Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

Technical Appendix 9.5: Biodiversity Net Gain Report

Prepared on behalf of

Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

ALDERHOLT MEADOWS

Final Report

07 December 2022

22/40-5B

Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

Technical Appendix 9.5: Biodiversity Net Gain Report

Report Release Sheet

Draft/Final:	Final Report
Issue Number:	22/40-5B
Date:	7 December 2022
Client:	Dudsbury Homes (Southern)
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Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

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Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

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1. INTRODUCTION

Scope

1.1 This document has been prepared by Ecological Planning & Research Ltd (EPR) on behalf of Dudsbury Homes (Southern) in connection with an outline planning application for a proposed residential development on land at Alderholt, in East Dorset.

1.2 This report presents details of the evaluation of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of the Proposed Development in order to demonstrate that the requisite gains in biodiversity can be achieved.

1.3 This report is accompanied by a separate document, Defra's Biodiversity Metric 3.1 spreadsheet, which has been completed for the Proposed Development (see extracts at **Annex 1**).

Site Location and Description

1.4 The Proposed Development is at Alderholt in East Dorset (hereafter the Site) (see **Map 1**).

1.5 The Site extends to approximately 122ha and is predominantly occupied by farmland.

Outline of Proposed Development

1.6 The Proposed Development description is as follows:

> *"Outline application for a mixed use development of up to 1700 dwellings including affordable housing and care provision; 10,000sqm of employment space in the form of a business park; village centre with associated retail, commercial, community and health facilities; open space including the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG); biodiversity enhancements; solar array; and new roads, access arrangements and associated infrastructure. (All matters reserved apart from access off Hillbury Road)."*

1.7 Please refer to **Chapter 3 Background to Development** and **Chapter 5 Development Description** for full details of the Site and the Proposed Development.

Policy and Legislative Context

1.8 The requirement for demonstrating that the Proposed Development is capable of delivering BNG is borne out of the following:

- The Environment Act 2021 requires a 10% net gain in biodiversity units above baseline to be achieved (expected to become a mandatory requirement in 2023);
- 25 Year Environment Plan (Defra, 2018);

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021), where the requirement for BNG to be provided is included under paragraph 174 d);
- The Christchurch and East Dorset Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted 2014), and in particular policies:

  - ME1 Safeguarding Biodiversity and Geodiversity, and

  - ME2 Protection of the Dorset Heathlands.
- Due regard has also been afforded to draft Policies of the consultation draft Dorset Council Local Plan (2021):

  - ENV1 Green Infrastructure,

  - ENV2 Habitats and Species, and

  - ENV3 Biodiversity and Net Gain (which requires a minimum gain of 10%).

Guidance and Procedure

1.9 The means by which BNG can be demonstrated is set out in the following guidance and resources, and these have been used to inform the BNG assessment and overall approach set out in this report:

- CIEEM, CIRIA, IEMA (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain: Good practice principles for development;
- CIEEM (2021) Biodiversity Net Gain Report and Audit Templates;
- British Standard (2021) BS 8683:2021 Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain – Specification;
- Biodiversity Metric 3.1 (Natural England, 2022) including the Technical Supplement, User Guide, Calculation Tool and Habitat Condition Sheets; and
- The UK Habitat Classification Habitat Definitions Version 1.1 (Butcher *et al*., 2020).

2. PROCEDURE

Metric Used

2.1 The approach taken to achieving BNG is in accordance with principles set out in CIEEM's guidance, the British Standard, and national legislation and policy and local policy referenced in **Section 1**.

2.2 The mitigation hierarchy has been adhered to in the first instance, as set out in the summaries in **Section 3** for Habitats and Hedgerows.

2.3 The current version of Natural England's Biodiversity Metric (version 3.1) has been used to calculate changes in biodiversity units. The calculations were carried out by Dr Robert Souter, Specialist Principal Ecologist at EPR.

2.4 The habitat survey and condition assessments underpinning the habitat categories were originally carried out by ABR Ecology, as part of the Ecological Appraisal (ABR Ecology, 2022). The habitat types were subsequently reviewed by Dr Robert Souter at EPR. A preliminary condition assessment of baseline habitats and hedgerows has been undertaken based on available data. Further details are set out in **Annex 2**.

Metric Inputs

2.5 The pre-development and post-development habitats are shown on two separate maps in each case in order to align with the Biodiversity Metric spreadsheet which considers linear habitats separately from all other habitats.

2.6 The following plans were used as the basis for the pre- and post-development calculations:

- **Map 2** Baseline Habitats - showing existing habitats and hedgerows;
- **Map 3** Baseline Hedgerows and Ditches – showing hedgerows and ditches;
- **Map 4** Proposed Habitats, Hedgerows and Ditches – presenting an interpretation of the detailed development masterplan for proposed habitats and hedgerows; and
- **Map 5** Hedge Loss and Gains – clarifying the locations of proposed hedge removal and new planting.

Limitations

Limitations of Metrics in General

2.7 As acknowledged in the User Guide (NE, 2022b), the Biodiversity Metric includes several inherent limitations (these also apply to metrics in general). These are summarised in the Limitations section of the Guide from paragraph 2.19 onwards. Extracts are provided below:

> *"The metric and its outputs should [therefore] be interpreted, alongside ecological expertise and common sense, as an element of the evidence that informs plans and decisions.*

The metric is not a total solution to biodiversity decisions. While it is underpinned by ecological evidence the units generated by the metric are only a proxy for biodiversity and, to be of practical use, it has been kept deliberately simple. The numerical values generated by the metric represent relative, not absolute, values [Principle 3]

The metric focuses on typical habitats and widespread species; important or protected habitats and features should be given broader consideration. Protected and locally important species needs are not considered through the metric, they should be addressed through existing policy and legislation. [Principle 4]

The metric is designed to inform decisions, not to override expert opinion. Management interventions should be guided by appropriate expert ecological advice and not just the biodiversity unit outputs of the metric. [Principle 6]"

2.8 In relation to Principle 4, protected and valued species are considered in detail as part of the EMEP. This includes avoiding and mitigating impacts and promoting enhancements such as the provision of wildlife boxes, the latter of which should also be taken into account when assessing the overall BNG that can be delivered by the Proposed Development.

3. PRE-DEVELOPMENT

Habitats

3.1 **Table 3.1** presents a summary of the 'field number' (see **Map 2**) with the corresponding land 'parcels' (as identified by ABR Ecology in their Ecological Baseline report (Annex 3 to **TA 9.1: Ecology Baseline**).

3.2 The key habitats in each parcel are derived from the Phase 1 Habitat data (presented in detail in ABR Ecology's report), selecting those that are Priority Habitats (asterisked etc) and other semi-natural habitats. A label of 'Lower value habitats only' is included where the parcel has intensive agricultural habitats (e.g. arable crops/leys or improved grassland).

3.3 The UK Habitat type in each field have been derived from the Phase 1 Habitat data. It is these categories that are used in the biodiversity metric calculation tool.

3.4 Condition assessments are included in **Annex 3**.

Table 3.1: Fields by field number with corresponding land parcels (see Map 2)

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field
A1	10	Land to the north of Foxhill Farm	*Hedgerow and treeline	Temporary grass and clover leys
A2	11	Land to the northeast of Foxhill Farm	*Hedgerow and treeline	Temporary grass and clover leys
A3	12	Land to the east of Foxhill Farm	*Hedgerows and treelines	Temporary grass and clover leys
A4	13 (part)	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm	Semi-improved grassland, 5 of 7 *hedgerows and 4 ditches	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)
A5	13 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)
A6	13 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)
A7	2 (part)	Land north of Sleepbrook Farm	*Broadleaved woodland, *hedgerows, treelines, ditches	Temporary grass and clover leys
A8	2 (part)	ditto	ditto	Cereal crops
A9	7	Land south of Cross Roads Plantation solar farm	Lower value habitats only	Non-cereal crops
A10	5 (part)	Land to the immediate west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	^Semi-improved grassland, dense bramble and gorse scrub, treelines	^Other neutral grassland

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field
A11	4	Land around Sleepbrook Farmhouse	*Wet woodland, *Mixed semi-natural woodland, treelines, *^Rush pasture, Semi-improved grassland, a *pond, ditches	Wet woodland Other woodland; mixed Modified grassland (Improved grassland) Purple moor grass and rush pastures
A12	3 (part)	Land around Sleepbrook Farm	Lower value habitats only	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)
A13	3 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)
A14 (not in red line)				
A15	6	Land to the far west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	Treeline	Non-cereal crops
A16	5 (part)	Land to the immediate west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	Lower value habitats only	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)
A17	18 (part)	Land to southwest of Sleepbrook Farm	*Rush pasture, *Mixed woodland, 2 *hedgerows, 2 ditches	Cereal crops
A18	18 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)
A19	18 (part)	ditto	ditto	Other woodland; mixed Other neutral grassland (Marshy grassland)
A20	17	Land to south of Sleepbrook Farm	*Hedgerow and ditch	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)
A21	16 (part)	Land to southeast of Sleepbrook Farm	*Broadleaved woodland, 2 *hedgerows, 3 treelines and 6 ditches	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)
A22	16 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)
A23	16 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Marshy grazed grassland)
A24	16 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Marshy grazed grassland)
A25	18 (part)	Land to southwest of Sleepbrook Farm	*Rush pasture, *Mixed woodland, 2 *hedgerows, 2 ditches	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)
A26	18 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field
A27	15	Land to east of Warren Park Farm	*Hedgerow, treeline and ditch	Cereal crops Modified grassland (Improved grassland)
A28	14 (part)	Land around Warren Park Farm campsite	^Amenity grassland, *Broadleaved woodland with woodland ride, Hedgerow and Treeline, 4 *ponds	Cereal crops
A29	14 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Amenity grassland)
A30	14 (part)	ditto	ditto	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Modified grassland (Amenity grassland) Ponds
A31	19	Land to southwest of Warren Park Farm	1 of 2 *ponds	Cereal crops Ponds
A32	1	Land east of Cross Roads Plantation	Semi-improved grassland	Other neutral grassland
A33	20 (part)	Cross Roads Plantation	*Broadleaved woodland, ^Semi-improved grassland, 2 Ponds, a *Stream	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Other neutral grassland
A34	20 (part)	ditto	*Mixed woodland	Other woodland; mixed
A35	20 (part)	ditto	*Mixed woodland	Other woodland; mixed

*Key habitats identified by ABR Ecology as Priority Habitats

^DBCF qualifying – must avoid development

(DBCF – Dorset Biodiversity Compensation Framework)

Hedgerows

3.5 **Table 3.2** presents a summary of existing Hedgerows. See **Map 3** for the location of the boundary numbers (derived from field numbers).

3.6 Condition assessments are included in **Annex 4**.

Table 3.2: Classification (and description where available) of Hedgerows and Locations

ABR Boundary number A	LCES Hedge number H	UK Habitats type (from ABR metric) and description from ABR report	Location
1.1	10	Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Land to the north of Foxhill Farm
1.2		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	
2.1	11	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Land to the northeast of Foxhill Farm
2.2		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	
2.3		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	
2.4		Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	
3.1	16	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch An intact, native species-rich hedgerow between 2-4m in height, 1.5-2.5m in width and C. 240m in length with a good, dense hedgerow structure and some smaller trees present; the hedgerow is generally well-managed and is intact.	Land to the east of Foxhill Farm
3.2		Native Species Rich Hedgerow A third intact, native species-rich hedgerow runs along the western boundary of 'Parcel 12' and is between 2-3m in height, 1.5-2m in width and c. 316m in length with a good, structure; the hedgerow is generally well-managed and is intact.	
3.3		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch A native mature oak treeline runs along the northern half of the eastern boundary in 'Parcel 12'. A second native treeline runs along the northern boundary of 'Parcel 12', with 'Parcel 11' to the immediate north of the treeline. Towards the western end, the treeline begins to transition into a more hedge-like structure, however, the boundary is regarded as a treeline due to the number of trees present.	
3.4		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch A second intact, native species-rich hedgerow runs along the southeast end of the eastern boundary of 'Parcel 12' and is between 2-3m in	

ABR Boundary number A	LCES Hedge number H	UK Habitats type (from ABR metric) and description from ABR report	Location
		height, 1-1.5m in width and c. 132m in length with a good, structure and some smaller trees present; the hedgerow is generally well-managed and is intact.	
4.1	19	Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm
4.2	11	Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	
4.4	17	Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	
5.1	20	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm
5.2	18	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
5.3	18	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
6.1	12	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm
6.2	13	Native Hedgerow	
6.3	15	Hedge Ornamental Non Native	
7.1		Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	Land north of Sleepbrook Farm
7.2		Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch	
7.3		Native Species Rich Hedgerow	
7.4		Native Species Rich Hedgerow	
8.1		Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Land north of Sleepbrook Farm
8.2		Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch	
9.3		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land south of Cross Roads Plantation solar farm
10.2	1	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land to the immediate west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse
12.1	5	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land around Sleepbrook Farm
12.2	6	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
13.1		Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land around Sleepbrook Farm
15.1	2	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Land to the far west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse
18.1	3	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land to southwest of Sleepbrook Farm
20.1	7	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land to south of Sleepbrook Farm

ABR Boundary number A	LCES Hedge number H	UK Habitats type (from ABR metric) and description from ABR report	Location
20.2	8	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
20.3		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
21.1		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land to southeast of Sleepbrook Farm
21.2		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
21.3		Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
21.4		Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
21.5		Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch	
22.1	9	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Land to southeast of Sleepbrook Farm
22.3		Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	
23.1		Native Species Rich Hedgerow	Land to southeast of Sleepbrook Farm
24.2		Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Land to southeast of Sleepbrook Farm
25.1	4	Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch	Land to southwest of Sleepbrook Farm
25.2		Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees	
27.1		Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Land to east of Warren Park Farm
27.2	10	Native Species Rich Hedgerow	
28.1		Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)	Land around Warren Park Farm campsite

Ditches and Streams

3.7 There is a network of drainage ditches associated with field boundaries (see **Map 3**). These drain to the south and west into Sleep Brook.

4. POST-DEVELOPMENT

Habitats

4.1 Post-development habitats will include those that are retained and enhanced, and new proposed habitats (see **Map 4**).

Existing Habitats

4.2 Important existing habitats will be retained and enhanced. These will become part of the developed areas, GI and SANG areas alongside the proposed new habitats (see below). This includes the following important existing habitats:

- Woodland – Lowland broadleaved woodland, Other broadleaved woodland, Wet woodland;
- Grassland – Other neutral grassland, poor-semi-improved grassland, amenity grassland;
- Wetland – Ponds, streams, rush pasture;
- Scrub – Bramble;
- Hedgerows – For example, Native species-rich hedgerows with trees associated with a bank/ditch; and
- Trees – Individual mature trees and lines of trees.

4.3 It is proposed that all existing hedgerows will be subject to positive management to enhance their condition to Good – e.g. introducing traditional management such as laying, coppicing, pollarding etc. Almost all hedgerows will in any case be enhanced by the creation and management of species and structurally diverse habitat buffers, creating more and better habitat and improved connectivity across the Proposed Development.

4.4 Further detailed mechanisms through which negative impacts on features of biodiversity importance will be avoided, mitigated or compensated, and biodiversity enhancements will be delivered, are set out in detail in the EMES.

Proposed Habitats

Developed Land; Sealed Surface

4.5 Much of the developed land (housing and roads etc) will be on land of low ecological value. The footprint of the housing, car parking and access roads are categorised as ‘Developed Land; Sealed Surface’. No condition assessment applies to this category.

Vegetated Gardens

4.6 The houses have gardens, and rather than measuring the area covered by these the area of ‘vegetated gardens’ is estimated at 30% based on the BNG guidance. No condition assessment applies.

Wildflower Meadow – Other Neutral Grassland

4.7 A large part of the SANGs will be sown and managed to provide attractive and biodiverse wildflower meadows. This is identified as 'Other neutral grassland' in the metric. Following a just few years of positive management aimed at promoting biodiversity, these wildflower meadows will achieve Good condition.

Open Grassland - Other Neutral Grassland

4.8 Within other parts of the SANGs areas grass dominated grassland will be sown and managed to provide more accessible grassland areas. These are again identified as 'Other neutral grassland' in the metric to distinguish them from amenity grassland (see below). They will include a diversity of herbs (e.g. clovers and trefoils) that tolerate more frequent mowing and trampling, whilst still providing sources of nectar and pollen for invertebrates.

Amenity Grassland – Modified Grassland

4.9 Where there is a requirement for informal sport and play or relaxation then harder wearing grass mixes which are tolerant of repeated trampling and mowing will be sown. These areas of amenity grassland are identified in the metric as 'Modified grassland'.

Ponds, Swales and Wetlands

4.10 The Proposed Development includes a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) with a series of swales and ponds. As part of the SuDS design there is the opportunity to create localised wetlands. Together these features will provide a substantial increase in biodiversity value and offer the new residents a greater range of habitats to enjoy.

Woodland and Trees

4.11 The existing pockets of woodland and mature trees will be complemented by additional planting of trees and woodland blocks. These will promote connectivity and ecological permeability across the Site within a short timeframe. In the medium to long-term they will provide additional mature habitat.

4.12 New tree planting will either be native locally appropriate species (as will be the case within the SANGs) or, where necessary for landscape reasons, ornamental species with a known value to wildlife (where not regarded as an non-native invasive species).

Hedgerows

4.13 Some complete hedgerows will be removed to accommodate built development, and a few gaps created to provide access (paths/roads). New native species-rich hedgerows will be planted to compensate for the loss of hedgerows.

4.14 Moreover, existing hedgerows will be enhanced through gap planting and sensitive management to promote biodiversity benefits by improving integrity and connectivity.

4.15 The condition of all existing hedgerows will be improved following the cessation of agricultural management of hedgerows and use of adjoining land for intensive agriculture will bring the greatest benefit.

Ditches and Streams

4.16 There are proposals to create new ditches and enhance existing ones.

4.17 On-site watercourses and ditches that are tributaries of Sleep Brook and Hamer Brook will be retained and enhanced, and the creation and management of adjacent habitats will be complementary to ensure biodiversity gain is maximised.

4.18 **Tables 4.1** to **4.6** present a summary of the proposed habitat in each 'compartment' to show the existing/proposed habitat in each field/parcel.

4.19 The compartments are:

- Built Development;
- Green infrastructure (not including SANGs);
- Field for potential solar array;
- Cross Roads Plantation SANG;
- Alderholt Common SANG; and
- Harbridge Drove SANG.

Table 4.1 Built development compartments (and corresponding fields/parcels) with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A2	11	Land to the northeast of Foxhill Farm	*Hedgerow and treeline	Temporary grass and clover leys	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A3	12	Land to the east of Foxhill Farm	*Hedgerows and treelines	Temporary grass and clover leys	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A4	13 (part)	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm	Semi-improved grassland, 5 of 7 *hedgerows and 4 ditches	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A6	13 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A7	2 (part)	Land north of Sleepbrook Farm	*Broadleaved woodland, *hedgerows, treelines, ditches	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Temporary grass and clover leys	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A8	2 (part)	ditto	ditto	Cereal crops	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A12	3 (part)	Land around Sleepbrook Farm	Lower value habitats only	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A13	3 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A20	17	Land to south of Sleepbrook Farm	*Hedgerow and ditch	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A21	16 (part)	Land to southeast of Sleepbrook Farm	*Broadleaved woodland, 2 *hedgerows, 3 treelines and 6 ditches	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A22	16 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A23	16 (part)	ditto	ditto	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Modified grassland (Marshy grazed grassland)	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A24	16 (part)	ditto	ditto	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Modified grassland (Marshy grazed grassland)	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A27	15	Land to east of Warren Park Farm	*Hedgerow, treeline and ditch	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Cereal crops	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.2 Green Infrastructure (not including SANG) (and corresponding fields/parcels) with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A1	10	Land to the north of Foxhill Farm	*Hedgerow and treeline	Temporary grass and clover leys	Open grass / Trees
A8	2 (part)	Land north of Sleepbrook Farm	*Broadleaved woodland, *hedgerows, treelines, ditches	Cereal crops	Open grass / Trees
A27	15	Land to east of Warren Park Farm	*Hedgerow, treeline and ditch	Cereal crops	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Open grass / Trees

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.3 Field for potential Solar Array (and corresponding fields/parcels) with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A15	6	Land to the far west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	Treeline	Non-cereal crops	Potential solar array

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.4 Cross Roads Plantation SANG and corresponding fields/parcels with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A9	7	Land south of Cross Roads Plantation solar farm	Lower value habitats only	Non-cereal crops	Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A10	5 (part)	Land to the immediate west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	^Semi-improved grassland, dense bramble and gorse scrub, treelines	^Other neutral grassland	Swale / Open grass / Trees
A11	4	Land around Sleepbrook Farmhouse	*Wet woodland, *Mixed semi-natural woodland, treelines, *^Rush pasture, Semi-improved grassland, a *pond, ditches	Wet woodland, Other woodland; mixed Modified grassland (Improved grassland) ^Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Wet woodland Other neutral grassland / Other woodland; mixed Purple moor grass and rush pastures

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A16	5 (part)	Land to the immediate west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	Lower value habitats only	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)	Swale / Pond / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A32	1	Land east of Cross Roads Plantation	Semi-improved grassland	Other neutral grassland	Scrub / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A33	20	Cross Roads Plantation	*Broadleaved woodland, ^Semi-improved grassland, 2 Ponds, a *Stream	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Other neutral grassland	Woodland Woodland / Open grass
A34	20	Cross Roads Plantation	*Mixed woodland	Other woodland; mixed	Other woodland; mixed
A35	20	Cross Roads Plantation	*Mixed woodland	Other woodland; mixed	Other woodland; mixed

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.5 Alderholt Common SANG and corresponding fields/parcels with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A17	18 (part)	Land to southwest of Sleepbrook Farm	*Rush pasture, *Mixed woodland, 2 *hedgerows, 2 ditches	Cereal crops	Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Woodland
A18	18 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)	Swale / Pond / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A19	18 (part)	ditto	ditto	Other neutral grassland (Marshy grassland) Other woodland; mixed	Other neutral grassland (Marshy grassland) / Other woodland; mixed
A25	18 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Open grass
A26	18 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Improved grassland)	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Open grass

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A31	19	Land to southwest of Warren Park Farm	1 of 2 *ponds	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Cereal crops Ponds	Swale / Pond / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Woodland Pond / Wildflower meadow / Trees

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

Table 4.6 Harbridge Drove SANG and corresponding fields/parcels with existing and proposed habitats for Biodiversity metric

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A4	13 (part)	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm	Semi-improved grassland, 5 of 7 *hedgerows and 4 ditches	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland Wildflower meadow / Trees
A5	13 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A28	14 (part)	Land around Warren Park Farm campsite	^Amenity grassland, *Broadleaved woodland with woodland ride, Hedgerow and Treeline, 4 *ponds	Cereal crops	Wildflower meadow / Trees / Woodland
A29	14 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Amenity grassland)	Existing Trees and Hedge / Open grass
A30	14 (part)	ditto	ditto	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Modified grassland (Amenity grassland) Ponds	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland / Open grass / Ponds

** Proposed habitats are based on Landscape Strategy dated 25/11/22

5. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Introduction

5.1 The following should be read with reference to **Maps 2 - 4** and the completed **Defra Metric 3.1 spreadsheet** (see Headline results in **Annex 1**), including the comments in the final column of the spreadsheet, and the condition assessment sheets (**Annex 2**).

Habitats

5.2 As shown on **Map 4**, the Proposed Development was designed to follow the mitigation hierarchy as follows:

- Avoidance of impacts to important habitats, through retention, buffering and managing the buffers;
- Mitigation/minimisation of losses of valued habitats and features by focussing development to areas of low value modified grassland and cropland;
- Restoration of important habitats through sympathetic management; and
- Enhancement of modified grassland.

5.3 The resultant change in biodiversity units is:

- On-site baseline: 488.36 Habitat units
- On-site post-development: 552.62 Habitat units
- Total net unit change: 64.25 Habitat units
- On-site net % change: +13.16%

Hedgerows

5.4 As shown on **Map 5**, the Proposed Development was designed to follow the mitigation hierarchy as follows:

- Avoidance of impacts to irreplaceable habitats including hedgerows;
- Mitigation/minimisation of breaches to hedges by design by keeping the number of roads and paths to the minimum, using existing access points, and where crossings are located utilising existing gaps;
- Creation of new hedgerows by planting native species-rich hedgerows; and
- Enhancement of grassland where this provides a wide buffer to hedgerows.

5.5 The resultant change in biodiversity units is:

- On-site baseline: 110.83 Hedgerow units
- On-site post-intervention: 122.73 Hedgerow units
- Total net unit change: 11.90 Hedgerow units

- On-site net % change: +10.74%

Ditches

5.6 As shown on **Map 4**, the Proposed Development was designed to follow the mitigation hierarchy as follows:

- Avoidance of impacts to irreplaceable habitats including ditches;
- Mitigation/minimisation of loss and degradation of ditches by design;
- Creation of new ditches as part of SuDS; and
- Enhancement of ditches through complementary habitat creation and management of habitats adjacent to ditches.

5.7 The resultant change in biodiversity units is:

- On-site baseline: 9.91 Ditch units
- On-site post-intervention: 16.83 Ditch units
- Total net unit change: 6.92 Ditch units
- On-site net % change: +69.80%

Species

5.8 Beyond the habitat-based assessment contained within the Biodiversity Metric, species-specific enhancements are considered as part of the EMEP. Measures to enhance to achieve BNG include habitat management and provision of features within the built development, including carefully sited bat bricks, Swift bricks, and holes in fence panels to aid movement across developed areas by Hedgehogs. See the EMEP for details.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Based on the above main assumptions and the additional notes included in the final column of the metric spreadsheet, the outline BNG calculation shows the following approximate change in biodiversity units is anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development:

- Increase in Habitat units of +13.16% above baseline.
- Increase in Hedgerow units of +10.74% above baseline.
- Increase in Ditch units of +69.80% above baseline.

6.2 This exceeds the emerging requirement in the Environment Act and Draft Dorset Local Plan Policy ENV3 for a 10% net gain above baseline to be achieved.

6.3 Based on the above, it is concluded that the proposals as envisaged will be in accordance with the requirement for BNG to be provided under paragraph 174 d) of the NPPF.

7. REFERENCES

Baker, J., Hoskin, R and Butterworth, T. (2019). *Biodiversity net gain. Good practice principles for development. Part A: A practical guide.* Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA), London.

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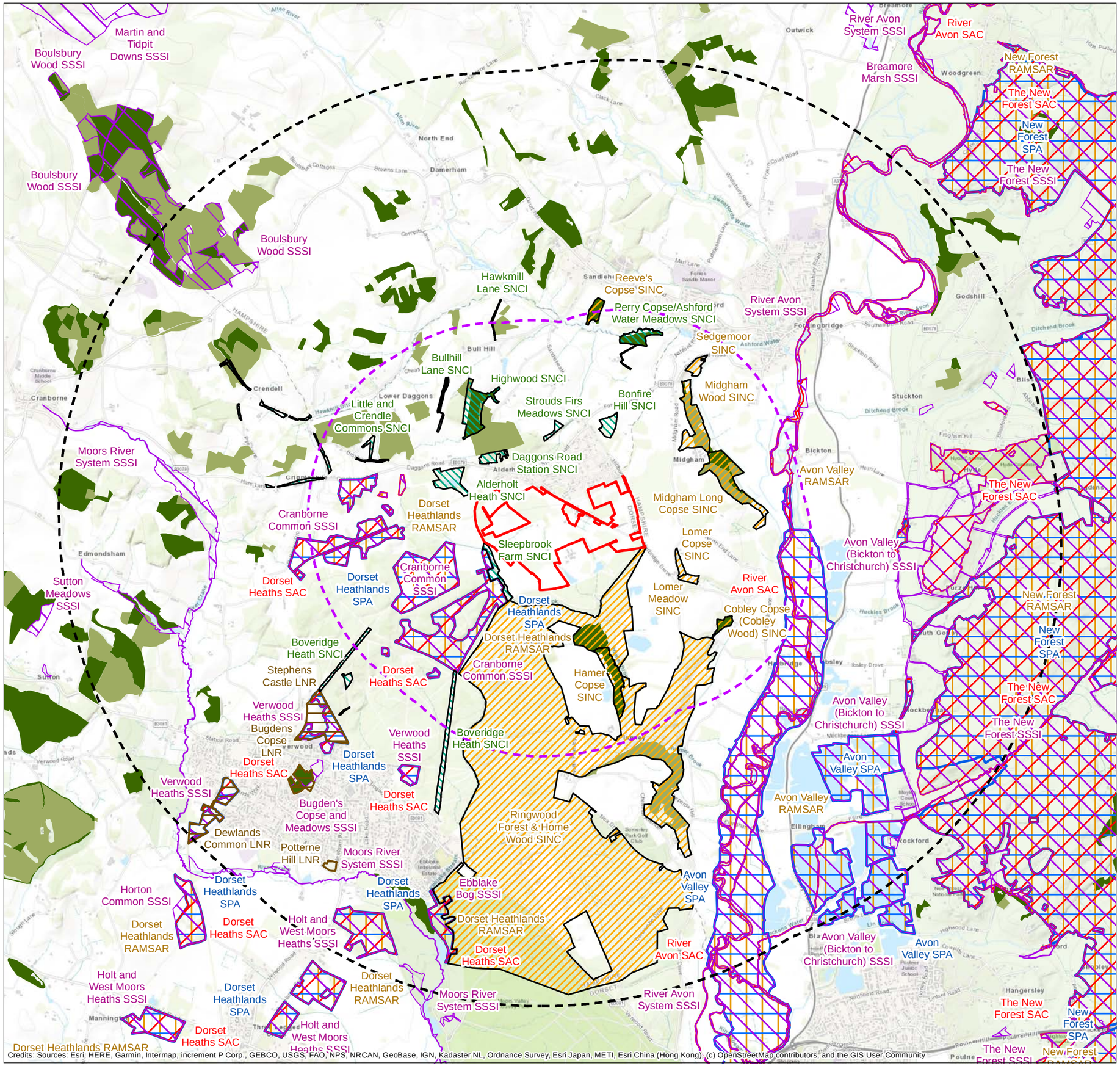

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MAP 1 Site Location & Nature Conservation Designations

KEY

- Site boundary
- 2km linear distance from site boundary
- 5km linear distance from site boundary

Non-Statutory Sites

- Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI)
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland

Statutory Sites

- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Ramsar
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)

SCALE: 1:45,000 at A3

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Metres

N

EPR

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 29 November 2022

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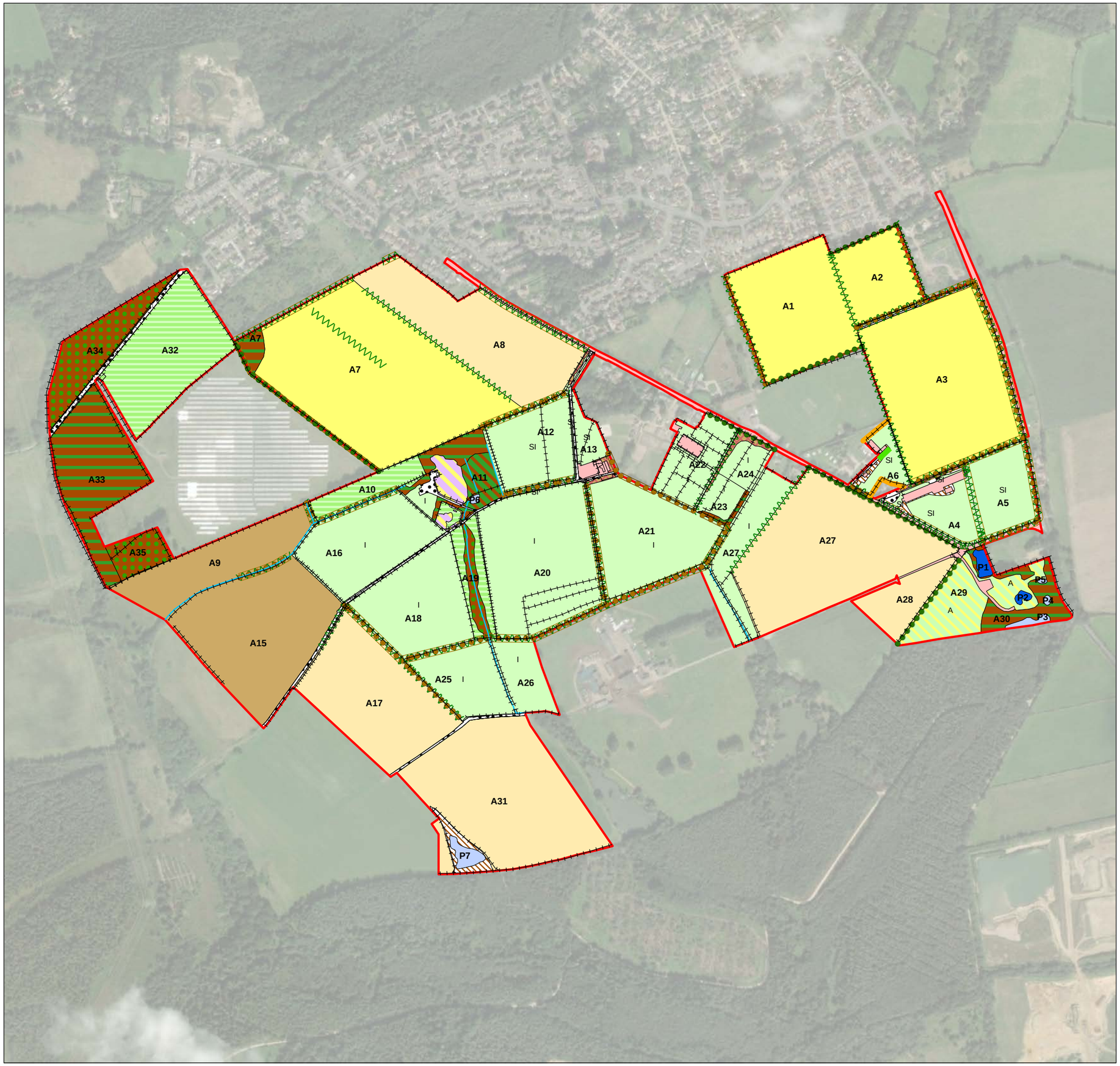
SNCI: Dorset Environmental Records Centre, SINC: Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre



MAP 2 Baseline Habitats

KEY

- Site boundary
- Ditches
- Fences
- Hedge Ornamental Non Native
- Line of Trees - Associated with bank or ditch
- Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable)
- Line of Trees (Ecologically Valuable) - with Bank or Ditch
- Native Hedgerow
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow - Associated with bank or ditch
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees
- Native Species Rich Hedgerow with trees - Associated with bank or ditch
- Temporary grass and clover leys
- Cereal crops
- Non-cereal crops
- Purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Other neutral grassland
- A — Modified grassland (Amenity grassland)
- I — Modified grassland (Improved grassland)
- SI — Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)
- Bramble scrub
- Ruderal/Ephemeral
- Ponds (Priority Habitat)
- Ponds (Non- Priority Habitat)
- Developed land; sealed surface
- Vacant/derelict land/ bareground
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Other woodland; mixed
- Wet woodland

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A3

0 100 200 300 400 500 Metres

N

EPR

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 29 November 2022

Y:\Alderholt, East Dorset 2240\GIS\ES\Technical Appendices\Ecology Baseline\Map2_BaselineHabitats_P2240_1990_291122.mxd

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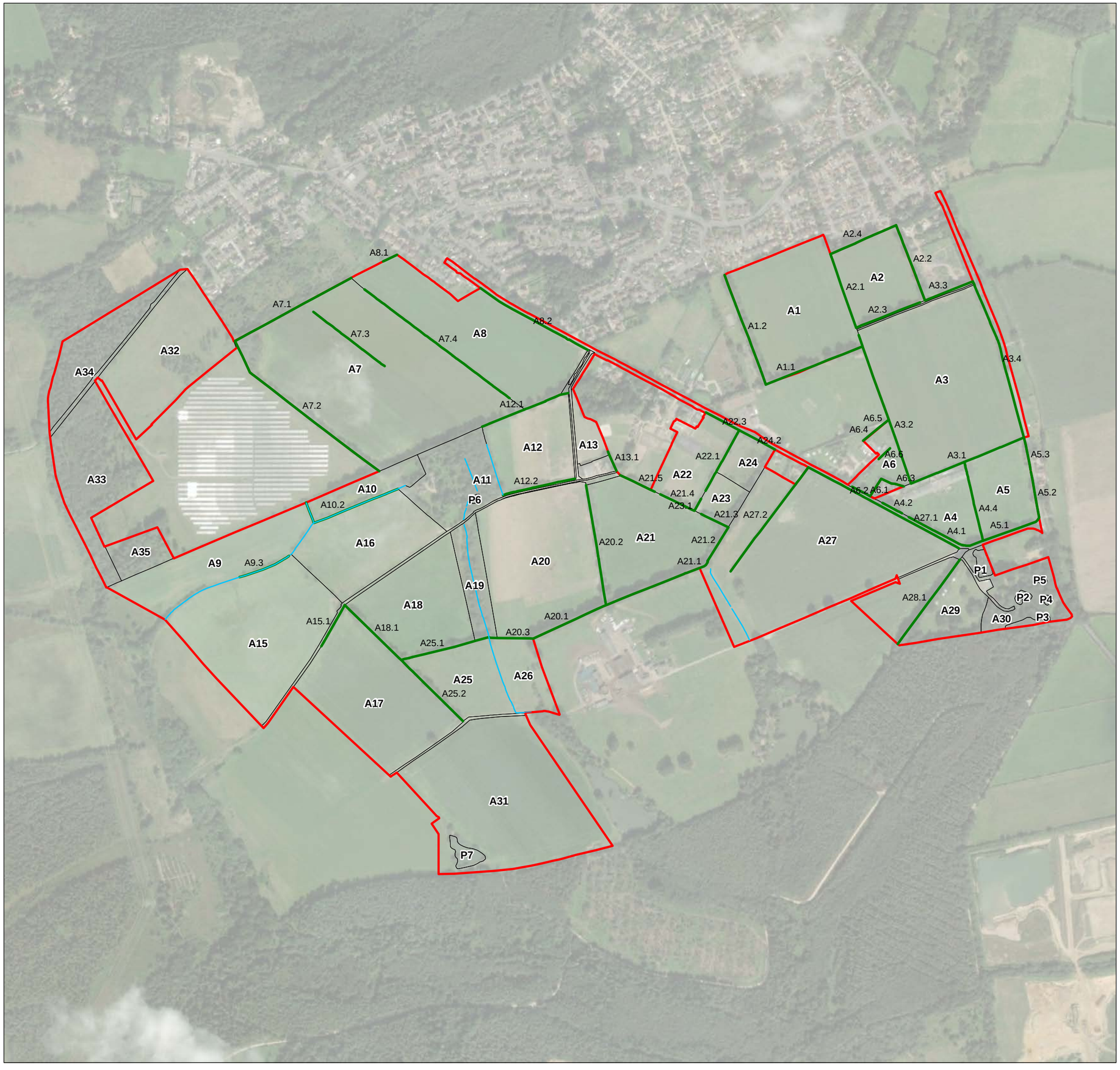
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



MAP 3 Baseline Hedgerows and Ditches

KEY

- Site boundary
- Ditches
- Hedges and numbers
- A1 Field numbers

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A3

0 100 200 300 400 500 Metres

N

EPR

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 29 November 2022

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Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

MAP 4 Proposed Habitats, Hedgerows and Ditches

KEY

- Site boundary
- Proposed trees
- Proposed hedges

Enhanced

- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Modified grassland (Amenity grassland)
- Other neutral grassland
- Other woodland; mixed
- Pond
- Purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Wet woodland

Created

- Allotments
- Built
- Open grass area
- Paths
- Play area
- Pond
- Potential solar array
- Proposed woodland
- Swales
- Wetland, reedbed
- Wildflower meadow

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A3

0 100 200 300 400 500 Metres

N

EPR

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 07 December 2022

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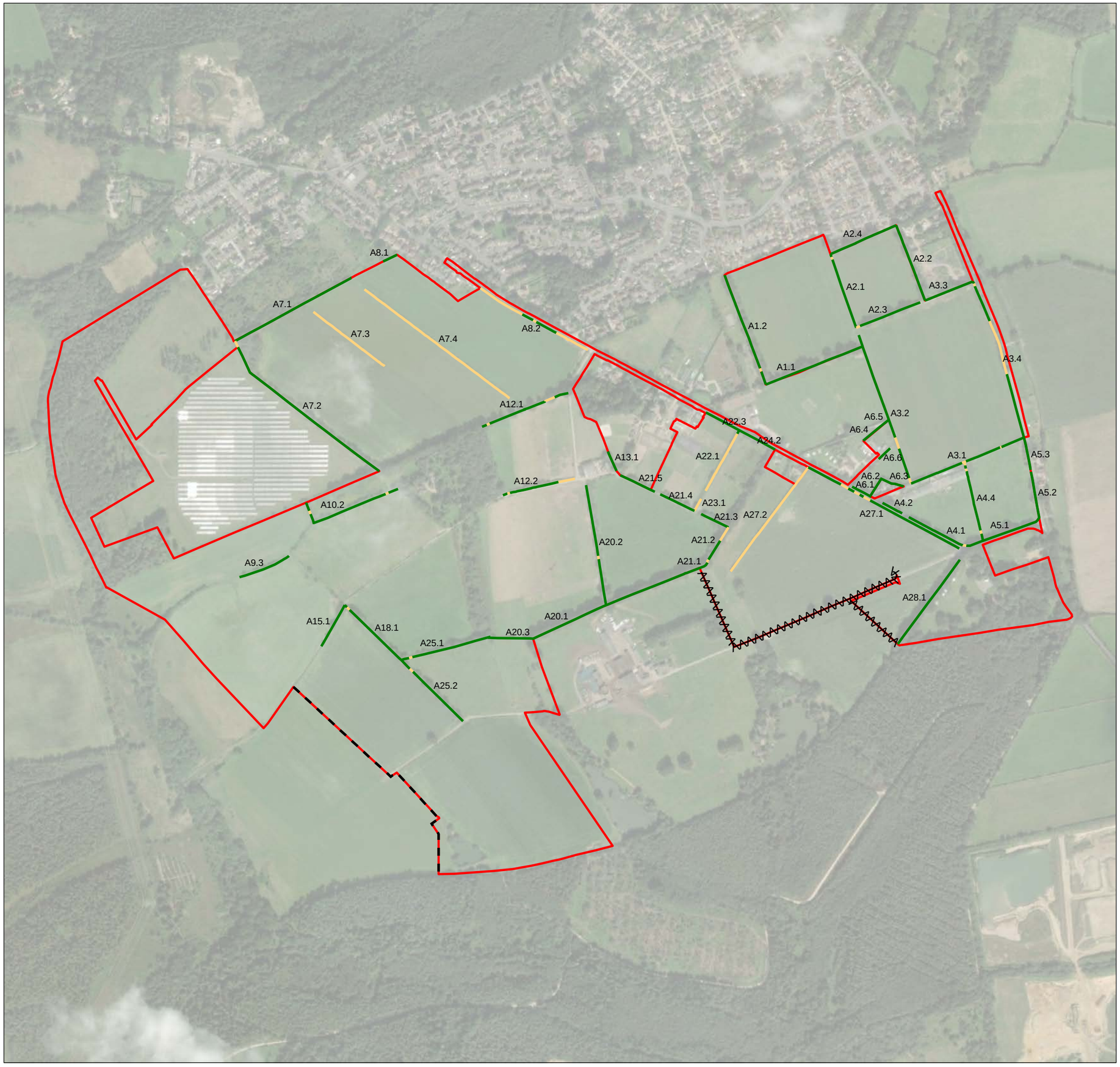
Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



MAP 5 Hedge Loss and Gains

KEY

- Site boundary
- Potential native species rich hedgerow
- Proposed native species rich hedgerow
- Retained
- Lost

SCALE: 1:7,500 at A3

0 100 200 300 400 500 Metres

N

EPR

CLIENT: Dudsbury Homes (Southern)

PROJECT: Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

DATE: 05 December 2022

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Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Annex 1

Biodiversity Metric 3.1 – Headline Results

Alderholt Meadows, Fordingbridge

Headline Results

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	*Habitat units*	488.36
	Hedgerow units	110.83
	River units	9.91
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	552.62
	Hedgerow units	122.73
	River units	16.83
On-site net % change (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	13.16%
	Hedgerow units	10.74%
	River units	69.80%
Off-site baseline	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
Total net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	64.25
	Hedgerow units	11.90
	River units	6.92
Total on-site net % change plus off-site surplus (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	*Habitat units*	13.16%
	Hedgerow units	10.74%
	River units	69.80%
Trading rules Satisfied?		Yes ✓

Annex 2
Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Grassland

Table A2.1 and **A2.2** present a summary of the criteria used to determine condition of Medium and Low grassland types.

Medium Distinctiveness Grassland

Table A2.1: Criteria for Condition Assessment of Grassland - MEDIUM Distinctiveness

Condition Assessment Result	Score
Acid Grassland Types	
Passes 5 of 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 5 criteria	Poor (1)
Non-acid grassland Types	
Passes 5 of 6 criteria, including essential criterion 1	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria, including essential criterion 1	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria; OR Passes 3 of 4 criteria excluding criterion 1 and 6	Poor (1)

Low Distinctiveness Grassland

Table A2.2: Criteria for Condition Assessment of Grassland - LOW Distinctiveness

Condition Assessment Result	Score
Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria, including essential criterion 1	Good (3)
Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria, including essential criterion 1	Moderate (2)
Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria; OR Passes 4, 5 or 6 of 7 criteria but failing criterion 1	Poor (1)

EXISTING HABITATS

Table A2.3: Habitat condition criteria assessment of MEDIUM distinctiveness grasslands

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)				
		A10	A11	A19	A32	A33
1	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type (see UKHab definition). Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N	N	N	N	N
3	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	There are greater than 9 species per metre squared. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving good condition (non-acid grassland types only).	N	N	N	N	N
	Result (Number of Passes)	4	4	4	4	4

Table A2.4: Summary condition assessment of MEDIUM distinctiveness grasslands

Ref area	Condition	Rationale
A10	Moderate	Passes 4 criteria. Fails 2 – Sward height not varied; 6 – Not >9 species per metre squared.
A11	Moderate	ditto
A19	Moderate	ditto
A32	Moderate	ditto
A33	Moderate	ditto

Table A2.5: Key to locations (see Map 3 and Tables A2.6-2.7)

Ref area	Type	Notes
A10	Other neutral grassland	Meets Dorset criteria
A11	Other neutral grassland	Associated with areas of Rush pasture
A19	Other neutral grassland	Marshy grassland
A32	Other neutral grassland	Land east of Cross Roads Plantation
A33	Other neutral grassland	Cross Roads Plantation

Table A2.6: Cross Roads Plantation SANG (fields/parcels with MEDIUM distinctiveness grassland)

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A10	5 (part)	Land to the immediate west of Sleepbrook Farmhouse	^Semi-improved grassland, dense bramble and gorse scrub, treelines	^Other neutral grassland	Swale / Open grass / Trees
A11	4	Land around Sleepbrook Farmhouse	*Wet woodland, *Mixed semi-natural woodland, treelines, *^Rush pasture, Semi-improved grassland, a *pond, ditches	Wet woodland, Other woodland; mixed Modified grassland (Improved grassland) ^Purple moor grass and rush pastures	Wet woodland Other neutral grassland / Other woodland; mixed Purple moor grass and rush pastures
A32	1	Land east of Cross Roads Plantation	Semi-improved grassland	Other neutral grassland	Other neutral grassland
A33	20	Cross Roads Plantation	*Broadleaved woodland, *Mixed woodland, ^Semi-improved grassland, 2 Ponds, a *Stream	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Other neutral grassland	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Other neutral grassland

Table A2.7: Alderholt Common SANG (fields/parcels with MEDIUM distinctiveness grassland)

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A19	18 (part)	Land to southwest of Sleepbrook Farm	*Rush pasture, *Mixed woodland, 2 *hedgerows, 2 ditches	Other neutral grassland (Marshy grassland) Other woodland; mixed	Other neutral grassland (Marshy grassland) / Other woodland; mixed

Table A2.8: Habitat condition criteria assessment of LOW distinctiveness grasslands

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)								
		A4	**A5**	**A6**	**A12**	**A13**	**A23**	**A24**	**A29**	**A30**
1	There must be 6-8 species per m2. If a grassland has 9 or more species per m2 it should be classified as a medium distinctiveness grassland habitat type. NB - this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
3	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
4	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	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (e.g., a concentration of rabbit warrens).	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
6	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Result (Number of Passes)	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**6**	**4**

Table A2.9: Summary condition assessment of LOW distinctiveness grasslands

Ref area	Condition	Rationale
A4	Moderate	Fails essential criterion 1, and criterion 2 and 5.
A5	Moderate	Fails essential criterion 1, and criterion 2 and 5.
A6	Moderate	Fails essential criterion 1, and criterion 2 and 5.
A12	Moderate	Fails essential criterion 1, and criterion 2 and 5.
A13	Moderate	Fails essential criterion 1, and criterion 2 and 5.
A23	Moderate	Fails essential criterion 1, and criterion 2 and 5.
A24	Moderate	Fails essential criterion 1, and criterion 2 and 5.
A29	Good	Fails criterion 2.
A30	Moderate	Fails criterion 2, 3 and 5.

Table A2.10: Key to locations (see Tables A2.11-2.12)

Ref area	Type	Notes
A4	Modified grassland	Poor-semi-improved grassland
A5	Modified grassland	Poor-semi-improved grassland
A6	Modified grassland	Poor-semi-improved grassland
A12	Modified grassland	Poor-semi-improved grassland
A13	Modified grassland	Poor-semi-improved grassland
A23	Modified grassland	Marshy grazed grassland
A24	Modified grassland	Marshy grazed grassland
A29	Modified grassland	Amenity grassland (meets Dorset quality criteria)
A30	Modified grassland	Amenity grassland (meets Dorset quality criteria)

Table A2.11: Harbridge Drove SANG (fields/parcels with LOW distinctiveness grassland)

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A4	13 (part)	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm	Semi-improved grassland, 5 of 7 *hedgerows and 4 ditches	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland Wildflower meadow / Trees
A5	13 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Swale / Ponds / Wetland / Reedbed / Wildflower meadow / Open grass / Trees / Woodland
A29	14 (part)	Land around Warren Park Farm campsite	^Amenity grassland, *Broadleaved woodland with woodland ride, Hedgerow and Treeline, 4 *ponds	Modified grassland (Amenity grassland)	Existing Trees and Hedge / Open grass
A30	14 (part)	ditto	ditto	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Modified grassland (Amenity grassland) / Ponds	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland / Open grass / Ponds

Table A2.12: Proposed Developed Areas (fields/parcels with LOW distinctiveness grassland)

Field number	Parcel number	Parcel Name	Key Habitats in Parcel	Existing UK Habitats in Field	**Proposed Habitats
A6	13 (part)	Land around Oaktree Farm and Foxhill Farm	Semi-improved grassland, 5 of 7 *hedgerows and 4 ditches	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A12	3 (part)	Land around Sleepbrook Farm	Lower value habitats only	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A13	3 (part)	ditto	ditto	Modified grassland (Poor semi-improved grassland)	Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)

A23	16 (part)	Land to southeast of Sleepbrook Farm	*Broadleaved woodland, 2 *hedgerows, 3 treelines and 6 ditches	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Modified grassland (Marshy grazed grassland)	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)
A24	16 (part)	ditto	ditto	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Modified grassland (Marshy grazed grassland)	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Developed land; sealed surface / vegetated garden (Housing etc)

PROPOSED HABITATS

Table A2.1: Habitat condition criteria assessment of MEDIUM distinctiveness grasslands

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)				
		A10	**A11**	**A19**	**A32**	**A33**
1	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type (see UKHab definition). Wildflowers, sedges and indicator species for the specific grassland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible throughout the sward. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981). Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	There are greater than 9 species per metre squared. NB - This criterion is essential for achieving good condition (non-acid grassland types only).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Result (Number of Passes)	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**

Table A2.2: Summary condition assessment of MEDIUM distinctiveness grasslands

Ref area	Condition	Rationale
A10	Good	Predicted to pass all criteria due to favourable characteristics for restoration
A11	Good	Passes all criteria
A19	Good	Passes all criteria
A32	Good	Passes all criteria
A33	Good	Passes all criteria

Table A2.8: Habitat condition criteria assessment of LOW distinctiveness grasslands

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)								
		A4	**A5**	**A6**	**A12**	**A13**	**A23**	**A24**	**A29**	**A30**
1	There must be 6-8 species per m2. If a grassland has 9 or more species per m2 it should be classified as a medium distinctiveness grassland habitat type. NB - this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	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	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (e.g., a concentration of rabbit warrens).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Result (Number of Passes)	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**

Table A2.9: Summary condition assessment of LOW distinctiveness grasslands

Ref area	Condition	Rationale
A4	Good	Predicted to pass all criteria due to favourable characteristics for restoration
A5	Good	Passes all criteria
A6	Good	Passes all criteria
A12	Good	Passes all criteria
A13	Good	Passes all criteria
A23	Good	Passes all criteria
A24	Good	Passes all criteria
A29	Good	Passes all criteria
A30	Good	Passes all criteria

Annex 3
Hedgerow Condition Assessment Sheets

EXISTING HEDGEROWS

The criteria and weighting for assessing hedgerow condition follows in **Table A3.1** below.

Table A3.2 overleaf presents a summary of favourable condition attributes for each hedgerow.

The summary condition and rationale for Existing hedgerows are included in **Table A3.3.**

The post development condition of hedgerows is given in **Table A3.4.**

The key to the hedgerows (type, description and location) is given in **Table 3.2** in **Section 3**.

Table A3.1: Hedgerow condition assessment and weighting

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	**Maximum number of attributes that can fail to meet 'favourable condition' criteria in Table 3.2**	**Weighting (score)**
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; **AND** No more than 1 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 (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; **OR** Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & B2 = Poor condition).	1
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; **AND** No more than 1 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 (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 & E1= Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; **OR** Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 & B2 = Poor condition).	1

Table A3.2: Habitat condition criteria assessment of hedgerows (see **Table 3.2** in **Section 3** for key to Hedgerow numbers)

Criteria		**Description**	**Hedgerow Number**														
			1.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	5.1	5.2		
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length (unless 'line of trees')	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
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 hedge (at least)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
C2.	Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and neophyte species	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
E1.	Tree age	At least one mature tree per 30m stretch of hedgerow. A mature tree is one that is at least 2/3 expected fully mature height for the sp.	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y		
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.	Y	-	Y	Y	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y		
	Failures		1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	2 in 2	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1		

Criteria		Description	Hedgerow Number																
			5.3	5.4	6.1	6.2-6.5	7.1	7.3	7.4	8.1	8.2	9.3	10.2	12.1	12.2				
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length (unless 'line of trees')	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
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 hedge (at least)	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
C2.	Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N				
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and neophyte species	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	Y		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
E1.	Tree age	At least one mature tree per 30m stretch of hedgerow. A mature tree is one that is at least 2/3 expected fully mature height for the species.	Y		Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y				
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.	Y		Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y				

	Failures		1 in 1		1 in 1	7 in 3	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1				

Criteria		**Description**	**Hedgerow Number**													
			15.1	18.1	20.1	20.2	20.3	21.1	22.1	23.1		25.1	25.2		27.2	
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	
B1.	Gap – hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length (unless 'line of trees')	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	
B2.	Gap – hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length and No canopy gaps >5 m	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	
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 hedge (at least)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	
C2.	Undesirable perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		Y			N	
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native and neophyte species	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	

E1.	Tree age	At least one mature tree per 30m stretch of hedgerow. A mature tree is one that is at least 2/3 expected fully mature height for the species.	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-		-			-	
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.	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	-		-			-	
	Failures		1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1	1 in 1		0			1 in 1	

Table A3.3 presents a summary of the condition of existing hedgerows taking into account the criteria and weighting given in **Table A3.1**, AND whether or not the hedgerow is compromised by being in an intensively farmed landscape, especially where there are fields either side. Since this is the case for the majority of hedgerows the condition is considered to be Moderate.

Table A3.3: Summary condition assessment of hedgerows – Existing

Hedge No.	Condition	Rationale
1.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
1.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
2.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
2.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
2.3	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
2.4	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
3.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
3.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
3.3	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
3.4	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed field one side and road on other.
4.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
4.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
4.4	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
5.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
5.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
5.3	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
6.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
6.2-6.5	Poor	Seven failures, both in three functional groups. Ornamental / Non Native
6.6	n/a	Hedge too short
7.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
7.2	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
7.3	Poor	Discontinuous hedge.
7.4	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
8.1	n/a	Hedge too short
8.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
9.3	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.

Hedge No.	Condition	Rationale
		Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
10.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
12.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
12.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
13.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
15.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
18.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
20.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
20.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
20.3	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
21.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
21.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present.
21.3	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
21.4	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
21.5	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
22.1	Moderate	No failure.
22.3	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
23.1		
24.2	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
25.1	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
25.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
27.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
27.2	Moderate	Only one failure. Perennial plants indicative of nutrient enrichment present. Compromised by intensively farmed fields either side.
28.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge

Table A3.4: Summary condition assessment of hedgerows – <u>Enhanced</u>

Hedge No.	Condition	Rationale Suggested enhancement intervention to improve condition score
1.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
1.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.

Hedge No.	Condition	Rationale Suggested enhancement intervention to improve condition score
2.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
2.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
2.3	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
2.4	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
3.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. South-facing side will be northern boundary of Harbridge Drove SANG. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan. North-facing side will be adjacent to development. Enhancement as part of EMES. Two narrow breaches for pedestrian paths to SANG. Narrow breach for swale to SuDS basin in Harbridge Drove SANG.
3.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. West-facing side will remain eastern boundary of existing recreation ground. East-facing side will be adjacent to development. One breach for main spine road and pedestrian path. One breach at southern end.
3.3		
3.4		
4.1	Good	SW edge of Harbridge Drove SANG. North-facing side adjacent to Harbridge Drove SANG. South facing side adjacent to track with tree line (A27.1) forming other side.
4.2		
4.3		
4.4	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
5.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
5.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
5.3	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
6.1		
6.2-6.5	n/a	Ornamental / Non Native
6.6	n/a	Hedge too short

Hedge No.	Condition	Rationale Suggested enhancement intervention to improve condition score
7.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
7.2	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
7.3	n/a	Lost
7.4	n/a	Lost
8.1	n/a	Hedge too short
8.2	n/a	Lost
9.3	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
10.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
12.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
12.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
13.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
15.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
18.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
20.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
20.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
20.3		
21.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.
21.2		
21.3	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
21.4	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
21.5	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
22.1	n/a	Lost
22.3	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
23.1		
24.2	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
25.1	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow.

Hedge No.	Condition	Rationale Suggested enhancement intervention to improve condition score
		Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
25.2	Good	Cessation of farming will reduce adverse impacts from nutrient enrichment to favour diverse vegetation at base of hedgerow. Enhancement through sympathetic management in perpetuity as part of SANG management plan.
27.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge
27.2	n/a	Lost
28.1	n/a	Line of trees, not a hedge