



Glenfield Parish Council

Western Park Golf Course

Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Report

2487248

23 SEPTEMBER 2024

RSK GENERAL NOTES

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Author:	Haydn Jones	Technical reviewer:	David Denman
Signature:		Signature:	
Date:	08/08/2024	Date:	29/08/2024
Project manager:	Lance Rudge	Quality reviewer:	David Denman
Signature:		Signature:	
Date:	27/08/2024	Date:	04/09/2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This document has been prepared by RSK Biocensus, for Glenfield Parish Council, to present the results of a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) baseline assessment for protected or otherwise notable species, at Western Park Golf Course, Glenfield, Leicestershire (Grid Ref SK 53451 05067). Note that at the time of writing there are no proposed works so this report covers the biodiversity baseline only as it is not yet possible to know what habitat will be lost or directly affected and therefore not possible to calculate the post-development biodiversity scenario. However, some indication of how the scheme could deliver an uplift in biodiversity are given.
2. The BNG assessment uses the results of a UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) survey undertaken at the site during May 2024, to determine the habitats present on site and to provide each habitat with a biodiversity value using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The biodiversity value of each habitat present on site is then totalled to provide an overall biodiversity value of the site before construction.
3. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric measures biodiversity value of habitats in 'biodiversity units' and this BNG assessment follows the methods set out in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric user guide. A habitat is assigned a biodiversity unit score by considering its area (or length), distinctiveness, condition and strategic significance.
4. The full biodiversity assessment calculation can be found in the accompanying Excel document (2487248 Statutory Biodiversity Metric); however, screenshots of the main results tables are presented in Appendix A.
5. The condition assessments for all habitats present before any future works are listed in Appendix B. This includes any deviation from standard guidance, assumptions and justifications for habitat classification and condition.
6. The site was found to comprise a total of 13 different habitat types including other neutral grassland, other woodland; broadleaved, wet and dry ditches, eutrophic standing water and scrub; bramble and mixed. This results in a baseline of 158.72 habitat biodiversity units, 1.16 hedge biodiversity units and 2.60 watercourse units.
7. Other woodland; broadleaved and eutrophic standing waters are considered habitats of principle importance¹ and potentially irreplaceable habitats.
8. The assessment completed is based on the current habitats within the site. When future plans are decided and a detailed design and landscape plan are created, a further BNG assessment will be required which will show how the development phase scenario will achieve the minimum 10% net gain mandated by the Environment Act 2021.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-and-species-of-principal-importance-in-england>

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Document

1.1.1 This document has been prepared by RSK Biocensus, on behalf of Glenfield Parish Council ('the Applicant'), to present the results of a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) baseline assessment for the Western Park Golf Course south of the village of Glenfield, Leicestershire (Grid Ref SK 53451 05067), (the 'Application Site').

1.1.2 The document provides:

- a detailed methodology, including assumptions, for undertaking the BNG assessment; and,
- the baseline biodiversity value of habitats within the Application Site prior to any future developments.

1.2 Landscape Context

Combined survey area

1.2.1 The 18 ha site is located to the south of the village of Glenfield, west of Leicester. The site is dominated by neutral grassland, broadleaved woodland, and scrub. There were five ponds within the site, four ditches and one section of native hedgerow.

1.3 The Proposed Development

1.3.1 No development proposals were provided during the production of this report. This report therefore identifies potential ecological constraints relevant to the site and specifies any further survey requirements should any works be undertaken on site.

1.4 Policy Context

1.4.1 The primary aims of the BNG process are for developments to secure a measurable improvement in habitat for biodiversity, to minimise biodiversity losses and to help to restore ecological networks whilst streamlining development processes. BNG does not replace other existing legislation and policy for nature conservation. The below legislation and policy provide the context behind the need to achieve BNG.

The Environment Act

1.4.2 The Environment Act 2021 mandates a statutory requirement for developments to deliver a minimum 10% BNG which became mandatory from 12th February 2024.

Town and Country Planning Act

- 1.4.3 Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) mandates a statutory requirement for developments to deliver a minimum 10% BNG which became mandatory from 12th February 2024.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.4.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied by Local Authorities within their Local Development Frameworks (LDF). The revised National Planning Policy Framework was published in December 2023 (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2023).
- 1.4.5 Chapter 15 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' sets out the requirements to consider BNG in planning decisions. Paragraph 170 states: "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: ... d) minimising impacts and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;".

2.0 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This BNG assessment has been carried out as a desk-based exercise and has been undertaken by a competent person in accordance with best practice².
- 2.1.2 The results of UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) surveys carried out within the Application Site by RSK Biocensus in May 2024 have been used to determine the biodiversity value of habitats within the Application Site before construction.
- 2.1.3 The optimal time of year for UKHab surveys is between April and September. The surveys were carried out in March. Therefore, some of the condition assessments could not be made.
- 2.1.4 The primary documents consulted as part of this assessment include:
- Western Park Golf Course Glenfield Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (RSK Biocensus, 2024).

2.2 Biodiversity Assessment Methods

- 2.2.1 This assessment was undertaken in line with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2021), the British Standard for Biodiversity Net Gain (BS 8683) and industry best practice (CIEEM/CIRIA/IEMA, 2016).
- 2.2.2 To calculate the baseline values for the Application Site, and assess any changes arising from the future Proposal Development, this study uses methods set out in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (hereafter 'the Metric') user guide (Defra, 2023). The Metric measures biodiversity value for habitats in 'biodiversity units' (BUs)³.
- 2.2.3 The Metric is designed to quantify losses and gains of biodiversity as a result of proposed development or land management to inform and improve planning, design, land management and decision-making. The Metric uses habitats as a proxy to describe biodiversity.
- 2.2.4 The Metric can calculate biodiversity value of:
- Existing habitats;
 - Habitat enhancement; and,
 - Habitat creation.

² A competent person has the knowledge and skills to perform specified tasks to complete and review biodiversity metric calculations. This is obtained through training, qualifications, experience, or a combination of them. Competency is aligned with the British Standard 'Process for designing and implementing biodiversity net gain (BS 8683:202)'.

³ 'Biodiversity units' are used to describe relative biodiversity value. There are three types of biodiversity units: area habitat units, hedgerow units and watercourse units. Each of these are calculated in separate 'modules' of the biodiversity metric.

- 2.2.5 The Metric can calculate different types of BUs. There are three types of biodiversity units, which are calculated in three separate ‘modules’ of the Metric. These are:
- area habitat units (e.g. woodland, grasslands, wetlands);
 - hedgerow units (e.g. hedgerows and lines of trees); and
 - watercourse units (e.g. culverts, canals, wet ditches, rivers and streams).
- 2.2.6 Consequently, a site can have three biodiversity unit values, which are assessed using the Metric, but which cannot be summed together or traded between.
- 2.2.7 The area or length of a habitat is multiplied by several factors in the Metric (called multipliers) that indicate its quality and value (distinctiveness, condition and strategic location), and this provides its BU value.
- 2.2.8 In addition, for those habitats that are to be created or enhanced, the risk of failure is accounted for by applying multipliers for risk factors (difficulty, time to target condition, and off-site risk).
- 2.2.9 A brief description of the different multipliers contained within the Metric are detailed below in Table 1.

Table 1 – Statutory Biodiversity Metric multipliers and their explanations

Biodiversity Metric multiplier	Explanation
Habitat distinctiveness	A measure based on the type of habitat and its distinguishing features. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consideration of species richness and rarity; • the extent to which the habitat is protected by designations; and • the degree to which a habitat supports species rarely found in other habitats.
Habitat condition	A measure of the habitat against its ecological optimum state. Condition is a way of measuring variation in the quality of patches of the same habitat type.
Strategic significance	Describes the local significance of the habitat based on its location and the habitat type.
Difficulty	A measure which represents the uncertainty in the effectiveness of management techniques used to enhance or create habitat.
Time to target condition	The average time taken between starting creation or enhancement of habitats and that habitat reaching its target condition or distinctiveness.
Spatial risk	Spatial risk represents the relationship between the location of biodiversity loss (on-site) and where the off-site habitat is being delivered. This is applied to off-site interventions only.
Riparian zone encroachment	A measure of any feature or intervention within the riparian zone that reduces the quantity, quality or ecological function of the riparian habitat.
Watercourse encroachment	A measure of any feature that adversely affects the natural function of the watercourse, or results in localised changes in habitat, species and migratory pathways.

2.3 BNG Good Practice Principles for Development

2.3.1 The Metric has been designed as a tool to help inform plans and decisions; however, when undertaking BNG assessments this must be undertaken in accordance with set principles outlined in the user guide (Defra, 2023). These are outlined in Table 2 along with a full justification regarding how each principle has been considered. Note that some of the principles cannot be justified at this stage as this is a baseline calculation only, but a justification for how the principles will be considered when the post-development scenario is calculated is given.

Table 2 – Defra metric good practice principles and justification

Principle	Justification of how principle has been applied
Principle 1: The metric assessment should be completed by a competent person.	Assessment undertaken by Andrew Oliver, highly experienced in carrying out BNG metric assessments.
Principle 2: The use of this biodiversity metric does not override existing biodiversity protections, statutory obligations, policy requirements, ecological mitigation hierarchy or any other requirements. This includes consenting or licensing processes, for example woodlands.	Existing levels of protection afforded to protected species and habitats are not changed by use of this or any other metric. Statutory obligations will still need to be satisfied. The Environmental Statement details the presence of protected and/or notable species, sites and habitats, and assesses potential impacts and outlines suitable mitigation measures to address these.
Principle 3: The biodiversity metric should be used in accordance with established good practice guidance and professional codes.	The mitigation hierarchy has been applied to the design of future Proposal Development. The area of permanent habitat loss will be kept to a minimum without comprising the development. The habitats that will be created and enhanced within the Order Limits will be appropriate, and of the correct distinctiveness, to compensate for the habitats that will be impacted.
Principle 4: The biodiversity metric is not a complex or comprehensive ecological model and is not a substitute for expert ecological advice.	RSK Biocensus acknowledges that the Defra Metric has been kept deliberately simple to be of practical use. The calculations have been undertaken by specialists and input is underpinned by robust baseline evidence and ecological knowledge and experience.
Principle 5: Biodiversity units are a proxy for biodiversity and should be treated as relative values.	RSK Biocensus acknowledges that the Defra Metric is tool to be used as a means of assessing changes in biodiversity value (losses or gains) brought about by the proposed development and is a habitat-based approach to determining a proxy biodiversity value within the Order Limits and the output does not represent absolute values.

Principle	Justification of how principle has been applied
<p>Principle 6: This biodiversity metric is designed to inform decisions in conjunction with locally relevant evidence, expert input, or guidance.</p>	<p>Impacts to protected and notable species and habitats will be fully assessed as part of the EclA (ecological impact assessment) undertaken for any future development proposals.</p>
<p>Principle 7: Habitat interventions need to be realistic and deliverable within a relevant project timeframe.</p>	<p>The habitats chosen for creation and enhancement will be done so based on the existing on-site conditions and local context, not purely to achieve the greatest possible BNG result using the Defra Metric. The post-development habitats will be created, enhanced, managed and maintained in accordance with the LEMP which will ensure the habitats achieve their target condition.</p>
<p>Principle 8: Created and enhanced habitats should be, where practical and reasonable, local to any impact and deliver strategically important outcomes for nature conservation.</p>	<p>The created and enhanced habitats to achieve the BNG requirements will be delivered within an Order Limit and are therefore local to the impacts. Landscape plans will be designed to be in keeping with the local character of the area.</p>
<p>Principle 9: The biodiversity metric does not enforce a minimum habitat size ratio for compensation of losses. Proposals should aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain habitat extent - supporting more, bigger, better and more joined up ecological networks • ensure that proposed or retained habitat parcels are of sufficient size for ecological function 	<p>Where possible, in the first instance the same habitat type of better condition will be created. If conditions do not allow for the same habitat type to be created, consideration will be given to the creation of different habitats of the same broad type or higher and of better condition.</p> <p>A buffer of habitat will be either retained, created or enhanced around the perimeter of the Proposed Development which will continue to provide an ecological corridor to the wider landscape.</p>

2.4 Irreplaceable Habitats and Very High Distinctiveness Habitats

- 2.4.1 Two of the habitat types identified in the baseline are irreplaceable habitats (these being other woodland; broadleaved and Eutrophic standing water). It is assumed these will be retained in any future scheme design.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 To calculate the overall biodiversity accounting position for a Proposed Development, the BU values for the existing habitats (pre-development) and the proposed newly created/enhanced habitats (post-development) need calculating.
- 3.1.2 The full results of this assessment are summarised in Appendix A, with the habitat condition sheets presented in Appendix B (pre-development). The full Statutory Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet is presented separately in 2487248 Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

3.2 Baseline

- 3.2.1 The site comprises 13 different habitats, these include, but are not limited to, other neutral grassland, woodland broadleaved & mixed, other woodland; broadleaved, and scrub; bramble and mixed. The majority of the site is other neutral grassland (fairways and greens. There are several ditches, hedgerows and eutrophic standing water onsite.
- 3.2.2 The UKHab Plan (Figure 1) has been used to determine all of the habitats present within the site before construction.

Area habitats

- 3.2.3 The total area of each area habitat recorded within the site before construction, the condition of each habitat (i.e. its current status) and a summary of the BUs this represents, are all presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Baseline biodiversity unit values for each habitat recorded within the Application Site before construction

Habitat type (UKHab classification)	Baseline habitat condition	Area (ha)	Baseline biodiversity unit value (BU)
Bramble scrub	Condition Assessment N/A	0.27	1.08
Mixed scrub	Moderate	0.59	4.72
Other neutral grassland	Moderate	9.98	79.84
Other woodland; mixed	Moderate	1.52	12.16
Other woodland; broadleaved	Good	4.03	48.36
Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Poor	0.04	0.16

Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Moderate	0.03	0.24
Rural trees	Moderate	0.01	0.08
Other woodland; broadleaved	Moderate	1.51	12.08
Total		17.98	158.72

Hedgerows

3.2.4 The total length of each hedgerow recorded within the Site before construction, the condition of each habitat (i.e. its current status) and a summary of the BUs this represents, are all presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Baseline biodiversity unit values for each hedgerow recorded within the Application Site before construction

Habitat type (UKHab classification)	Baseline habitat condition	Length (km)	Baseline biodiversity unit value (BU)
Native hedgerow	Good	0.02	1.04
Line of trees	Moderate	0.26	0.12
Total		0.28	1.16

Watercourses

3.2.5 Detailed morphological condition assessment of watercourses has not been carried out as it is not known if any of the watercourses will be directly affected by any future scheme design. This is considered unlikely as any future design will likely retain any watercourses with a suitable buffer. It is assumed that any net gain could be delivered through enhancement to the ponds. A moderate condition has been assumed for each watercourse.

Table 5 Baseline biodiversity unit values for each watercourse recorded within the Application Site before construction

Habitat type (UKHab classification)	Baseline habitat condition	Length (km)	Baseline biodiversity unit value (BU)
Ditches	Poor	0.65	2.60

3.3 Summary of Biodiversity Baseline

3.3.1 The majority of the habitats within the site are listed as being of moderate condition. The native hedgerows have good condition scoring due to the large number of native species found within them and the other woodland; broadleaved has a good condition predominantly due to the presence of ancient woodland indicator species within the ground flora and veteran trees.

3.4 Post-development Scenario

3.4.1 As indicated above, in order to achieve a minimum 10% net gain in biodiversity the following number of biodiversity units needs to be achieved from any future post-development masterplan:

- Habitat units: 158.72 BU
- Hedgerow units: 1.16 BU
- Watercourse units: 2.60 BU

3.4.2 Post-development biodiversity can only be calculated once any future final landscape plan has produced for the Application Site. However, suggested options for a Proposed Development site to deliver a net gain in biodiversity include:

- Ensure that the woodland areas are retained and removed from the development redline, as this will lower the overall baseline making a net gain easier to achieve.
- New native hedgerow planting.
- Enhancement of existing hedgerows by relaxing flailing management and planting hedgerow trees.
- Conversion of greens to flower rich grassland via a change in management and/or supplementary meadow seeding from local sites.
- Enhance the water bodies by allowing flower-rich grass margins to establish and making them more suitable for Great Crested Newts (GCN) and diverse invertebrate populations.

REFERENCES

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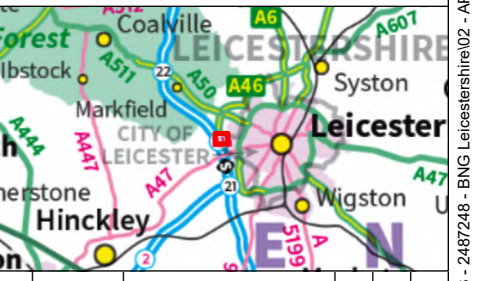
FIGURES

Figure 1. Baseline Habitats

452900 453000 453100 453200 453300 453400 453500 453600 453700 453800 453900 454000



- Legend:**
- Site boundary
 - Baseline Habitats**
 - Other neutral grassland
 - Bramble scrub
 - Mixed scrub
 - Eutrophic standing waters
 - Other standing water
 - Broadleaved and mixed woodland
 - Other broadleaved woodland
 - Line of trees
 - Native hedgerow
 - Ditch
 - Built linear features
 - ◆ Scattered tree

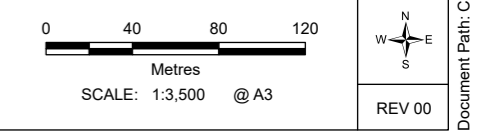


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BNG Leicestershire



TITLE: Figure 2:
Baseline Habitats



APPENDIX A – BNG ASSESSMENT

Please note that the full, detailed BNG calculations are provided within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet for the project, which is presented separately in 2487248 Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

A. Pre-construction calculations

Area Habitats

Ref	Existing area habitats				Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance	Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline
	Broad Habitat	Habitat Type	Irreplaceable habitat	Area (hectares)	Distinctiveness	Condition	Strategic significance		Total habitat units
1	Heathland and shrub	Bramble scrub	No	0.27	Medium	Condition Assessment N/A	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	1.08
2	Heathland and shrub	Mixed scrub	No	0.59	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	4.72
3	Grassland	Other neutral grassland	No	9.98	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	79.84
4	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, mixed	No	1.52	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	12.16
5	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	No	4.03	Medium	Good	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	48.36
6									
7									Check Data ▲
8	Lakes	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	No	0.04	Medium	Poor	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	0.16
9	Lakes	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	No	0.03	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	0.24
10	Woodland and forest	Other woodland, broadleaved	No	1.51	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	12.08
11	Individual trees	Rural tree	No	0.01	Medium	Moderate	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	0.08

Hedgerow Habitats

Ref	Existing hedgerow habitats			Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline Total hedgerow units
	Hedge number	Habitat type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier		
1		Line of trees	0.26	Low	2	Moderate	2	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness band or better	1.04
2		Native hedgerow	0.02	Low	2	Good	3	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	Same distinctiveness band or better	0.12
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
			0.28									1.16

Watercourse Habitats

Ref	Existing watercourse type		Distinctiveness		Condition		Strategic significance			Watercourse encroachment		Riparian encroachment		Required Action to Meet Trading Rules	Ecological baseline Total watercourse units
	Watercourse type	Length (km)	Distinctiveness	Score	Condition	Score	Strategic significance	Strategic significance	Strategic significance multiplier	Extent of encroachment	Multiplier	Extent of encroachment for both banks	Multiplier		
1	Ditches	0.65	Medium	4	Poor	1	Area/compensation not in local strategy/ no local strategy	Low Strategic Significance	1	No Encroachment	1	No Encroachment/ No Encroachment	1	Same habitat required =	2.60
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
		0.65													2.60

APPENDIX B – PRE-DEVELOPMENT HABITAT CONDITION SURVEY RESULTS

Parcels of land containing the same habitat type in the same condition have been combined. There may be variation in the pass/fail of the criterion below, however they still result in the same condition.

Baseline Habitat Reference 1

UKHab classification	Grassland - Other neutral grassland		
Distinctiveness	Medium/High	Area / Length	9.98 ha

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
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	Pass	
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.	Pass	
C - Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens	Pass	
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%	Pass	
E - Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or other damaging activities) accounts for less than 5% total area.	Pass	
F - There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type	Fail	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 5 out of 6 criteria (excluding criterion A) - Moderate condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 2

UKHab classification	Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	0.58 ha

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
A - The scrub 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 scrub type	Pass	
B - Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	Pass	
C - There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Pass	

D - The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Pass	
E - There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Fail	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 4 criteria out of 5 - Moderate condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 3

UKHab classification	Rivers and lakes - Other standing water		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
Is the pond in a woodland area?	Fail	
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.	Fail	
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.	Pass	
C - Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed Lemna spp. or filamentous algae.	Pass	
D - The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Fail	
E - Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	Pass	
F - There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Pass	
G - The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Pass	
H - Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Pass	
I - The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Fail	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 6 criteria out of 10 - Moderate condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 4

UKHab classification	Rivers and lakes - Other standing water		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	0.02

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
Is the pond in a woodland area?	Fail	
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.	Fail	

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.	Pass	
C - Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Pass	
D - The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Pass	
E - Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	Pass	
F - There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Pass	
G - The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Pass	
H - Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Pass	
I - The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Pass	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 8 criteria out of 10 - Moderate condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 5

UKHab classification	Rivers and lakes - Other standing water		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
Is the pond in a woodland area?	Fail	
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.	Fail	
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.	Fail	
C - Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Pass	
D - The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Pass	
E - Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	Pass	
F - There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Pass	
G - The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Pass	
H - Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Fail	
I - The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Fail	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 5 criteria out of 10 - Poor condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 6

UKHab classification	Rivers and lakes - Other standing water		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	0.01

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
Is the pond in a woodland area?	Pass	
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.	Fail	
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.	Pass	
C - Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Pass	
D - The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Fail	
E - Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	Pass	
F - There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Pass	
G - The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Pass	
H - Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Fail	
I - The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Fail	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 5 criteria out of 10 - Poor condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 7

UKHab classification	Rivers and lakes - Eutrophic standing waters		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	0.03

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
Is the pond in a woodland area?	Pass	
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.	Fail	
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.	Fail	
C - Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Fail	
D - The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Fail	
E - Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams, pumps or pipework.	Pass	
F - There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species.	Pass	

G - The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Pass	
H - Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Fail	
I - The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Fail	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 4 criteria out of 10 - Poor condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 8

UKHab classification	Large-leaved Lime (<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>)		
Distinctiveness		Size	15 cm

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
A - The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Pass	
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).	Pass	
C - The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	Fail	
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.	Pass	
E - Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Fail	
F - More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Pass	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 4 criteria out of 6 - Moderate condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 9

UKHab classification	Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)		
Distinctiveness		Size	10 cm

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Pass/Fail)	Justification
A - The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Pass	
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).	Pass	

C - The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)1.	Fail	
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.	Pass	
E - Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Fail	
F - More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Pass	
Overall Condition Assessment		
Passes 4 criteria out of 6 - Moderate condition		

Baseline Habitat Reference 10

UKHab classification	Woodland and forest - Broadleaved and mixed woodland		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	5.22

Condition Assessment Criteria	Good (3 points)			Criterion score	Justification
A - Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	3	
B - Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3	
C - Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ≥10% cover.	3	
D - Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	3	
E - Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	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.	"<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	3	
G - Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	3	
H - Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	3	
I - Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	2	
J - Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	2	
K - Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	2	
L - Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	1	
M - Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground.	2	
Overall Condition Assessment					
Total criteria 33 - Good condition					

Baseline Habitat Reference 11

UKHab classification	Woodland and forest - Broadleaved and mixed woodland		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	0.02

Condition Assessment Criteria	Good (3 points)			Criterion score	Justification
A - Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	2	
B - Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3	
C - Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>) or cherry laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>) not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ≥10% cover.	3	
D - Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	2	
E - Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	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.	"<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	2	
G - Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	2	
H - Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	3	
I - Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	2	
J - Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	2	
K - Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	1	
L - Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	2	
M - Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground.	3	
Overall Condition Assessment					
Total criteria 30 - Moderate condition					

Baseline Habitat Reference 12

UKHab classification	Woodland and forest - Broadleaved and mixed woodland		
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	1.52

Condition Assessment Criteria	Good (3 points)			Criterion score	Justification
A - Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	3	
B - Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3	
C - Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron Rhododendron ponticum or cherry laurel Prunus laurocerasus not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ≥10% cover.	3	
D - Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	3	
E - Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	2	
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.	"<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	1	
G - Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	3	
H - Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	3	
I - Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	2	
J - Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	2	
K - Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	2	
L - Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood,	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood,	2	

	or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.		
M - Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground.	3	
Overall Condition Assessment					
Total criteria 32 - Moderate condition					

Baseline Habitat Reference 13

UKHab classification	Woodland and forest - Broadleaved and mixed woodland				
Distinctiveness		Area / Length	0.11		

Condition Assessment Criteria	Good (3 points)			Criterion score	Justification
A - Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes present.	Two age-classes present.	One age-class present.	3	
B - Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland.	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland.	3	
C - Invasive plant species	No invasive species present in woodland.	Rhododendron ponticum or cherry laurel Prunus laurocerasus not present, and other invasive species <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ≥10% cover.	3	
D - Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species across woodland parcel.	2	
E - Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native.	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native.	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native.	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.	"<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space.	3	
G - Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland.	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland.	2	
H - Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback.	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present.	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present.	3	
I - Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community at ground layer present.	2	
J - Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland.	Two storeys across all survey plots.	One or less storey across all survey plots.	2	
K - Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees per hectare.	One veteran tree per hectare.	No veteran trees present in woodland.	1	
L - Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities.	1	
M - Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident.	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground.	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground.	3	
Overall Condition Assessment					
Total criteria 31 - Moderate condition					

Baseline Habitat Reference 14

UKHab classification	Built linear features		
Distinctiveness	Very Low	Area / Length	0.04 ha
Overall Condition			
N/A – Built linear features does not qualify for condition assessment.			



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Registered office
Spring Lodge, 172, Chester Road, Helsby, Frodsham, England, WA6 0AR, UK
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www.rsk.co.uk