthorn.

3.2.7.1.2. The understorey of the hedgerow comprises false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), rough meadow grass (*Poa trivialis*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), barren brome (*Anisantha sterilis*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*), hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) and broadleaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*).

3.2.7.2. Secondary codes: 11 hedgerow with trees, 317 recent management. – **H2.**

As the above hedgerow extends westwards along Doncaster Road, mature trees become more frequent. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is the dominant hedgerow species with five sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) and individual ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and lime (*Tilia* sp.) trees present within.

3.2.7.3. Other hedgerows make up the boundary of the site, particularly along the northeastern section of the survey area, but these all appear to belong to the residents of the neighbouring houses and comprise largely ornamental species. Example photographs of these are shown below.

3.2.7.4. The condition assessments for each hedgerow is shown below. H1 fails three criteria including two in the same functional group and is therefore assessed as moderate condition, and H2 fails four criteria, including two in the same functional group, and is therefore also assessed as moderate condition.

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		**Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'**	**Description**	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types					
				H1	**H2**
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**	**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 *Prunus spinosa* 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**	**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).	**Yes**	**Yes**

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).	**Yes**	**Yes**
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.	**No**	**No**
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 *Urtica* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	**No**	**No**
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**	**Yes**
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (e.g., excessive hedgerow cutting).	**No**	**No**
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.		**Yes**
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	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		**No**

		animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.			
The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.					
Condition categories for hedgerows 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.				
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; **AND** Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).		✓		
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; **OR** Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).				
		Score achieved:			
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.				
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; **AND** Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).			✓	
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; **OR** Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).				
		Score achieved:	**Good**	**Moderate**	

3.2.8. r1b – Other Standing Water.

Secondary codes: 50 ditch.

3.2.8.1. A ditch, which lies just north and east of the boundary between much of phase one and phase two, begins to the south of W1. Some sections are almost dry whilst others hold approximately 50cm of water. The resurvey in summer found it to be almost totally dry. The ditch varies in its width throughout the site.

3.2.8.2. Whilst both phase one and phase two sit within, or close to, the riparian zone of the ditch, it cannot be included within both assessments. It is therefore covered here within phase one, but impacts of both phases are factored into the post works calculations.

3.2.8.3. The condition assessment for this habitat is shown below. The ditch passes five of the eight criteria and is therefore assessed as being of poor condition.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.	Yes
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20 m ditch length.	No
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed *Lemna* spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).	Yes
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.	Yes
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m in main drains.	No
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.	No
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species[1].	Yes
	Number of criteria passed	**Five**

Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	✓

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4. BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT.

4.1. Baseline Biodiversity Value.

The below tables demonstrate the baseline units of phase one using the Statutory Metric, which is the current metric at the time of this report. A copy of the metric will be provided alongside this report.

4.1.1. Area habitats:

Habitat Type	Extent (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Other neutral grassland	0.5	Medium	Good	6
Other neutral grassland	0.3597	Medium	Poor	1.44
Other neutral grassland	0.1126	Medium	Poor	0.45
Other neutral grassland	0.5327	Medium	Moderate	2.13
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.3916	High	Good	7.05
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.2023	High	Moderate	2.79
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.4415	High	Moderate	5.3
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.1314	High	Moderate	1.58
Mixed Scrub	1.5356	Medium	Moderate	12.28
Mixed Scrub	0.032	Medium	Moderate	0.26
Cereal Crops	4.1882	Low	N/A	8.38
Cereal Crops	0.6072	Low	N/A	1.21

Modified Grassland	2.7239	Low	Poor	5.45
Total	**11.76**			**54.31**

4.1.2. Linear habitats:

Hedgerow Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Species-rich native Hedgerow	0.288	Medium	Medium	2.3
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.128	High	Medium	1.54
Line of trees	0.07	Low	Medium	0.28
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.076	Medium	Moderate	0.61
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.249	Medium	Medium	1.99
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.037	Medium	Medium	0.3
Total	**0.85**			**7.02**

4.1.3. Watercourse habitats:

Watercourse Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Ditch	0.26	Medium	Poor	0.79
Total	**0.26**			**0.79**

4.2. Post Development Biodiversity Value.

4.2.1. Due to the scale of the development and the number of proposed units, it is not possible to achieve a net gain on site. Discussions are currently underway regarding additional land where the units for phase one can be offset. Whilst agreements for this

land are not yet finalised, the below calculations anticipate them being done prior to planning for phase one being granted.

4.2.2. Much of the land on site is to be lost to facilitate the development, but some sections will be retained. This includes the central belt of vegetation between phase one and two, most of the woodland, and all hedgerows.

4.2.3. The arable section of the basin allows for good potential to create further grassland to tie into the section which already exists as such.

4.2.4. The development has small areas known as ‘pocket parks’ and public open space which allow for a small amount of units to be gained through the creation of new amenity grasslands. A small area to the northwest, behind Sandpit Lodge, which has no public access, and other neutral grassland is a realistic achievement there.

4.2.5. Ninety-six trees are to be planted across the development which will not be in public ownership, and therefore allow for the achievement of a small amount of units.

4.2.6. The ditch on site is close to achieving moderate condition, and whilst encroachment will increase, the increase in condition will just achieve a 10% gain.

4.2.7. The remainder of the site is mostly to comprise a suburban mosaic of housing, roads, gardens, verges and other typical features of a residential estate. The development is too large to allow for the mapping of each individual feature so a 70:30 split between developed land; sealed surface and vegetated gardens have been used as per the Statutory Metric User Guide.

4.2.8. The remainder of the biodiversity units will require offsetting, and providing that the land is close to the current site, and of an arable baseline as it is expected to be, a total of nine hectares is required.

4.2.9. The tables below show proposals for a how a net gain is expected to be achieved.

4.2.9.1. Area habitats on site:

Habitat Type	Extent (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Retained Habitats				
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.3289	High	Good	5.92
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.1461	High	Moderate	2.01
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.4003	High	Moderate	4.81
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	0.0427	High	Moderate	0.52
Mixed Scrub	0.023	Medium	Moderate	0.19
Other neutral grassland	0.5327	Medium	Moderate	2.13
Other neutral grassland	0.1095	Medium	Poor	0.44
Created Habitats				
Other neutral grassland	0.0803	Medium	Moderate	0.54
Other neutral grassland	0.6072	Medium	Moderate	4.06
Modified grassland	0.257	Low	Moderate	0.89
Modified grassland	0.0582	Low	Moderate	0.2
Modified grassland	0.0319	Low	Moderate	0.11
Vegetated Garden	2.7426	Low	N/A	5.29
Developed land; sealed surface	6.3995	V.Low	N/A	0
Urban Tree	0.3909*	Medium	Moderate	1.2
Total	**11.76**			**28.31**

*Not included in area calculations

4.2.9.2. Area habitats off site (baseline):

Habitat Type	Extent (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Cereal crops	9	Low	N/A	18
Total	**9**			**18**

4.2.9.3. Area habitats off site (post development):

Habitat Type	Extent (Ha)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Created Habitats				
Other neutral grassland	3.7	Medium	Good	30
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	2.8	High	Moderate	3.55
Mixed scrub	2.5	Medium	Moderate	16.15
Total	**9**			**49.7**

4.2.9.4. Linear habitats on site:

Hedgerow Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Retained Habitats				
Species-rich native Hedgerow	0.278	Medium	Medium	2.22
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.096	High	Medium	1.16
Line of trees	0.07	Low	Medium	0.28
Ecologically valuable line of trees	0.076	Medium	Moderate	0.61
Total	**0.85**			**4.27**

4.2.9.5. Linear habitats off site:

Hedgerow Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Retained Habitats				
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	0.4	High	Medium	4.05
Total	**0.4**			**4.05**

4.2.9.6. Watercourse habitats on site:

Watercourse Type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Biodiversity units
Enhanced Habitats				
Ditch	0.26	Medium	Moderate	0.87
Total	**0.26**			**0.79**

4.3. Biodiversity Net Gain Results.

4.3.1. Based on the above, phase one of the development, including the basin area, will result in an area gain of 5.69 biodiversity units (10.07%), a linear gain of 1.3 biodiversity units (18.57%) and a watercourse gain of 0.08 (10.56%).

FINAL RESULTS		
Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	5.69
	Hedgerow units	1.30
	Watercourse units	0.08
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	10.07%
	Hedgerow units	18.57%
	Watercourse units	10.56%
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓	

4.3.2. With the above proposals in place and carefully managed, the scheme will achieve above the 10% net gain which is required to support the application. However, this will require significant additional land and a huge amount of effort to ensure that both on site and off site habitat conditions are achieved.

4.3.3. To ensure the above it achieved, a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be required which details how the proposed habitats will be both implemented and managed for a minimum of a thirty-year period.

4.3.4. Whilst an off site gain should be achievable, the amount of land needed may differ from the above dependant on mitigation that is recommended upon completing of protected species surveys.

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Prepared by:	
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Checked by:	
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5. REFERENCES.

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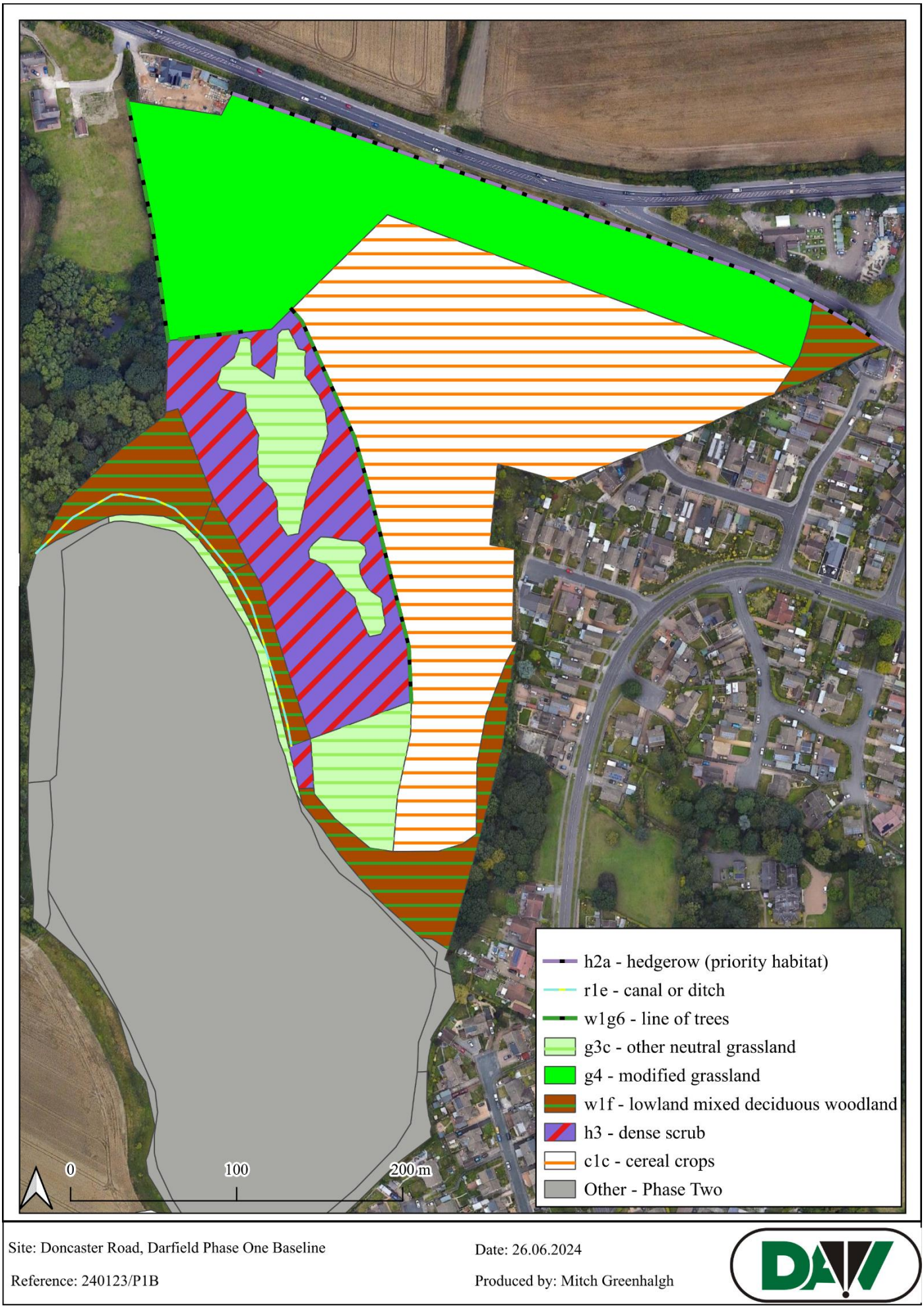
Appendix I. ANNOTATED MAP OF PHASE ONE – BASELINE.



Site: Doncaster Road, Darfield Phase One Baseline

Reference: 240123/P1B

Date: 26.06.2024

Produced by: Mitch Greenhalgh

Appendix II. ANNOTATED MAP OF BASIN AREA – BASELINE.

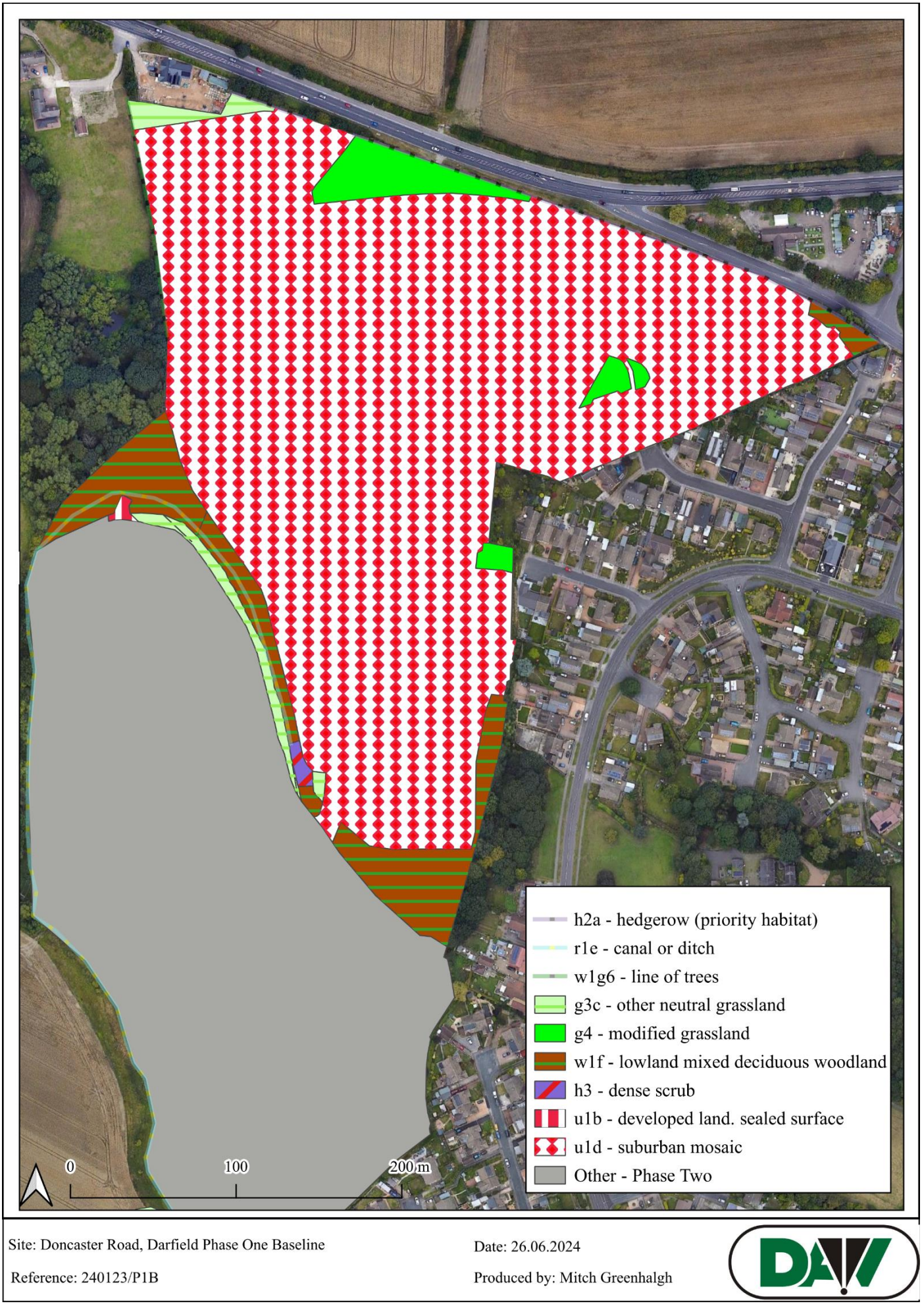
Site: Doncaster Road, Darfield Phase One Basin Baseline

Reference: 240123/P1B

Date: 26.06.2024

Produced by: Mitch Greenhalgh

Appendix III. ANNOTATED MAP OF PHASE ONE – POST.



Site: Doncaster Road, Darfield Phase One Baseline

Reference: 240123/P1B

Date: 26.06.2024

Produced by: Mitch Greenhalgh

Appendix IV. ANNOTATED MAP OF BASIN AREA – POST.

Site: Doncaster Road, Darfield Phase One Basin Baseline

Reference: 240123/P1B

Date: 26.06.2024

Produced by: Mitch Greenhalgh

Appendix V. PHASE ONE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.