

The Drovers Solar Farm

Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report (Tracked)

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Proposals

- 1.1.1 This Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment Report has been prepared on behalf of The Drovers Solar Farm Limited ('the Applicant') in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of The Drovers Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme').
- 1.1.2 The extent of the Order limits are shown in **Location Plan [APP/2.1]** and the Scheme is described in full in **Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]** and shown spatially on the **Works Plan [APP/2.3]**.
- 1.1.3 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station and Associated Development comprising Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a Customer Substation, and Grid Connection Infrastructure, including a new National Grid Substation. The Scheme would allow for the generation and export of over 50MW Alternating Current (AC) of renewable energy, connecting into the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) overhead line that passes through the Site.
- 1.1.4 As the Scheme would have a generating capacity in excess of 50MW, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.5 To inform this DCO Application, Aspect Ecology has undertaken this Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report to determine the level of BNG that can be achieved via the Scheme. This work is based on the latest Statutory Biodiversity Metric tool **[Ref. 1]** issued by Defra and informed by associated guidance issued by Defra, in combination with guidance developed by the Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA).
- 1.1.6 This document has been updated at Deadline 44 to reflect an updated calculation of the anticipated change in biodiversity value as a result of the Scheme to include references to refer to the now adopted Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The document references have not been updated from the original submission. Please refer to the **Guide to the Application [APP/1.3.62]** for the list of current versions of documents.



1.2 Biodiversity Net Gain Legislation, Policy and Best Practice

Legislation

- 1.2.1 The Environment Act 2021 establishes a comprehensive legal framework for environmental improvement within the UK, forming one of the key measures to deliver the vision set out under the 25 Year Environment Plan. In particular, as part of this process, the Environment Act 2021 sets out a number of measures in order to introduce mandatory requirements for BNG within the planning system, including a requirement for developments to deliver 10% gains in biodiversity value.
- 1.2.2 In respect of DCOs for NSIPs (under The Planning Act 2008), Schedule 15 of The Environment Act 2021 sets out Principal Amendments to the Planning Act 2008 in order to implement the relevant BNG requirements. These requirements are not yet in force and will be implemented at a future date. The government originally committed to these requirements coming into force from November 2025; however currently available government advice (at www.gov.uk, accessed 19 May 2026) indicates that BNG will apply to NSIPs from November 2026. It is therefore considered that this Scheme is not yet legally obliged to deliver a BNG.
- 1.2.3 In addition, no formal guidance has been published by the government or Natural England on the application of BNG to NSIPs at the time of writing. Nevertheless, the Scheme has committed to delivering BNG that is proportionate to the Scheme and, as a result, BNG assessments have been a key part of the design of the Scheme from an early stage.

National Policy

- 1.2.4 National Policy Statements for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5) detail Environment and Biodiversity Net Gain considerations (at sections 4.6, 2.8, and 2.5, respectively).

Local Policy

- 1.2.5 Planning policy at the local level is set out within Breckland Local Plan (adopted September 2023). ENV02 Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement within the Local Plan specifically relates to securing of Biodiversity Net Gain.

Good Practice Principles for Development

- 1.2.6 CIRIA, CIEEM and IEMA have developed a set of principles on good practice to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain [Ref. 2], accompanied by a practical guide [Ref. 3]. These principles provide a framework that helps improve the UK's biodiversity by contributing towards strategic priorities to conserve and enhance nature while progressing with sustainable development. They also provide a way for industry to show that projects follow good practice. Ten key principles are identified:



- **Apply the Mitigation Hierarchy.** Do everything possible to first avoid and then minimise impacts on biodiversity. Only as a last resort, and in agreement with external decision-makers where possible, compensate for losses that cannot be avoided. If compensating for losses within the development footprint is not possible or does not generate the most benefits for nature conservation, then offset biodiversity losses by gains elsewhere.
- **Avoid losing biodiversity that cannot be offset by gains elsewhere.** Avoid impacts on irreplaceable biodiversity – these impacts cannot be offset to achieve No Net Loss or Net Gain.
- **Be inclusive and equitable.** Engage stakeholders early, and involve them in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the approach to Net Gain. Achieve Net Gain in partnership with stakeholders where possible, and share the benefits fairly among stakeholders.
- **Address risks.** Mitigate difficulty, uncertainty and other risks to achieving Net Gain. Apply well-accepted ways to add contingency when calculating biodiversity losses and gains in order to account for any remaining risks, as well as to compensate for the time between the losses occurring and the gains being fully realised.
- **Make a measurable Net Gain contribution.** Achieve a measurable, overall gain for biodiversity and the services ecosystems provide while directly contributing towards nature conservation priorities.
- **Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity.** Achieve the best outcomes for biodiversity by using robust, credible evidence and local knowledge to make clearly justified choices when:
 - Delivering compensation that is ecologically equivalent in type, amount and condition, and that accounts for the location and timing of biodiversity losses
 - Compensating for losses of one type of biodiversity by providing a different type that delivers greater benefits for nature conservation
 - Achieving Net Gain locally to the development while also contributing towards nature conservation priorities at local, regional and national levels
 - Enhancing existing or creating new habitat; and
 - Enhancing ecological connectivity by creating more, bigger, better and joined areas for biodiversity.
- **Be additional.** Achieve nature conservation outcomes that demonstrably exceed existing obligations (i.e. do not deliver something that would occur anyway).
- **Create a Net Gain legacy.** Ensure Net Gain generates long-term benefits by:
 - Engaging stakeholders and jointly agreeing practical solutions that secure Net Gain in perpetuity
 - Planning for adaptive management and securing dedicated funding for long-term management



- Designing Net Gain for biodiversity to be resilient to external factors, especially climate change
- Mitigating risks from other land uses
- Avoiding displacing harmful activities from one location to another; and
- Supporting local-level management of Net Gain activities.
- **Optimise sustainability.** Prioritise Biodiversity Net Gain and, where possible, optimise the wider environmental benefits for a sustainable society and economy.
- **Be transparent.** Communicate all Net Gain activities in a transparent and timely manner, sharing the learning with all stakeholders.

1.3 Purpose of this Report

- 1.3.1 Following the above information, at the current time, no formal legislative requirement for BNG is in place for DCO applications.
- 1.3.2 Nonetheless, not least in view of the forthcoming legislative requirement and current established processes and precedent in made solar DCOs available in regard to BNG relating to planning applications, this Report provides a BNG assessment, including details of the existing calculated biodiversity value(s) and associated information. A copy of the government's BNG metric calculation tool has been completed in order to provide an assessment of the likely net change in biodiversity value under the Scheme, including consideration of how a Biodiversity gain in excess of 10% can be delivered in line with the anticipated future legislative requirements, with printouts provided at **Appendix 2** within this document.



2 Methodology

2.1 Baseline Habitat Survey

- 2.1.1 The Site was surveyed over a number of visits between April 2024 and October 2025 in order to ascertain the general ecological value of the land contained within the boundaries of the Site and to identify the main habitats and ecological features present.
- 2.1.2 The Site was surveyed based on standard Phase 1 Habitat Survey methodology [Ref. 4], whereby the habitat types present are identified and mapped, together with an assessment of the species composition of each habitat. The Site was classified into areas of similar botanical community types, with a representative species list compiled for each habitat identified. Habitats were classified in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification system, version 2.0 [Ref. 5], and condition assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in the Metric Technical Annex [Ref. 6] and using professional judgement. In line with guidance [Ref. 7], the fine scale minimum mapping unit (MMU) of 25sqm or 5m in length has been used where possible/relevant.

2.2 Survey Constraints and Limitations

- 2.2.1 All of the species that occur in each habitat would not necessarily be detectable during survey work carried out at any given time of the year, since different species are apparent during different seasons. The Phase 1 habitat survey included surveys undertaken within the optimal season, and the nature of the habitats within the Site allowed for the broad habitat types to be identified and for an adequate assessment of the intrinsic ecological interest of the Site to be made.

2.3 Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

- 2.3.1 To quantify the level of BNG that can be delivered under the Scheme, the change in biodiversity value resulting from the Scheme has been calculated using the Metric calculation tool, as informed by the associated User Guide [Ref. 8]. This takes account of the size, distinctiveness and ecological condition of existing and proposed habitat areas to provide a proxy measure of the present and forecast biodiversity value of a site and therefore determine the overall change in biodiversity value.
- 2.3.2 The pre-development ('baseline') biodiversity value of the on-site habitat has been calculated based on the habitat survey information collected during the baseline habitat survey (see **Section 2.1** above).
- 2.3.3 The post-development biodiversity value has also been calculated, based on **Appendix 1 - Green Infrastructure Strategy Plans** to the **outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP)** [APP/7.11]. A number of assumptions have been made in



terms of the landscaping and management proposals, based on comparative developments and what is realistic and feasible under the proposed land uses and landscape space types. Further details of assumptions made in populating the metric are provided in **Chapter 4** below.

2.4 Strategic Significance

2.4.1 Strategic significance refers to the local significance of habitat parcels based on their location and the habitat type. The Metric gives additional unit value to habitat parcels that are mapped within a published Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) or, where no LNRS has been published, to habitats mapped/listed in alternative documents (e.g. Draft LNRS, Local Plans, Biodiversity Action Plans, Green Infrastructure Strategies, etc.). Strategic significance has been assigned to the pre- and post-development habitats in accordance with the methodology set out in Tables 7 and 8 of the User Guide, as follows:

- High (formally identified in local strategy)
- Medium (location ecologically desirable but not in local strategy); and
- Low (area / compensation not in local strategy).



3 Pre-development ('Baseline') Habitats

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 Consideration of the classification and condition rationale for the pre-development ('baseline') habitats is set out below. In addition, consideration is given to the relevant date at which the pre-development biodiversity value should be taken (noting any relevant activities carried out that may have resulted in a lower biodiversity value being recorded than would otherwise be the case), along with the presence of any irreplaceable habitats and strategic significance awarded under BNG guidance.
- 3.1.2 Detailed condition assessment sheets are provided for at **Appendix 1** within this document, with habitat locations depicted on **Plan 1** within this document.

3.2 Degradation

- 3.2.1 During the survey work undertaken across 2024 and 2025, no evidence was recorded to suggest that any activities of the type mentioned in paragraph 6 or 6A of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) have occurred since 30 January 2020. Accordingly, the baseline habitat value is considered to be as recorded during the survey work, which remains up to date at the current time in line with standard guidance [Ref. 9].

3.3 Irreplaceable Habitats

- 3.3.1 Veteran trees are present within the Site, which comprise irreplaceable habitat. These are to be entirely retained within the Scheme, with appropriate buffers such that their condition will not be affected.
- 3.3.2 No other irreplaceable habitats are present within the Site.

3.4 Strategic Significance

- 3.4.1 The Public Consultation Draft of the Norfolk LNRS was originally reviewed in order to inform the proposals and associated BNG assessment. At the time of initial drafting of this assessment, this remained the most up to date LNRS information and, as such, the information set out in relation to the Scheme was considered on this basis, with reference to strategic significance.
- 3.4.2 Following completion of the public consultation process, Norfolk's LNRS was formally published on 31 October 2025. As such (in line with previous versions of this report), this



BNG assessment has been updated in order to reflect the updated/adopted LNRS information

- 3.4.3 In line with the User Guide [Ref. 10], “Once an LNRS has been published, the baseline strategic significance values for habitat parcels in that area should always be scored as low”. Accordingly, low strategic significance has been applied to all pre-development habitats in line with the guidance requirements.

3.5 Baseline Habitats

- 3.5.1 A summary of the classification and condition rationale for the pre-development (‘baseline’) habitats is set out at **Table 3.1** below, with pre-development hedgerows set out at **Table 3.2** below. Descriptions of the existing habitats are set out within **ES Appendix 7.2: Baseline Ecological Survey Report [APP/6.4]**.

Table 3.1 Pre-development Habitats

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Cereal Crops	N/A	A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Arable Field Margins Game Bird Mix	N/A	Wild bird cover crops planted in blocks/corners within the Site and as such under UK Habitats v2.0 are coded as c1a8 arable field margins - wild bird mix, accordingly these areas are assigned as Cropland - Arable field margins game bird mix in line with tab G-1 within the Metric. A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Temporary Grass and Clover Leys	N/A	A number of Fields were dominated by Perennial Rye-grass <i>Lolium perenne</i> and are clearly in a rotation with grain or tilled crops, as such under UK Habitats v2.0 are coded as c1b5 rye-grass and clover leys, accordingly these areas are assigned as Cropland – Temporary grass and clover leys in line with tab G-1 within the Metric. A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Modified Grassland	Poor	Grasslands within the Site which are species poor and dominated by fast-growing grasses. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is coded g4, and accordingly, is assigned as Modified Grassland. These grasslands are species poor, therefore do not pass criterion A, and thus are unable to achieve above Poor condition. In addition, some of these areas fail additional criteria.



Modified Grassland	Moderate	Grasslands within the Site which are dominated by fast-growing grasses. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is coded g4, and accordingly, is assigned as Modified Grassland. These grasslands failed 2-3 criteria and are thus in Moderate condition.
Modified Grassland	Good	Grasslands within the Site which are dominated by fast-growing grasses. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is coded g4, and accordingly, is assigned as Modified Grassland. These grasslands passed all but a single criterion and are thus in Good condition.
Other Neutral Grassland	Poor	Grasslands within the Site which meet three of the following: have >20% cover of broadleaved herbs, a greater diversity of species, grasses not generally sown for agriculture, and cover of Rye-grasses and White Clover <30%. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is coded g3c, and accordingly, is assigned as Other Neutral Grassland. A number of these grasslands do not represent good examples of their habitat type, therefore do not pass criterion A, and thus are unable to achieve above Poor condition. The grasslands which passed criterion A, only passed 2 criteria in total, and are also thus in Poor condition.
<u>Other Neutral Grassland</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Grassland within River Road Roadside Nature Reserve U33086, meeting criteria for Good condition.</u>
Bracken	N/A	A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Bramble Scrub	N/A	A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Mixed Scrub	Poor	These areas of scrub comprise a mix of species. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is coded h3h, and accordingly, is assigned as Mixed Scrub. These areas of scrub habitat only pass 1-2 criteria and are thus in Poor condition.
Mixed Scrub	Moderate	The scrub comprises a mix of species. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is coded h3h, and accordingly, is assigned as Mixed Scrub. These habitat areas pass 3 criteria and are thus in Moderate condition.
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Poor	Small parcels of woodland within the Site. No recognisable woodland ground flora, nutrient enriched ground, limited vertical structure, lacking in ancient or



		veteran trees, uni-aged, presence of Cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> and limited deadwood present.
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	Moderate	Small parcels of woodland within the Site. No recognisable woodland ground flora, limited vertical structure, most lacking in ancient or veteran trees and limited deadwood present.
Tall Forbs	Poor	Tall forb vegetation is present in small areas across the Site. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is the secondary code 16, and accordingly, in line with tab G-1 within the Metric, is assigned as tall forbs. These habitat areas fail criteria A and B and are thus in Poor condition.
Bare Ground	Poor	Bare ground is present within Field 16. Under UK Habitats v2.0, this habitat is the secondary code 510, and accordingly, in line with tab G-1 within the Metric, is assigned as bare ground. This habitat fails criteria A and B and is thus in Poor condition.
Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Poor	Ponds within the Site that only pass 5 condition criteria and are thus in Poor condition.
Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Moderate	Ponds within the Site that pass 6-8 condition criteria and are thus in Moderate condition.
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	N/A	Unsealed tracks throughout the Site. A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.
Developed land; sealed surface	N/A	This includes all roads, parking and buildings within the Site. No assessment for the condition of this habitat is required.
Rural Tree	Moderate	A small number of trees which are immature, all pass 3-4 condition criteria and as such are in moderate condition (see accompanying BNG metric).
Rural Tree	Good	The majority of mature trees within the site were recorded to pass 5-6 condition criteria and as such are in good condition (see accompanying BNG metric).
Veteran Tree	Good	A total of 37 trees, (of which 21 are identified within the published LNRS) are considered to qualify as Veteran Trees under the definition set out within the NPPF. In addition, for the purposes of the BNG assessment (under the Biodiversity Gain Regulations (Irreplaceable



		Habitat) Regulations 2024) a further 57 trees (of which 13 are identified within the published LNRS) are considered likely to qualify as Veteran Trees on the basis of large girth in relation to species, whilst a further 7 trees (none of which are mapped in the published LNRS) are considered likely to qualify on the basis of significant decay features. All of these trees are considered to pass all condition criteria and as such are in good condition.
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Table 3.2 Pre-development Hedgerows

Habitat	Recorded Condition	Condition Rationale
Native Hedgerow	Moderate	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Native Hedgerow	Good	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Native Hedgerow with trees	Moderate	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Native Hedgerow with trees	Good	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Native Hedgerow associated with bank or ditch	Poor	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Native Hedgerow associated with bank or ditch	Good	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Species-rich native hedgerow	Good	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Species-rich native	Moderate	See relevant condition assessment sheets.



hedgerow with trees		
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	Good	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Line of trees	Poor	See relevant condition assessment sheets.
Line of trees	Moderate	See relevant condition assessment sheets.

3.6 Pre-development Biodiversity Value of On-site Habitats

- 3.6.1 The pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat has been calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. Relevant extracts from the excel metric template are provided at **Appendix 2** within this document. The overall pre-development biodiversity value of the on-site habitat is set out within **Table 3.3** (below).

Table 3.3 Pre-development ('baseline') biodiversity value of the on-site habitat based on the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, published 29 November 2023, updated 23 July 2024

Onsite baseline	Overall Units
Habitats	1838.82
Hedgerows and tree lines	320.77
Watercourse	N/A



4 Post-development Habitats and BNG Assessment Result

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This Chapter considers the likely change in biodiversity value as a result of the Scheme, based on the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

4.2 Assumptions

- 4.2.1 When inputting the post-development habitat areas and condition to the Metric, the following assumptions have been made:
- Newly created habitat under the Scheme will be managed appropriately to reach the assigned target condition (anticipated to be defined by a future management plans to the **outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) [APP/7.8]** and **oLEMP [APP/7.11]**); and
 - The calculations within this report are based on **Appendix 1 - Green Infrastructure Strategy Plans** to the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]**. Should the proposed habitats change within future plans, it is likely that this needs to be reflected in revised net-gain calculations at the appropriate stage.

4.3 Strategic Significance

- 4.3.1 In line with the above considerations in relation to pre-development strategic significance, the current assessment has been updated to reflect the published Norfolk LNRS.
- 4.3.2 Areas of the Site that are identified for mapped measures within the published LNRS, and where the proposals have been able to deliver the relevant habitat creation, restoration or enhancement, in line with the User Guide, have been assigned high strategic significance in relation to post-development habitats, as identified within the user comments section of the metric where appropriate.

4.4 Habitat Type and Condition

- 4.4.1 Summaries of the proposed post-development habitat creation/enhancement are set out in **Tables 4.1 to 4.3** below. Post-development habitat locations are shown on **Plan 2** within this document.


Table 4.1 Post-development on-Site Habitat Creation

Habitat	Targeted Condition	Condition Rationale
Modified Grassland	Poor	Areas of grassland to be created under and between individual solar panels within the Solar PV Arrays. Minimum poor condition is targeted on a precautionary basis, albeit through planting of an appropriate species-rich mix, management to prevent encroachment of scrub and bracken as well as an absence of non-native species it is anticipated that greater habitat condition/value could be achieved.
Other Neutral Grassland	Moderate	Proposed wildflower grassland provided using an appropriate species-rich wildflower mixture and managed appropriately to maximise ecological value. Given suitable long-term management it is anticipated that all of the relevant condition criteria could be met for good condition, albeit moderate condition is targeted within the metric on a precautionary basis.
Mixed Scrub	Moderate	Native scrub planting to be provided, including providing visual screening, which will include a minimum of substantially greater than three woody species. No invasive or undesirable species to be included. A well-developed edge and good age range can be developed over time, and subject to appropriate management. It is therefore anticipated that this habitat will achieve at least moderate condition.
Sustainable drainage system	Moderate	Attenuation basins and associated features forming drainage infrastructure, which are therefore subject to management constraints in relation to drainage. Enhanced through native marginal planting and where drainage requirements allow, managements to maximise biodiversity value. Anticipated to provide semi-natural habitats in the long-term and to achieve moderate condition within three years.
Developed Land; Sealed Surface	N/A	This includes all roads, parking and buildings within the Site. No assessment for the condition of this habitat is required.
Arable Field Margins Game Bird Mix	N/A	Wild bird cover crops to be planted in blocks/corners within the Site, specifically in order to provide compensation for the loss of similar habitats and address BNG trading requirements. A condition assessment is not applicable for this habitat type.



Table 4.2 Post-development on-Site Habitat Enhancement.

Habitat	Targeted Condition	Condition Rationale
Modified Grassland >> Other neutral grassland	Moderate	Areas of retained modified grassland will be oversown with a suitable wildflower seed mix and subject to an appropriate management plan to effect a change to other neutral grassland. Moderate condition is expected to be achieved within 10 years.
Modified Grassland >> Other neutral grassland	Good	Areas of retained modified grassland will be oversown with a suitable wildflower seed mix and subject to an appropriate management plan to effect a change to other neutral grassland. Good condition is expected to be achieved within 15 years.
Other neutral grassland	Good	Areas of retained other neutral grassland will be oversown with a suitable wildflower seed mix and subject to an appropriate management plan to enhance these habitats to good condition. Good condition is expected to be achieved within 10 years.
Mixed Scrub	Good	Areas of scrub managed to achieve good condition, anticipated within 3 years.
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Moderate	Retained woodland subject to suitable planting and management to achieve moderate condition.
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	Good	Retained woodland subject to suitable planting and management to achieve good condition.

Table 4.3 Post-development on-site Linear Feature (Hedgerow) Creation.

Habitat	Targetted Condition	Condition Rationale
Species-rich Native Hedgerow	Good	Species-rich native hedgerow will be created along a number of boundaries. Through suitable management this habitat would be expected to reach good condition within 12 years. (NB Where hedgerows are proposed for Advanced Planting, as shown



Species-rich Native Hedgerow with Trees	Moderate	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees will be created along a number of boundaries. Through suitable management this habitat would be expected to reach good condition within 10 years.
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4.5 Anticipated Change in Biodiversity

- 4.5.1 The anticipated change in biodiversity value as a result of the Scheme has been calculated using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, based on the assumptions and considerations set out above. Relevant extracts from the completed calculator tool are provided within **Appendix 2** to this document.
- 4.5.2 When considering the current proposals, the Metric calculates that the Scheme will likely result in the following changes in biodiversity, summarised in **Table 4.4** (below):

Table 4.4 Anticipated change in biodiversity

	Change in Units	% Change	Trading Rules Satisfied?
On-site Habitats	+412.08 <u>411.49</u>	+22. 41 <u>38</u> %	Yes
On-site Hedgerows and tree lines	+187.21	+58.36%	Yes
On-site Watercourses	N/A – No watercourses present		

- 4.5.3 On the basis of the considerations and proposals set out (including the assumptions and limitations set out above and within the comments in the spreadsheet tool), the Statutory Metric calculator indicates a net habitat biodiversity unit change for the proposals within the Site boundary of ~~+412.08~~411.49 Habitat Units (representing a calculated gain of 22.~~41~~38%) and +187.21 Hedgerow Units (representing a calculated gain of 58.36%) within the Site boundary, whilst (following the inclusion of additional areas of game bird mix incorporated to address previously identified trading errors), relevant trading requirements are met.
- 4.5.4 Accordingly, it is clear that (subject to appropriate implementation in line with the measures set out), the Scheme will achieve calculated gains substantially in excess of 10%.



5 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1.1 Aspect Ecology is advising on behalf of the Applicant in relation to the DCO Application for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Scheme.
- 5.1.2 To inform the DCO Application, Aspect Ecology has undertaken this BNG assessment report to determine the level of biodiversity net gain that could be achieved under the Scheme, based on the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and associated guidance.
- 5.1.3 In line with relevant BNG guidance, the metric calculations include strategic significance values based on the published Norfolk LNRS.
- 5.1.4 Subject to the information and measures set out, the BNG Assessment Report therefore demonstrates that the Scheme will result in demonstrable net gains in habitat units and hedgerows units within the Site boundary which are substantially in excess of 10%, amounting to calculated gains in excess of 400 habitat units and in excess of 185 hedgerows units.



References

- Ref 1 Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Auditing and Accounting for Biodiversity – Calculation Tool. 23 July 2024
- Ref 2 CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2016) Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development
- Ref 3 CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development. A practical guide.
- Ref 4 Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010, as amended) ‘Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit.’
- Ref 5 UKHab Ltd (2023). UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)
- Ref 6 Statutory Biodiversity Metric - Technical Annex 1 - Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology
- Ref 7 The UK Habitat classification User Manual. Version 1.1. 2020
- Ref 8 Defra (Feb 2024) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – User Guide
- Ref 9 CIEEM (April 2019) On the lifespan of ecological reports and surveys
- Ref 10 Defra (Feb 2024) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – User Guide

The Droves Solar Farm
(1006806)

**Plans and Appendices to
Accompany Biodiversity Net Gain
Assessment**

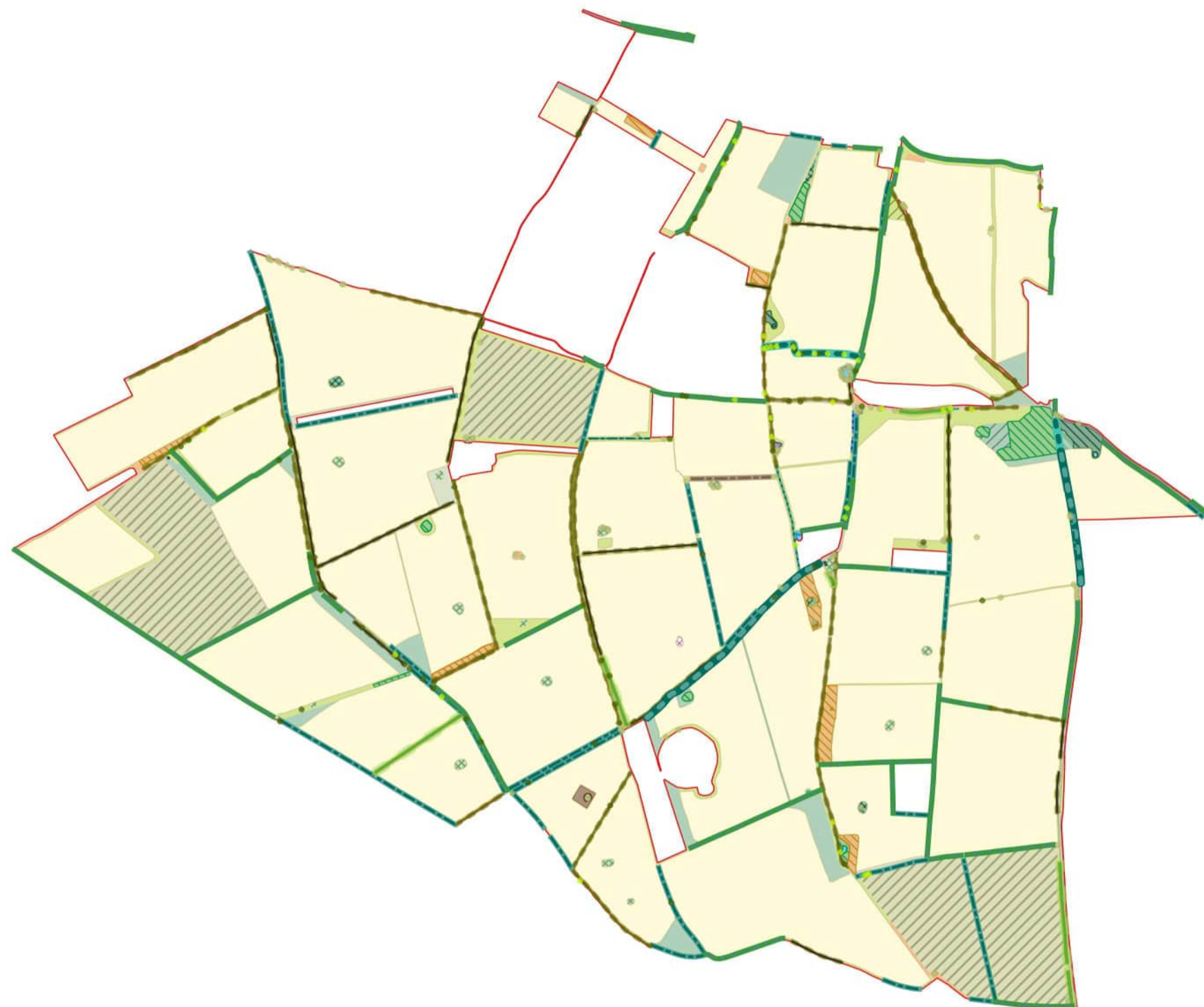
November 2025, Updated May and August 2026

Quality Management	
Client:	The Drovers Solar Farm Limited
Project:	The Drovers Solar Farm, Swaffham, Norfolk
Report Title:	Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (Plans and Appendices)
Project Number:	1006806
File Reference:	1006806 BNG v6 LP/CL
Date:	04/08/2026

Contact Details
Aspect Ecology Ltd Hardwick Business Park Noral Way Banbury Oxfordshire OX16 2AF t 01295 279721 e info@aspect-ecology.com w www.aspect-ecology.com

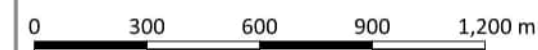
Plan 6806/BNG1:

Pre-development Habitat Mapping



Key:

Legend provided on following page.



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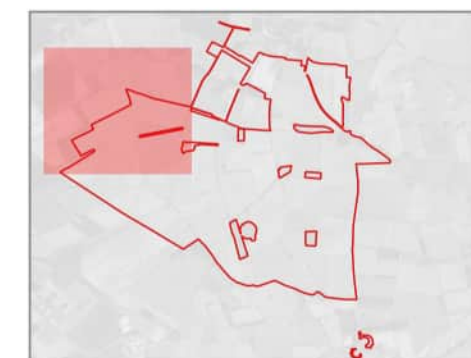
Key:			
	Site Boundary		Rural Tree [104]
	Cropland: Arable field margins game bird mix (5.3125ha)		Veteran Tree - identified within arboricultural survey [36]
	Cropland: Cereal crops (660.6200ha)		Veteran Tree – meeting definition within the BNG Schedule for Irreplaceable Habitats [64]
	Cropland: Temporary grass and clover leys (75.6375ha)		
	Grassland: Bracken (0.5800ha)		
	Grassland: Modified grassland - Good Condition (1.2850ha)		
	Grassland: Modified grassland - Moderate Condition (6.7100ha)		
	Grassland: Modified grassland - Poor Condition (41.8500ha)		
	Grassland: Other neutral grassland - Good Condition (0.0750ha)		
	Grassland: Other neutral grassland - Moderate Condition (0.9000ha)		
	Grassland: Other neutral grassland - Poor Condition (21.5725ha)		
	Heathland and shrub: Bramble scrub (0.4975ha)		
	Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub - Moderate Condition (0.7375ha)		
	Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub - Poor Condition (1.8950ha)		
	Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub - Poor Condition (1.9725ha)		
	Lakes: Ponds (non-priority habitat) - Moderate Condition (0.3175ha)		
	Lakes: Ponds (non-priority habitat) - Poor Condition (0.0975ha)		
	Sparsely vegetated land: Tall forbs - Poor Condition (2.7925ha)		
	Urban: Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (8.0700ha)		
	Urban: Bare ground - Poor Condition (0.3675ha)		
	Urban: Developed land; sealed surface: Building (0.0200ha)		
	Urban: Developed land; sealed surface: Hardstanding (3.8025ha)		
	Woodland and forest: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland - Moderate Condition (5.1575ha)		
	Woodland and forest: Lowland mixed deciduous woodland - Poor Condition (1.9175ha)		
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Line of trees - Moderate Condition (1.405km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch - Good Condition (0.435km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch - Poor Condition (0.135km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native hedgerow with trees - Good Condition (10.68km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native hedgerow with trees - Moderate Condition (5.28km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native hedgerow - Good Condition (11.395km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native hedgerow - Moderate Condition (8.545km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native hedgerow - Poor Condition (0.3km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich native hedgerow - Good Condition (0.39km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - Good Condition (1.41km)
			Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - Moderate Condition (0.5km)



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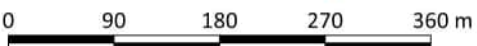
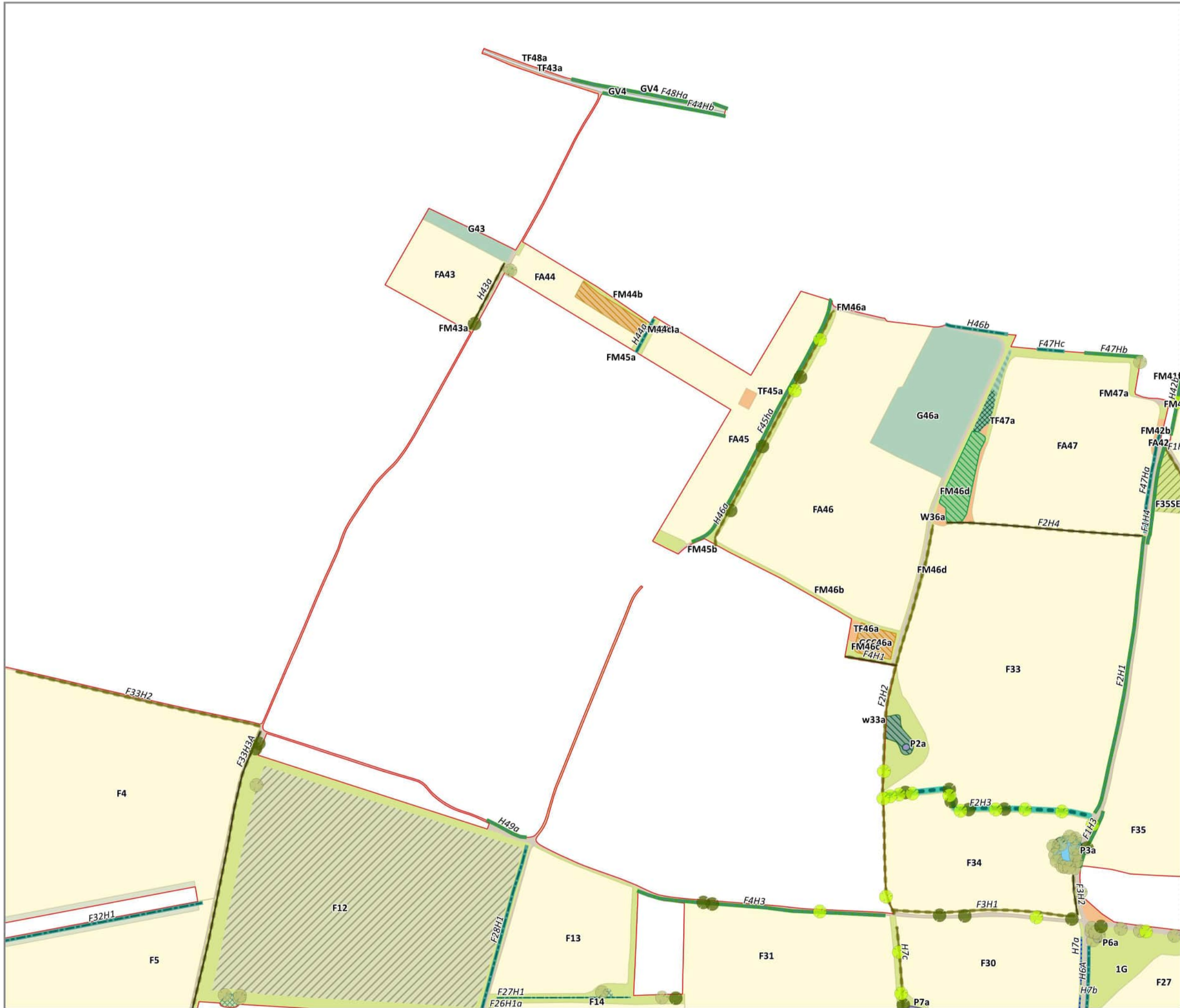
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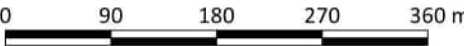
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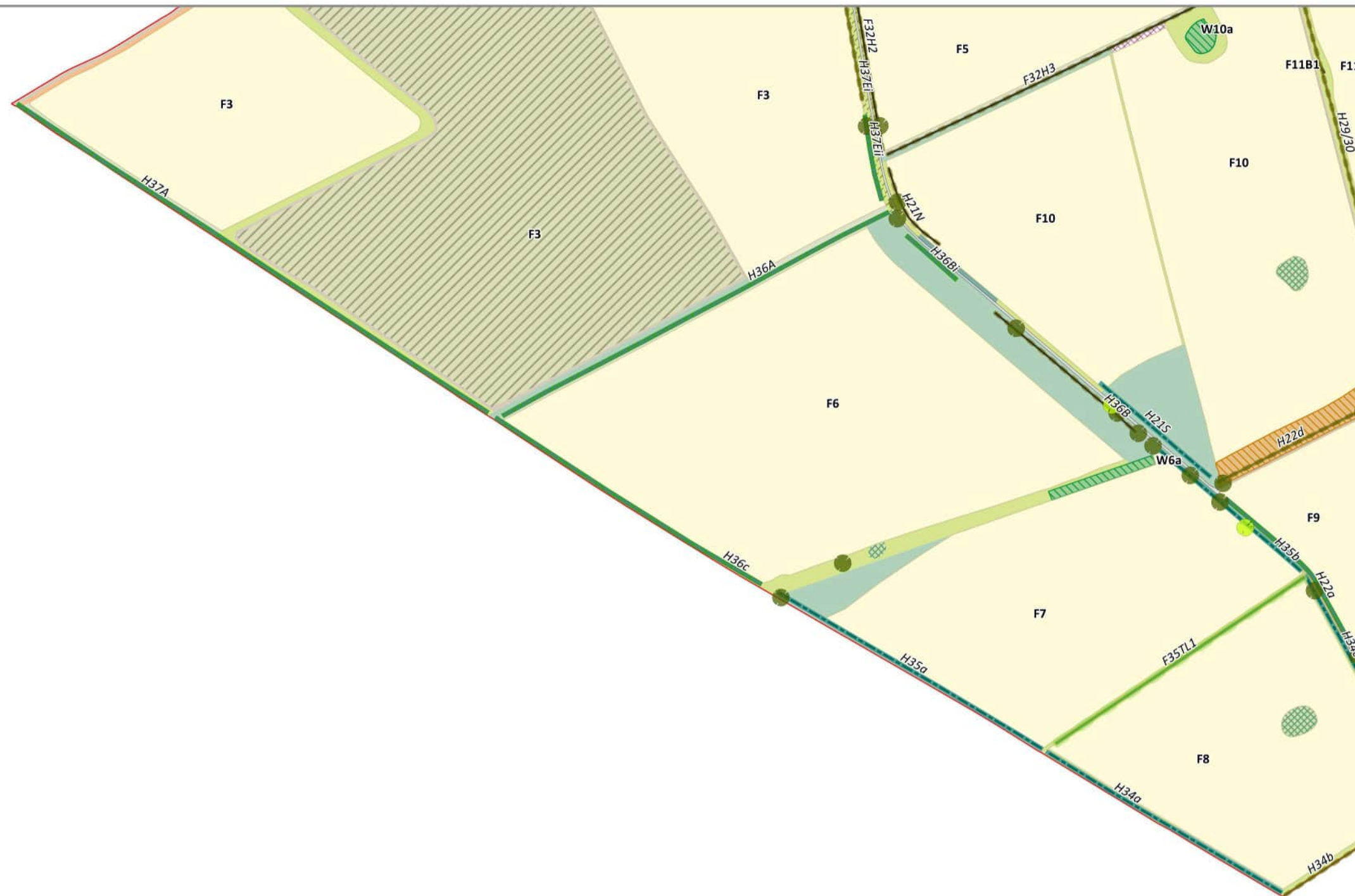
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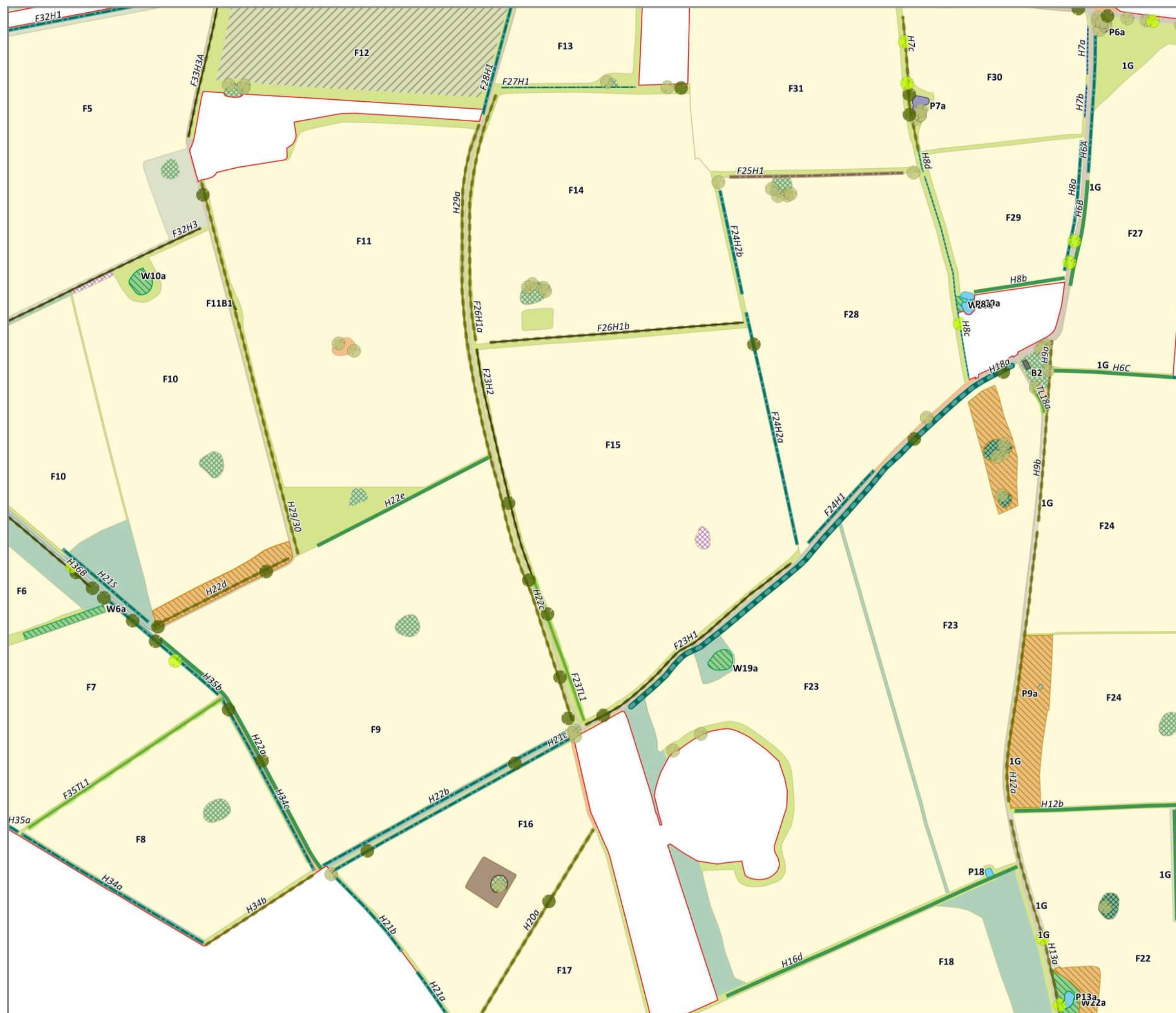
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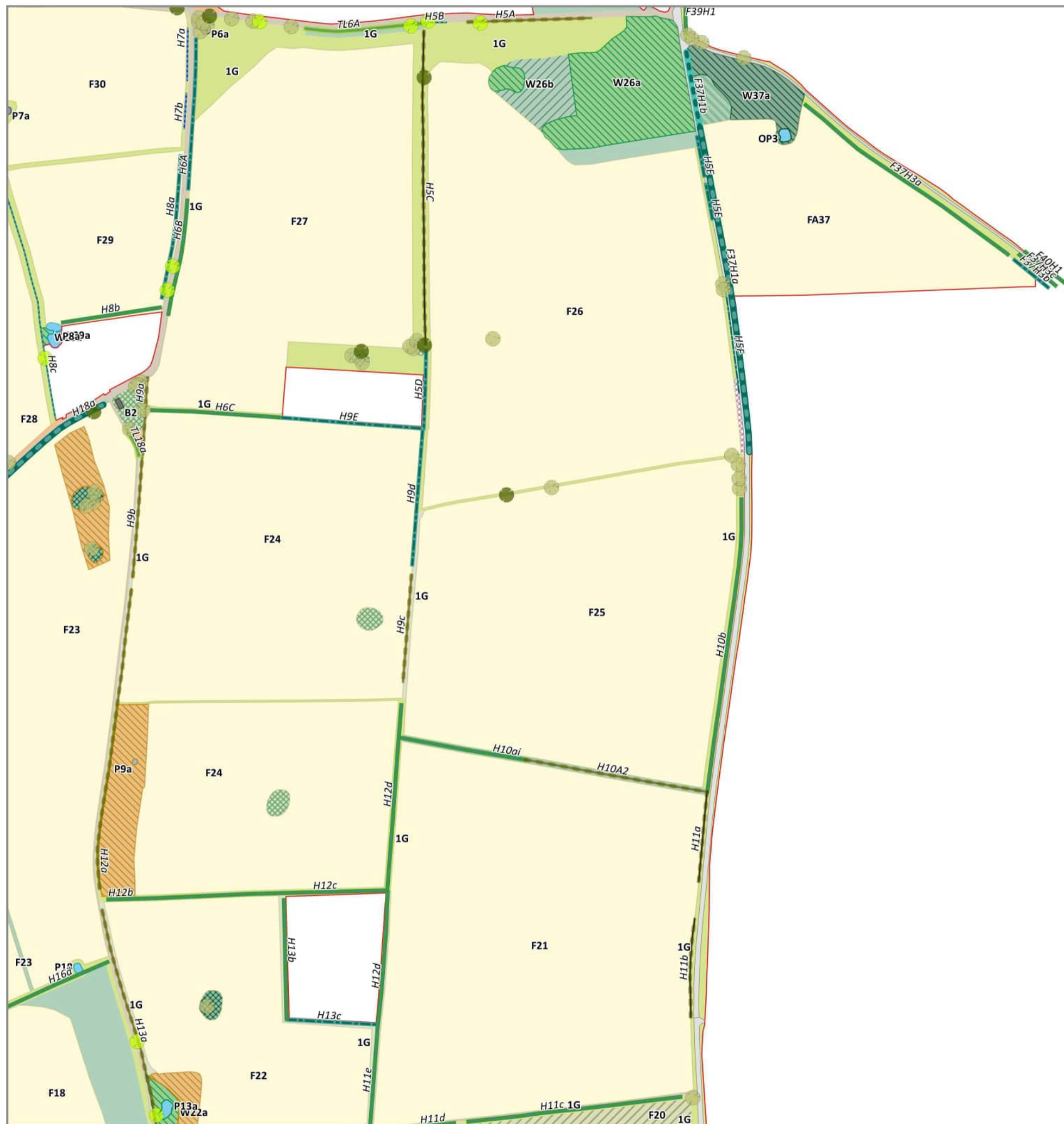
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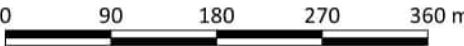
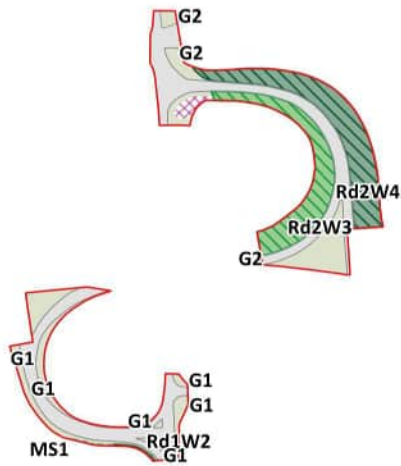
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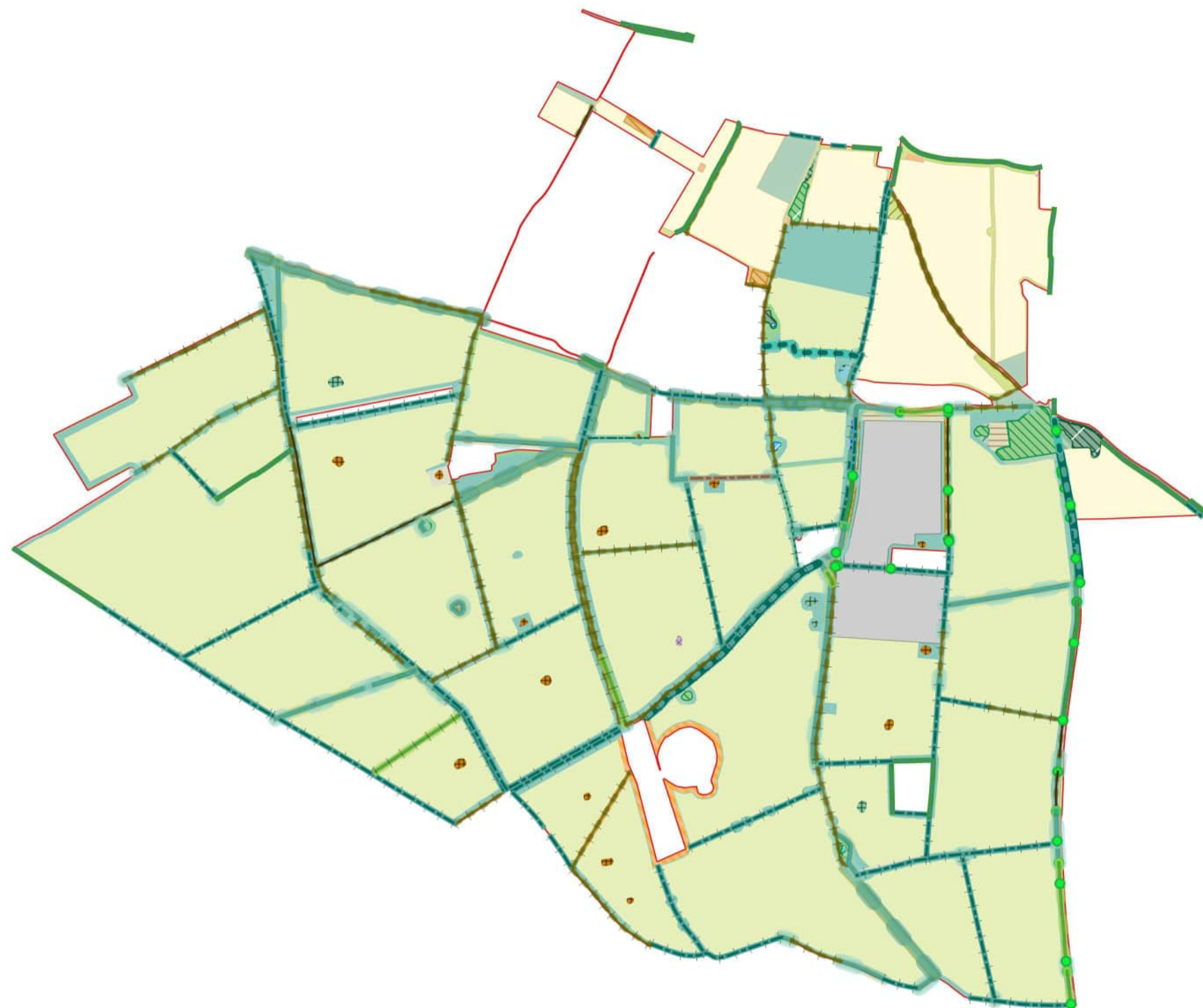
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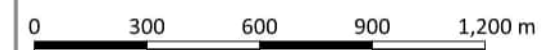
Plan 6806/BNG2:

Post-development Habitat Mapping



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Key:



Site Boundary



Created -: Area comprising of
Urban: Sustainable drainage system (0.5ha),
Grassland: Other neutral grassland (1ha),
and Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub (0.6575ha)



Created Cropland: Arable field margins
game bird mix (3.7025ha)



Created Grassland: Modified grassland -
Poor Condition (566.3975ha)



Created Grassland: Other neutral
grassland - Moderate Condition (78.0525ha)



Created Urban: Developed land; sealed
surface: Hardstanding (27.2450ha)



Created Woodland and forest: Other
woodland; broadleaved (1.1250ha)



Enhanced from Grassland: Modified grassland
- Good Condition to Other neutral grassland -
Good Condition (0.6825ha)



Enhanced from Grassland: Modified grassland
- Moderate Condition to Other neutral
grassland - Moderate Condition (4.9200ha)



Enhanced from Grassland: Modified grassland
- Poor Condition to Other neutral
grassland - Moderate Condition (25.7500ha)



Enhanced from Grassland: Other neutral
grassland - Poor Condition to -
Moderate Condition (6.1325ha)



Enhanced from Heathland and shrub: Bramble
scrub to Mixed scrub -
Moderate Condition (0.0800ha)



Enhanced Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub -
Moderate Condition - identified within LNRS
High Strategic Significance (0.1375ha)



Enhanced Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub -
Poor Condition - identified within LNRS
High Strategic Significance (0.2850ha)



Enhanced Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub -
Moderate Condition (0.4775ha)



Enhanced Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub -
Poor Condition (1.6775ha)



Enhanced Woodland and forest: Lowland
mixed deciduous woodland - Moderate
Condition - identified within LNRS High
Strategic Significance (0.8900ha)



Enhanced Woodland and forest: Lowland
mixed deciduous woodland - Poor Condition
- identified within LNRS High Strategic
Significance (1.2900ha)



Enhanced Woodland and forest: Lowland
mixed deciduous woodland -
Poor Condition (0.6250ha)



Enhanced Lakes: Ponds (non-priority habitat)
- Poor Condition to - Moderate Condition -
identified within LNRS High Strategic
Significance (0.0975ha)



Retained Cropland: Arable field margins
game bird mix (0.6875ha)



Retained Cropland: Cereal crops (86.6200ha)



Retained Grassland: Bracken (0.5150ha)



Retained Grassland: Modified grassland -
Good Condition (0.5350ha)



Retained Grassland: Modified grassland -
Moderate Condition (0.6475ha)



Retained Grassland: Modified grassland -
Poor Condition (7.6400ha)



Retained Grassland: Other neutral grassland -
Good Condition (0.0750ha)



Retained Grassland: Other neutral grassland -
Moderate Condition (0.1400ha)



Retained Grassland: Other neutral grassland -
Poor Condition (5.2700ha)



Retained Heathland and shrub: Bramble
scrub (0.1425ha)



Retained Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub -
Moderate Condition (0.1250ha)



Retained Heathland and shrub: Mixed scrub -
Poor Condition (0.0075ha)



Retained Lakes: Ponds (non-priority
habitat) -
Moderate Condition (0.3175ha)



Retained Sparsely vegetated land: Tall forbs -
Poor Condition (0.6625ha)



Retained Urban: Artificial unvegetated,
unsealed surface (7.1750ha)



Retained Urban: Developed land; sealed
surface: Building (0.0150ha)



Retained Urban: Developed land; sealed
surface: Hardstanding (3.7200ha)



Retained Woodland and forest: Lowland
mixed deciduous woodland -
Moderate Condition (4.2650ha)



Retained Rural Tree [97]



Retained Veteran Tree - identified within
arboricultural survey [16]



Retained Veteran Tree – meeting definition
within the BNG Schedule for
Irreplaceable Habitats [51]



Retained Veteran Tree - identified within
arboricultural survey - identified within LNRS [20]



Retained Veteran Tree – meeting definition
within the BNG Schedule for
Irreplaceable Habitats - identified within LNRS [13]



Created Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich
native hedgerow (5.775km)



Created Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich
native hedgerow with trees (3.245km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Line of
trees - Moderate Condition (0.66km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich
native hedgerow -
Good Condition (0.23km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich
native hedgerow with trees -
Good Condition (0.895km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich
native hedgerow with trees -
Moderate Condition (0.38km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch -
Poor Condition to Species-rich native hedgerow
with trees - associated with bank or ditch -
Moderate Condition (0.135km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch to
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees -
associated with bank or ditch (0.435km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow - Poor Condition to Species-rich
native hedgerow - Moderate Condition (0.3km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow to Species-rich native hedgerow (13.77km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow with trees to Species-rich native
hedgerow with trees (10.985km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Line of trees
- Moderate Condition (0.045km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow - Good Condition (4.045km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow - Moderate Condition (0.415km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow with trees -
Good Condition (2.87km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Native
hedgerow with trees -
Moderate Condition (1.265km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines: Species-rich
native hedgerow with trees -
Moderate Condition (0.04km)



Advanced Planting - Hedgerows to be gapped
up during Winter 25/26



Created Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Species-rich native hedgerow (0.93km)



Enhanced Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Native hedgerow to Species-rich native
hedgerow (0.545km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Line of trees -
Moderate Condition (0.695km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Native hedgerow -
Good Condition (0.64km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Native hedgerow -
Moderate Condition (0.35km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Native hedgerow with trees -
Good Condition (0.055km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Native hedgerow with trees -
Moderate Condition (0.785km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Species-rich native hedgerow -
Good Condition (0.16km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- Good Condition (0.515km)



Retained Hedgerows / Tree Lines:
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
- Moderate Condition (0.08km)



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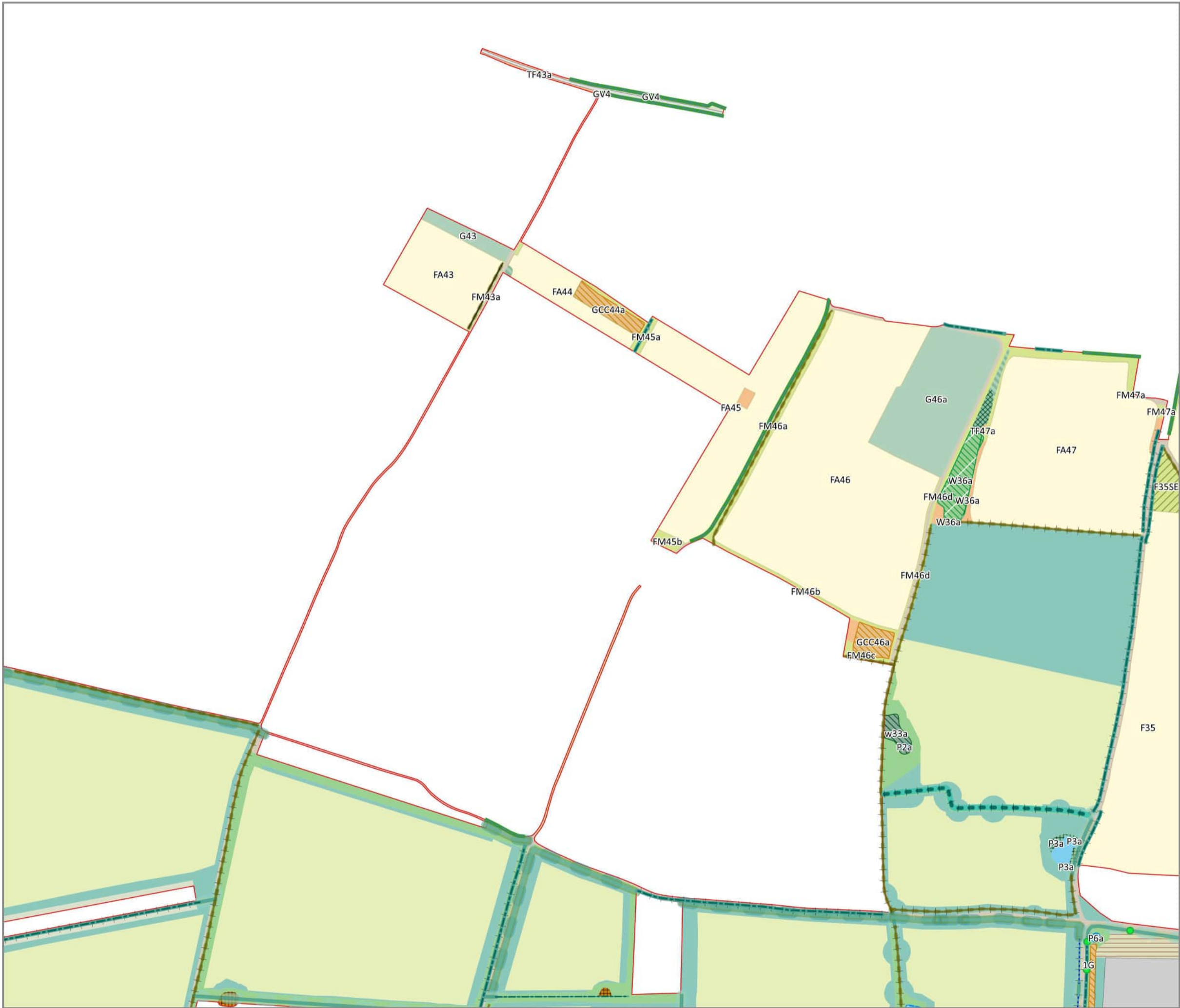
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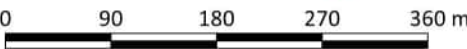
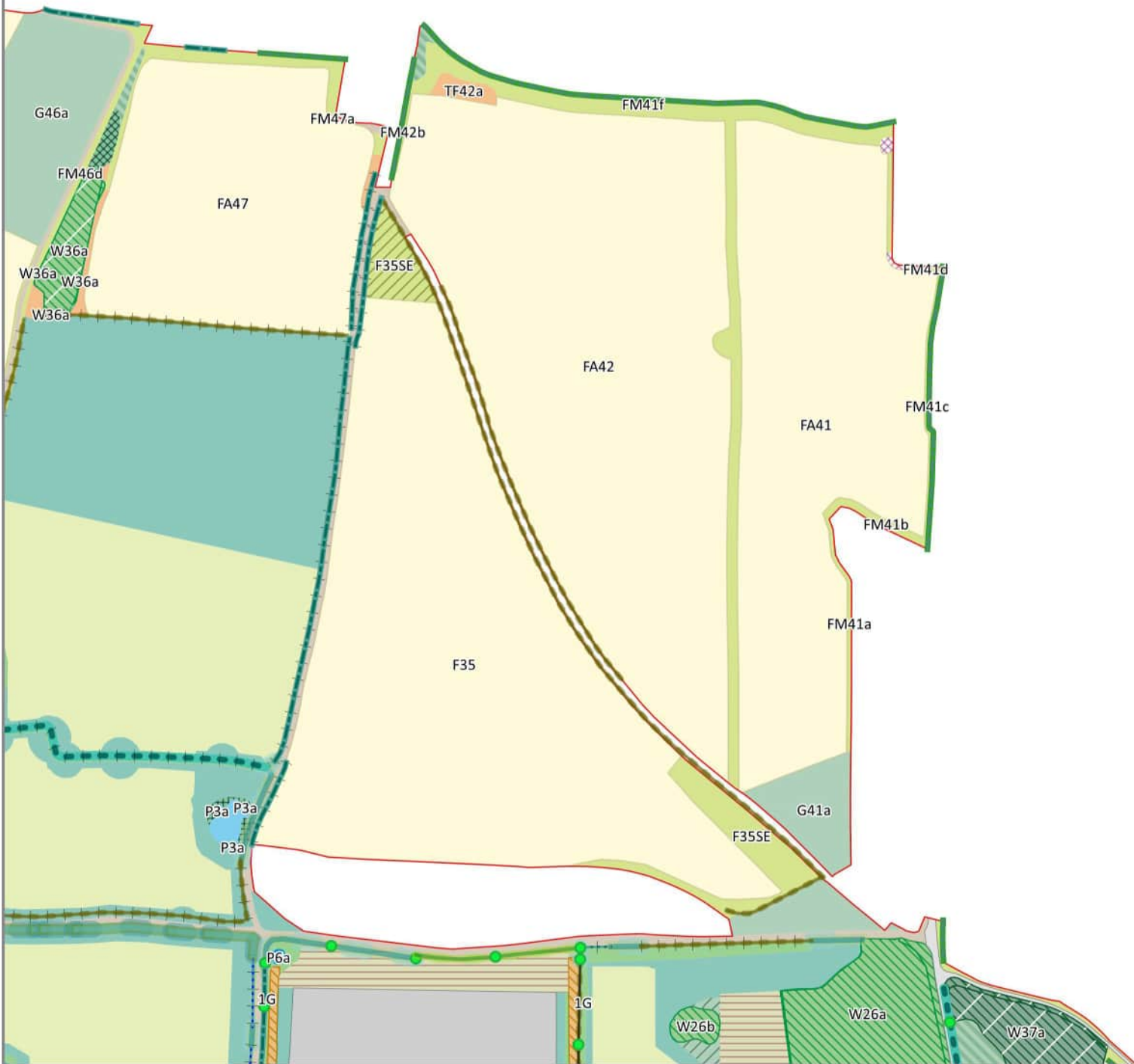
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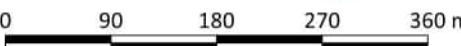
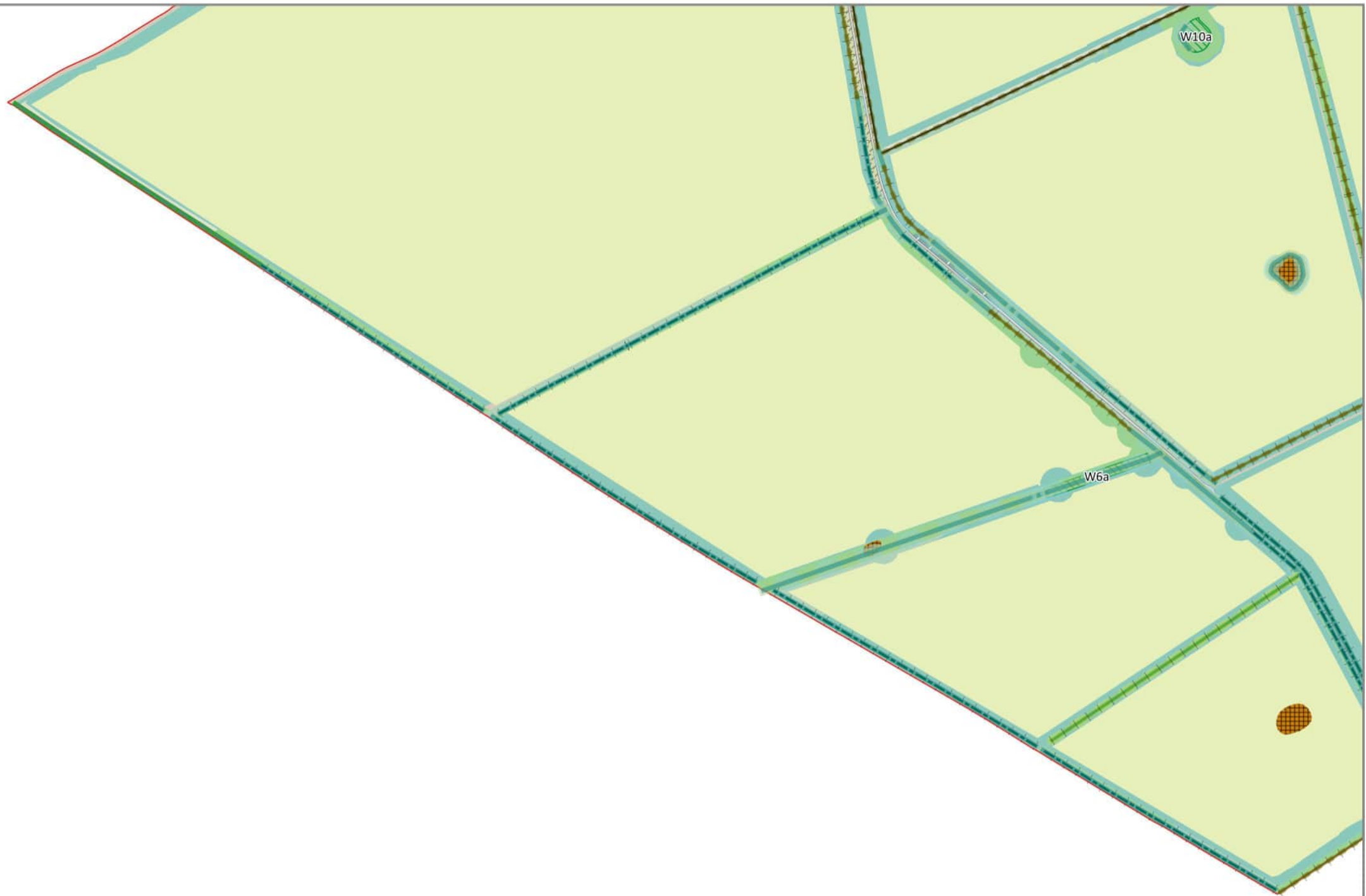
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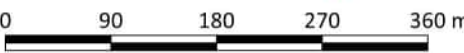
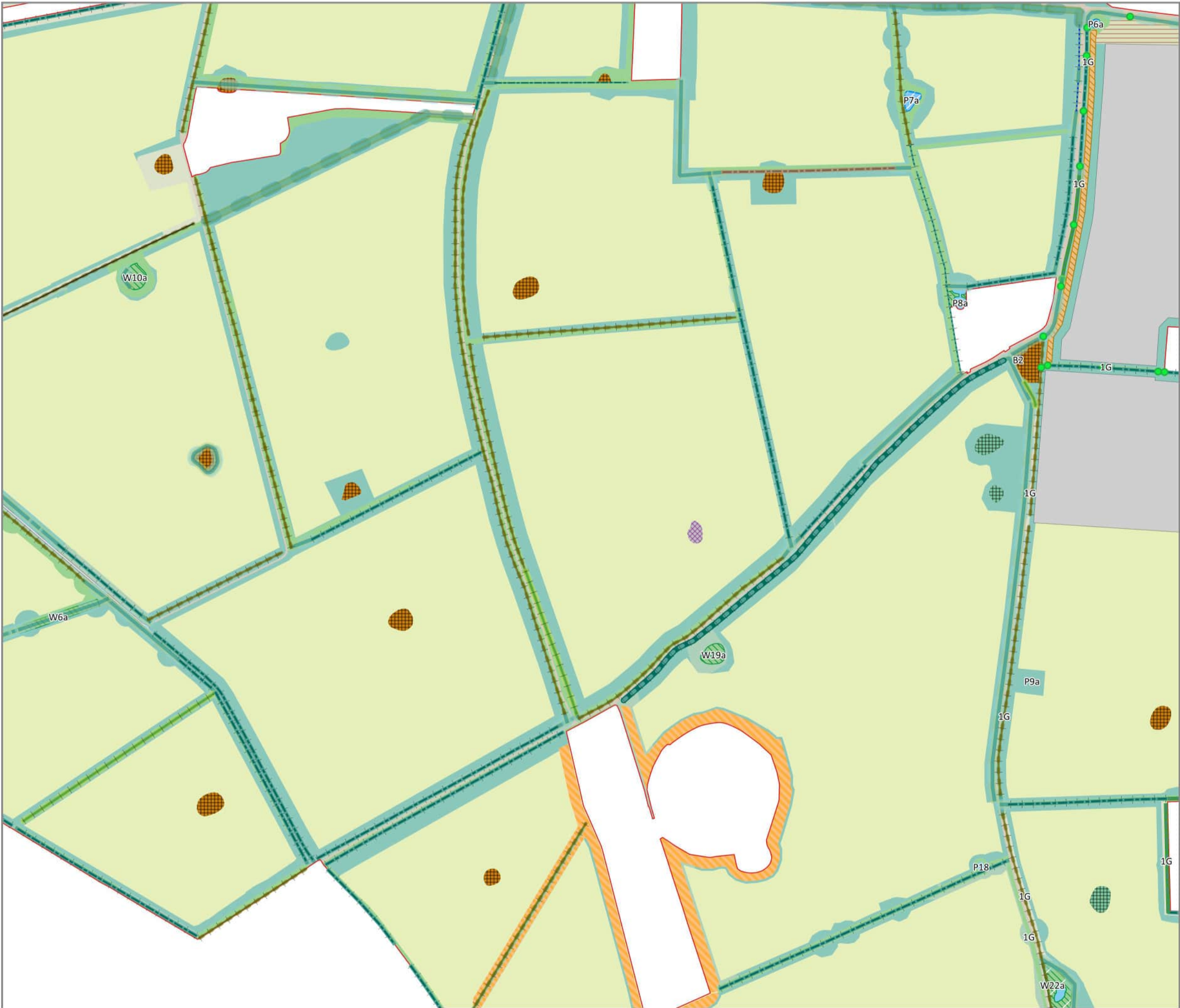
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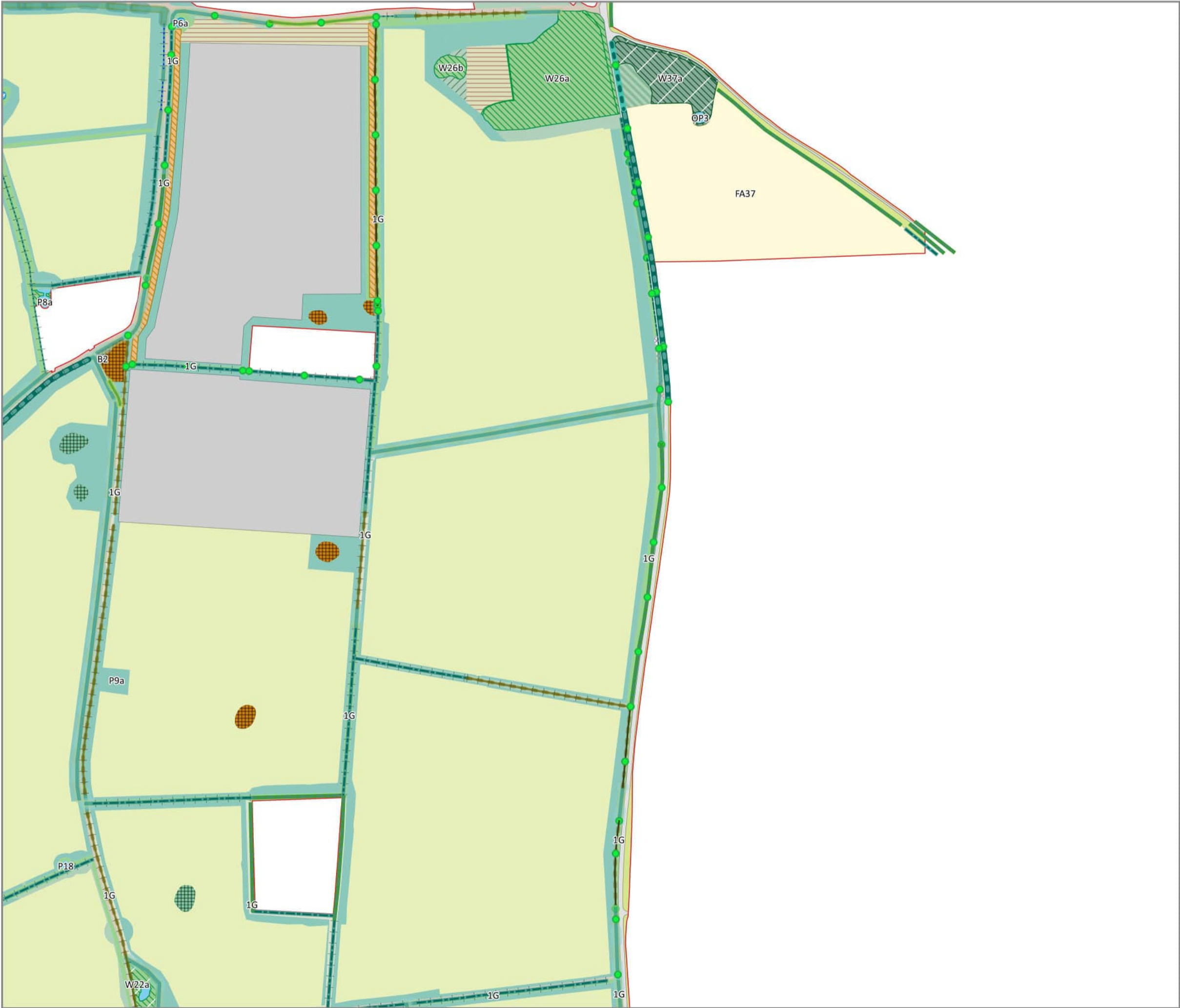
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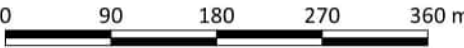
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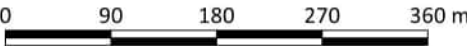
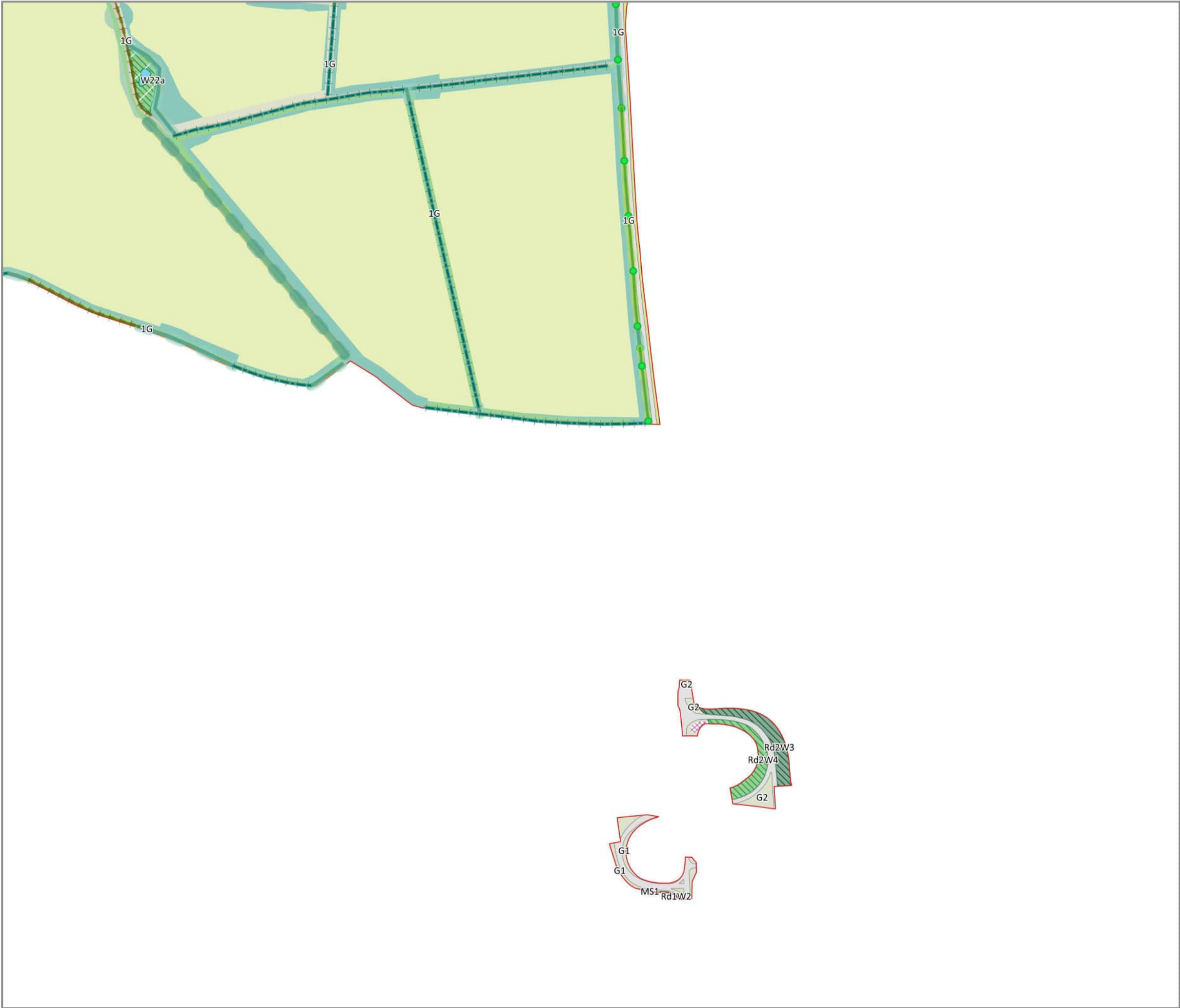
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Appendix 6806/BNG1:

Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)													
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type													
Grassland - Modified grassland													
Habitat Description													
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name											
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H				
		Grid reference											
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											Notes (such as justification)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these 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.	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
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.	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N				
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
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.	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N				
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Number of criteria passed		5	1	4	6	5	6	6	5				
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√											
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)				X			X					
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)			X		X			X				
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	x	X				X						
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													
Footnotes													
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .													
Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.													
Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.													
Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).													

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type														
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types														
Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland														
Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland														
Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands														
Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland														
Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland														
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved														
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed														
Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods														
Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods														
Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood														
Woodland and forest - Wet woodland														
Habitat Description														
ukhab - UK Habitat Classification This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (syva.org.uk)														
IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being input into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators.														
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Survey date and Surveyor name	Habitat parcel reference												
		Rd1W	Rd2W	Rd2W	W36a	W37a	W19a	W22a	W33a	W29a	W6a			
Limitations (if applicable)	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	Grid reference												
Condition Assessment Criteria														
Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator										Notes (such as justification)
A Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.	2	1	2	3	2	2	3	1	2	1	
B Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
C Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ 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 ³ >10% cover.	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	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	3	3	2	1	2	3	1	2	1	
E Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	3	1	2	2	2	2	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 .	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	
G Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland ⁸ ; trees 4 - 7 cm. Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland ⁸ .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	
H Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback ⁹ .	11% to 25% tree 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	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	
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.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
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	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	
K Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	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 ¹³ .	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 ¹³ .	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 ¹³ .	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	3	
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 .	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	
Total Score (out of a possible 39)				25	24	28	28	25	27	31	25	26	26	
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved										
Total score >32 (33 to 39)		Good (3)												
Total score 26 to 32		Moderate (2)			x	x			x	x		x	x	
Total score <26 (13 to 25)		Poor (1)		x	x			x			x			
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score														

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type																
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types																
Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland																
Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland																
Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands																
Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland																
Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland																
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Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed																
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Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods																
Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood																
Woodland and forest - Wet woodland																
Habitat Description																
ukhab - UK Habitat Classification This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Method, available here: Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (syva.org.uk)																
IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being input into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators.																
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Survey date and Surveyor name	Habitat parcel reference														
Limitations (if applicable)	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	W26a	W26b	W10a												
		Grid reference														
Condition Assessment Criteria																
Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator										Notes (such as justification)		
A Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.	3	1	2										
B Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .	3	3	3										
C Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ 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 ³ >10% cover.	3	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	2										
E Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understorey shrubs are native ⁵ .	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 .	3	3	3										
G Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland ⁸ ; trees 4 - 7 cm. Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland ⁸ .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	2	2	2										
H Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback ⁹ .	11% to 25% tree 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	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.	1	1	1										
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	1	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.	1	1	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 ¹³ .	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 ¹³ .	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 ¹³ .	2	1	1										
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 .	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	3	2	2										
Total Score (out of a possible 39)				32	26	28										
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score		Result Achieved												
Total score >32 (33 to 39)		Good (3)														
Total score 26 to 32		Moderate (2)		x	x	x										
Total score <26 (13 to 25)		Poor (1)														
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score																

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type													
Habitat Type													
Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)													
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)													
Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170) [Use this condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools, use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes]													
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental ponds, use Lake condition sheet for Ornamental lakes]													
Habitat Description													
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name											
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference										Notes (such as justification)	
		P13a	P18a	P9a	P8a	P7a	P6a	P3a	P2a	OP3			
Grid reference													
Condition Assessment Criteria													
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland ¹ and non-woodland):													
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y			
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.	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y			
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y			
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams ² , pumps or pipework.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species ³ .	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:													
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) ⁴ cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N			
Number of criteria passed		7	8	6	7	5	5	6	5	7			
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√											
Results for woodland ponds which require assessment of 7 core criteria													
Passes 7 criteria	Good (3)												
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Moderate (2)												
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)												
Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria													
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)												
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)	X	X	X	X			X		X			
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)					X	X		X				
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													
Footnote 1 - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.													
Footnote 2 - This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i> .													
Footnote 3 - Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021) <i>Classification of aquatic alien species according to their level of impact</i> [online]. Available from:													

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type													
Habitat Types													
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub													
Habitat Description													
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see: Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)													
For other scrub types see: ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name											
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		Marl Pits	Species poor marl pits	MS1	Other mixed scrub								
Grid reference													
Condition Assessment Criteria												Notes (such as justification)	
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	Y	N	Y	Y								
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	Y	N	N	N								
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.	Y	Y	Y	Y								
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	N	N	N	Y								
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N	N	N	N								
Number of criteria passed		3	1	2	3								
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved x/√									
Passes 5 criteria		Good (3)											
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)		X			X						
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)			X	X							
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type													
Habitat Types													
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees. <i>Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of <u>rural</u> trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</i>													
Habitat Description													
Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment): Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching. Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only): Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.													
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name											
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		Veterans	Immature	Immature	Mature	Mature							
		Grid reference											
Condition Assessment Criteria													
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	y	n	y	n	y							
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	y	y	y	y	y							
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	y	n	n	y	y							
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.	y	y	y	y	y							
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	y	n	n	y	y							
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	y	y	y	y	y							
Number of criteria passed		6	3	4	5	6							
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√											
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	x			x	x							
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		x	x									
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)												
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.													
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²													

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type													
Habitat Types													
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/EpheMERal Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs Urban - Allotments Urban - Biodiverse green roof Urban - Bioswale Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards Urban - Facade-bound green wall Urban - Ground based green wall Urban - Intensive green roof Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land Urban - Rain garden Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS) Urban - Vacant or derelict land Urban - Bare ground													
Habitat Description													
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs, and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats: ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name											
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		Taf	Foro	Bare	Ground								
		Grid reference											
Condition Assessment Criteria													Notes (such as justification)
Criterion passed (Yes or No)													
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types:													
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.			N	N								
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.			N	N								
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ .			Y	Y								
Note – to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).													
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land only:													
D	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: - At least four early successional communities (a) to (i): Communities: (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland; (i) pools.			N/A	N/A								
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for Bioswale and SuDS habitat types only:													
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife ⁴ .			N/A	N/A								
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.												
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Intensive green roofs only:													
F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).			N/A	N/A								
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Biodiverse green roofs only:													
G	The roof has a varied depth of 60 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers. Note – to achieve Good condition, some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc. are present.			N/A	N/A								
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)				Y	Y								
Number of criteria passed				1	1								
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved x/4									
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):													
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Good (3)											
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)											
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.		Poor (1)		X	X								
Results for Green roofs and Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (requiring assessment of 4 criteria only - core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type):													
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. AND • Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (D, F or G).		Good (3)											
• Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR • Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)											
• Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.		Poor (1)											
Results for Bioswale or SuDS (requiring assessment of 5 criteria - core criteria plus additional criteria specified for habitat type):													
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C. AND • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group E)		Good (3)											
• Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR • Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)											
• Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.		Poor (1)											
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													
Footnotes													

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				H50A	h49b (with trees)	H49a	F48HA	F47Hc	F47HB	F47HA	H46HB	h46HA (w. trees)	F45ha	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	
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).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	
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.		Pass							Pass		
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		Pass							Pass		
Condition				Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Good	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				H44D	H44C (with trees)	H44B	H44a	H43A (with trees)	H42B	H41B	H41A	F1H4	f40h1	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.		Pass			Pass						
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		Pass			Pass						
Condition				Good	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				F39H1	F38H1	F1H1 (with trees)	F1H2 (wth trees)	F33H1	F33H2 (with trees)	F33H3a (WITH TREES)	F32H1	F32H2 (WITH TREES)	F32H3 (with trees)	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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.	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.			Pass	Pass			Pass		Pass	Pass	
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.			Pass	Pass			Pass		Pass	Pass	
Condition				Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference									Notes (such as justification)
				F2H1	F2H2 (with trees)	F2H3 (WITH TREES)	F4H1 (WITH TREES)	F4H2 (WITH TREES)	F4H3 (WITH TREES)	F27H2	F27H1	F24H1	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	
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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	
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).	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.		Pass	Pass							
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		Pass	Pass							
Condition				Good	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				F24H2	F23H1 (with trees)	F23H2 WITH TREES	F3H1 (with trees)	F3H2 (with trees)	F26H1A (with trees)	F1H3	F2H4 with trees(F36H 1 ES update 2025)	F37H3A	F37H3B	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	
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.		Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass		Fail			
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass		Pass			
Condition				Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Moderate	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference									Notes (such as justification)	
				F37H3C	F37H2 (WITH TREES)	F37H1B (WITH TREES)	F37H1A (WITH TREES)	H18a with trees	h22a	h22b	h22c (WITH TREES)	h22d (WITH TREES)		h22e
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.		Fail		Pass	Pass			Pass	Pass		
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.		Pass		Pass	Pass			Pass	Pass		
Condition				Good	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				h29a (WITH TREES)	h29b (WITH TREES)	h5a (with trees)	h5b	h5c (with trees)	h5d	h5e	h5f	h6a	h6b	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	
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).	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Fail	Pass		Pass						
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Pass	Pass	Pass		Pass						
Condition				Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Good	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference									Notes (such as justification)	
				h7a	h7b	h7c (with tres)	h8a	h8b	h8c	h8d	h9a (with trees)	h9b (with trees)		h9bi
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	
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.	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.			Pass					Pass	Pass		
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.			Pass					Pass	Pass		
Condition				Poor	Poor	Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				h12a (with trees)	h12b	h12c	h9c (with trees)	h9d	h9e	h10a1	h10a2 (with trees)	h10b	h11a (with trees)	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	
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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass			Fail				Pass		Fail	
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Pass			Pass				Pass		Pass	
Condition				Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				h11b (with trees)	h11c	h11d	h11e	h13a (with trees)	h13b	h13c	h13d	h14a	h14b	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	
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).	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	
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.	Fail	Pass									
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Pass	Pass									
Condition				Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Good	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				h15a	h16a	h16b (with trees)	h16bi	h16c	h16d	h37ei (with trees)	h37eii	h20a (with trees)	h20b	
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.	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	
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).	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.			Pass				Pass		Pass		
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.			Pass				Pass		Pass		
Condition				Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Moderate	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference								Notes (such as justification)	
				h20c (with trees)	h20ci (WITH TREES)	h21a	h21b	h21c	h37b (WITH TREES)	h36bi	h36b (WITH TREES)		h36c
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	
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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	
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).	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass						Pass		
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Pass	Pass						Pass		
Condition				Good	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Good	Moderate	Good	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				H39A (H + Trees)	H39B (H + Trees)	H38Bi (with trees)	H38Bii (+ Trees)	H37C (WITH TREES)	H37D	H37Di	H38A (with trees)	H37A	H36A	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	
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).	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	
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.	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass			Pass			
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass			Pass			
Condition				Good	Moderate	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				h35a	h34a	h34b (WITH TREES)	h34c (with trees)	h35b	h29/30 (with trees)	H31W (H21S)	h21n (WITH TREES)	f28h1	H34d	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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).	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	
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).	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	Fail	
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 .	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	
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.			Pass	Pass		Pass		Fail			
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.			Pass	Pass		Pass		Pass			
Condition				Moderate	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Criteria				Feature Reference										Notes (such as justification)
				h12d	f25h1	h51a	f26h1b (WITH TREES)	F42HA (WITH TREES)	H6C					
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.	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass					
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.	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Pass					
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).	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Pass					
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).	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass	Fail					
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.	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass					
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Pass	Fail	Fail	Pass	Fail	Fail					
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 .	Pass	pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass					
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail	Pass	Pass					
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.				Fail	Pass						
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.				Pass	Pass						
Condition				Good	Good	Poor	Moderate	Good	Good					

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type													
Habitat Types													
Line of trees Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch Ecologically valuable line of trees Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch													
<i>Please see the separate Individual trees condition sheet for linear blocks and groups of trees in an <u>urban</u> setting. You should only use this Line of trees condition assessment and record this habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</i>													
Habitat Description													
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook¹. For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook. Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.													
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name											
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		TL44A	F23TL1	F35TL1	F20TL1	TL6A	TL18A						
		Grid reference											
Condition Assessment Criteria													
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N						
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.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y						
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.	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N						
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 .	N	N	Y	N	N	Y						
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.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y						
Number of criteria passed		4	4	3	3	4	3						
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√											
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)												
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)												
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													
Footnotes													

Appendix 6806/BNG2:

Relevant Output from the Statutory Biodiversity Metric
Calculation Tool

Trading
summary
watercourses

Trading Summary			
Distinction/Issue Group	Trading Rule	Trading Details/	
Very High	Some habitat required - Impacts compensation option 1	Yes ✓	
High	Some habitat required =	Yes ✓	
Medium	Some habitat required = Some habitat required 2	Yes ✓	
	Some habitat required = Some habitat required 2	Yes ✓	

[illegible]

Very High Distinctiveness Summary	
Very High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	0.00
Remaining losses; Like for like not satisfied	0.00

[illegible]

High Distinctiveness Summary	
High Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	5.84 ✓
Remaining losses: Like for like not satisfied	0.00

[illegible]

Medium Distinctiveness Summary		
Medium Distinctiveness Units available to offset lower distinctiveness deficit	717.49	✓
Medium Distinctiveness broad habitat losses to be offset by tradings up	-4.60	⚠
Medium Distinctiveness that deficit transferred to meet trading request	1.24	✓

[illegible]

Low Distinctiveness Summary		
Units available to offset Low Distinctiveness deficit	718.73	✓
Low Distinctiveness net change in units	-307.24	⚠
Overlapping number of units	212.98	✓

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric
Start page

Project details			
Planning authority:	Breckland District Council / PINS		
Project name:	The Drovers Solar Farm		
Applicant:	The Drovers Solar Farm Ltd		
Application type:	DCO		
Planning application reference:	PINS Reference: EN0110013		
Completed by:	Aspect Ecology (LP/CL)		
Date of metric completion:	04 August 2026		
Reviewer:			
Calculation iteration:	v6 (Rev 1 - Deadline 4)		
Planning authority reviewer:			
Date of planning authority review:			
Target % net gain:	10%		
Irreplaceable habitat present at baseline:	Yes ▲		
Total site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	840.30	Irreplaceable habitat site area (hectares):	0.00
Total off-site area - including irreplaceable habitat area (hectares):	N/A	Irreplaceable habitat area off-site (hectares):	N/A

Cell style conventions	
▲	Attention required
▲	Input error/rules and principles not met
	Use of this cell is not appropriate
	Enter data
	Automatic lookup
	Result

On-site baseline map

Insert

On-site baseline map reference number

Off-site baseline map

Insert

Off-site baseline map reference number

On-site post intervention map

Insert

On-site post-intervention map reference number

Off-site post intervention map

Insert

Off-site post-intervention reference number

Main menu

Results

View all

Reset view

The Drovers Solar Farm
Headline Results
Scroll down for final results ⚙

Return to
results menu

On-site baseline	Area habitat units	1838.82	
	Hedgerow units	320.77	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	2250.31	
	Hedgerow units	507.98	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Area habitat units	411.49	22.38%
	Hedgerow units	187.21	58.36%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Off-site baseline	Area habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Area habitat units	0.00	0.00%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	411.49	
	Hedgerow units	187.21	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Area habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	411.49	
	Hedgerow units	187.21	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Area habitat units	22.38%	
	Hedgerow units	58.36%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes ✓		

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Area habitat units	10.00%	1838.82	2022.70	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	320.77	352.85	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

No additional area habitat units required to meet target ✓
No additional hedgerow units required to meet target ✓
No additional watercourse units required to meet target ✓

Irreplaceable area habitats on-site

● For further information please refer to the irreplaceable habitats section of the metric user guide. This sheet is autopopulated from the A1 on-site habitat baseline tab, with the exception of irreplaceable habitat name.

[illegible]

Irreplaceable area habitats off-site

● For further information please refer to the irreplaceable habitats section of the metric user guide. This sheet is autopopulated from the D1 off-site habitat baseline tab, with the exception of irreplaceable habitat name.

[illegible]

ecology • landscape planning • arboriculture



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THE DROVES
SOLAR FARM