

East Lancashire Paper Mill Island, Radcliffe, M26 2GU

ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

November 2022

[ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd ref: 2021-283c]

[Bury Council ref: 67965]

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

1.1.1 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd has carried out a full scope of relevant ecological survey and assessment at East Lancashire Paper Mill Island, Radcliffe, M26 2GU (hereafter the 'site') to inform a planning application for a residential development. It is proposed to develop the site to housing with associated roads and hard standing and landscaping; the proposed development is presented at *East Lancashire Paper Mill Island, Radcliffe, Bury, Landscape Proposals & Planting Plan, Dwg. No. 6674.03 Rev. D* (Trevor Bridge Associates Ltd, 2022), hereafter the 'proposals plan'.

1.1.2 The 0.72 hectare site comprises two areas of hard standing with colonising vegetation, an area of scrub and an area of amenity grassland with scattered trees, located to the south of the A6053 (Spring Lane), Radcliffe. The Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference at the centre of the site is SD 7902 0740.

1.1.3 In accordance with Chapter 15, paragraph 180(d) of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021):

'opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate'.

1.1.4 Ecological guidance, based on the ecological surveys, has been provided to the design team throughout the preparation of the proposals plan and site layout. This approach has ensured that the layout (and the open space proposals) have, as much as possible, been ecology-led to achieve a sympathetic scheme which avoids features of ecological interest (where possible) and seeks to minimise and mitigate adverse effects where avoidance is not possible.

1.2 Scope of Works

1.2.1 ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd was commissioned by Great Places Housing Group to carry out works to complete a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment of the site. The assessment was requested to inform proposals to develop the site to the following (in accordance with Bury Council Planning Application Reference 67965).

'Residential development of 27 no. houses and apartments with car parking, landscaped areas and associated works.'

1.2.2 This report has been prepared to accompany a completed assessment of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) using *The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Calculation Tool Beta Test Final* (Natural England, 2021). The completed excel spreadsheet assessment is presented as a separate document, named *'ERAP Ltd 2021-283c East Lancashire Paper Mill Island Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Calculation Tool 08.11.22'*.

1.2.3 It is intended that this report provides a transparent assessment to demonstrate the calculation of net gain, based on the reasonable parameters assumed for the proposals (refer to **Section 2.2**). This approach has been applied on a number of other sites ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd has assisted with and has been accepted by the relevant Local Planning Authorities (LPA) and their ecological advisors to enable a planning application to progress.

2.0 METHODS AND APPROACH

2.1 Vegetation and Habitats

- 2.1.1 The vegetation and habitats, as reported in *2021-283b East Lancashire Paper Mill Island, Radcliffe, M26 2GU, Ecological Survey and Assessment* (ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2021), hereafter the '2021 ecology report', are referenced as the habitats baseline.
- 2.1.2 2056_P Rev A.DWG, a spatially-referenced CAD file, was provided by the client as a base plan for the site. The Phase 1 Habitats described in the 2021 ecology report were transposed onto this plan and calculations of the area and length of the baseline habitats within the site were completed.
- 2.1.3 Habitats within the site were assessed in accordance with the UK Habitats Classification / UKHab (Butcher, et al., 2020). The UKHab has been designed to function at two scales: fine scale (25m² or 5 metres length) and large scale (400m² or 20 metres length). It has been considered for the purposes of this survey that the fine scale of 25m² is appropriate. A plan showing the habitats as assessed under the UKHab is appended at **Figure 1**. The Condition Assessment results are presented at **Section 6.1**.
- 2.1.4 Results of the BNG Assessment tool are presented within this report, however the separate excel sheet (*ERAP Ltd 2021-283c East Lancashire Paper Mill Island Biodiversity Metric 3.0 08.11.22*) should be referred to for the full calculation.

2.2 Evaluations Methods, Parameters and Rules Applied

Evaluation Methods

- 2.2.1 Habitats have been assessed to determine whether they meet those described in *UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Priority Habitat Descriptions* (Maddock, A (ed), 2008); these lists are used to help draw up the statutory lists of Priority Habitats, as required under Section 41 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006*.
- 2.2.2 The BNG Assessment tool used is *The Biodiversity Metric 3.0 (JP039)* (Natural England, 2021). Condition Assessments for each of the habitats present within the site have been taken from *The Biodiversity Metric 3.0: Auditing and accounting for biodiversity: technical supplement* (Panks, et al., July 2021).
- 2.2.3 The proposals plan was provided by the client as a .pdf; an affine transformation was performed on the file, which contained no spatial reference, to ensure that it matched the spatially-referenced 2-56_P Rev A.DWG file. This spatially referenced file was then used to perform calculations of the area and length of the habitats proposed at the site.
- 2.2.4 QGIS has been used to calculate the total area of each baseline habitat present within the site. The proposals plan has been used as base plans to map the habitats within the site.
- 2.2.5 It is confirmed that the site area (in hectares to 2 decimal places) calculated by ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd matches the site area provided by Great Places Housing Group (i.e. 0.72 hectares, or 'ha').
- 2.2.6 Note that only vegetated habitats which lie outside garden curtilages (and will be managed by a separate management company) can contribute to the BNG Assessment as individual habitat types; all vegetated habitats within garden curtilages (and which will be managed by householders) are classified as 'vegetated gardens'.
- 2.2.7 Vegetated gardens have been included in the post-development calculation. It is recognised that there is limited control over what happens to the gardens in the long term; vegetated gardens are scored accordingly in the BNG metric however. Inclusion of vegetated gardens within the metric is in accordance with the

guidance in relation to gardens issued during the Greater Manchester Combined Authority / CIEEM Webinar¹.

3.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

3.1 Existing Ecological Baseline and Assessment of Habitat Types, Areas and Condition Assessments

3.1.1 The appended **Figure 1** shows the locations and extent of the baseline habitats within the site.

3.1.2 **Table 3.1** below provides a summary of the habitats present, their condition assessment result (refer to **Section 6.1** for full condition assessments of the habitats present) and their areas within the site. Note that individual compartments of equal habitat type and condition have been combined for ease of reference. No linear habitats are present within the site.

Table 3.1: Summary of Baseline Habitats Within the Site: Area-based Habitats

Habitat Reference	UK Habitat Classification Type	BNG Habitat Equivalent	Phase 1 Habitat Equivalent	Condition Assessment Estimate	Area (ha)
Habitat 1 Scrub and boundary planting	h3h Mixed scrub	Mixed scrub	A2.1 Dense continuous scrub	Poor	0.13
Habitat 2 Amenity grassland	g4 Modified grassland (with secondary code 11 scattered trees, see below)	Modified grassland	J1.2 Cultivated / disturbed land – amenity grassland	Poor	0.24
Habitat 3 Hard standing	u1b6 – other developed land with the following secondary code: 17 ruderal/ephemeral	Developed land; sealed surface	J5 Other habitat – hard standing	N/A - other	0.35
Total Area					0.72
Habitat 4 Scattered trees ²	(secondary code 11 scattered trees) 19 scattered trees are present in total	Urban tree	A2.2 Scattered scrub, young trees and shrubs	Moderate	0.03 ³

¹ Advice provided by Natural England in a recent (February 2021) Question and Answer Session on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority / CIEEM Webinar stated 'Q. How should gardens be treated within the metric? As no control of what happens within these areas is possible, should they be excluded? A. Gardens are included in the metric but the metric assumes that a significant number will disappear and decked over etc. over time. So they are scored accordingly. They still generate biodiversity units, but account has been taken of the fact that, as you say, there is limited control over what happens to them [Natural England]' (GMCA / CIEEM, 2021).

² Note that urban trees are considered additional to the total site area by the BNG calculator, and therefore do not contribute to the total area presented. The presence of urban trees in the baseline habitats has caused the *ERAP Ltd 2021-283c East Lancashire Paper Mill Island Biodiversity Metric 3.0 08.11.22* to state that there is an error in the post-development areas, which is due to the area of post-development urban trees being included in the calculation.

³ Note that the area of urban trees has been measured from the canopy cover and not calculated by the urban tree helper.

4.0 POST-DEVELOPMENT CONDITION

4.1 Retained and Created Habitat Areas

- 4.1.1 As shown on the proposals plan, the following habitats presented at **Table 4.1** will be retained and created at the site. The habitats as measured from the proposals plan are presented at **Figure 2**, appended.
- 4.1.2 The condition of the habitats proposed have been predicted based on what is reasonably achievable at the site based on its location and end use as a residential development.
- 4.1.3 The proposed condition assessments of the created habitats are appended at **Section 6.2**. It is assumed that these conditions will be secured by an appropriate habitat management plan for the site. An outline on the required management objectives for the proposed habitats is presented at **Section 4.2**.

Table 4.1: Summary of Habitat Areas Retained and Created at the Site

Habitat	Notes on Retained, Enhanced and Created Habitats	BNG Equivalent Habitat	Target Condition Assessment	Area (ha)
Retained building and hard standing	Retained area in north-east corner of the site	Urban – developed land; sealed surface	N/A – other	0.01 ⁴
Buildings and hardstanding	New development	Developed land; sealed surface	N/A – other	0.47
Ornamental shrub planting	Introduced shrub planting	Introduced shrub	Poor	0.01
Native shrubs	Shrub mix	Mixed scrub	Moderate	0.03
Amenity grassland	Turfed areas	Modified grassland	Moderate	0.09
Wildflower meadow	Area of wildflower mix planting	Other neutral grassland	Moderate	0.04
Vegetated gardens	Vegetated gardens created at houses	Vegetated garden	Poor	0.07
Total area				0.72
Urban trees ⁵	Medium size urban trees x 24	Urban tree	Moderate	0.10

Table 4.2: Summary of Linear Habitats Created at Site

Habitat	Notes on Retained and Created Habitats	BNG Equivalent Habitat	Target Condition Assessment	Length Planted (km)
New native hedgerow	Native hedgerow to be planted outside the residential areas	Native hedgerow	Poor	0.06
New ornamental hedgerow	Ornamental hedgerow to be planted outside the residential areas	Hedge ornamental non native	Poor	0.01

⁴Rounded up from 0.007ha.

⁵Note that urban trees are considered additional to the total site area by the BNG calculator, and therefore do not contribute to the total area presented in **Tables 3.1** and **4.1**.

4.2 Management Objectives for the Proposed Habitats

4.2.1 A full habitat management plan will be required to ensure the habitats retain their proposed condition in the long term and the total net unit change presented in the calculator remains an accurate assessment of the overall change in habitat units at the site. The management objectives for each habitat are outlined below, and the conditions by which habitat should be assessed are outlined at **Section 6.2**.

- (all habitats): Control of invasive plant species:* the control of invasive plant species, such as Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), will be required to ensure the proposed habitats attain their proposed condition. A specialist contractor will be employed for the control of invasive plant species in the long term as part of the habitat management plan.
- Proposed native shrub planting:* plant species composition is retained (to secure at least 3 woody species with no one species attaining more than 75% cover), and the planted species remain in a healthy condition providing suitable cover for nesting birds.
- Proposed wildflower meadow:* Management should ensure that these habitats retained their plant species diversity, maintain a varied sward height (to create microclimates for invertebrates and other wildlife), that bare ground is kept below 5%, and Bracken and Bramble do not encroach (and less than 5% cover establishes for either species).
- Proposed amenity grassland:* Management should ensure that bare ground is kept below 5%, that a constant sward is maintained, and Bracken and Bramble do not encroach (and less than 5% cover establishes for either species).
- Urban Trees:* Management should ensure that the trees are maintained in a healthy condition, that the species mix remains over 70% native in composition, vandalism and herbicide use does not impact upon the trees and that the trees are immediately adjacent to other vegetation.

4.3 Results of the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Calculation

Table 4.3: Results of Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Calculation (from Headline Results Tab of ERAP Ltd 2021-283c East Lancashire Paper Mill Island Biodiversity Metric 3.0 08.11.22)

On-site Baseline	Habitat units	1.24
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
On-site Post Intervention	Habitat units	1.24
	Hedgerow units	0.13
	River units	0.00
Off-site Baseline	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
Total Net Unit Change	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.14
	River units	0.00
Total Net % Change	Habitat units	0.08%
	Hedgerow units	100.00%
	River units	0.00%

- As demonstrated at **Table 4.3**, the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Calculation Tool confirms that a small net gain is achieved by the proposals, provided that the proposed habitats are managed to the conditions proposed.
- In addition to the habitats measured for the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Calculation Tool, the proposals plan shows 25 metres of climbing plants and 76.81m² of bulb planting. These habitats are not represented by the habitat options in the Biodiversity Metric 3.0 Calculation Tool and have therefore been excluded from the calculation.
- The 2021 ecology report recommends additional measures to include within the site design to enhance the proposed development in terms of biodiversity, and it is noted that these measures are not taken into

account by the current iteration of the BNG Metric. These measures include control of invasive plant species, provision of bat boxes at the proposed buildings, provision of bird boxes and measures to ensure that habitat connectivity throughout the site is maintained following development.

- 4.3.4 It is respectfully suggested that the Local Planning Authority takes the additional habitats and measures into account when assessing the overall biodiversity net gain outcome of the proposals.

5.0 REFERENCES

- Butcher, B. et al., 2020. *UK Habitats Classification User Manual Version 1.1*, Stockport: UKHab Ltd.
- ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd, 2021. *2021-283b East Lancashire Paper Mill Island, Radcliffe, M26 2GU, Ecological Survey and Assessment*. Chorley: ERAP (Consultant Ecologists) Ltd.
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- Panks, S. et al., July 2021. *The Biodiversity Metric 3.0: Auditing and accounting for biodiversity: technical supplement*, Peterborough: Natural England.
- Trevor Bridge Associates Ltd, 2022. *East Lancashire Paper Mill Island, Radcliffe, Bury, Landscape Proposals & Planting Plan, Dwg. No. 6674.03 Rev. D*. Ashton-under-Lyne: Trevor Bridge Associates Ltd.

6.0 APPENDIX: TABLES AND FIGURES

6.1 Baseline Condition Assessments

Table 6.1: Condition Assessments for Scrub

Condition Assessment Criteria	Scrub (Habitat 1)	Boundary scrub (Habitat 1)
1. Habitat is representative of UKHab description (where in its natural range). There are at least three woody species, with no one species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except common juniper, sea buckthorn or box, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	No
2. There is a good age range – all of the following are present: seedlings, young shrubs and mature shrubs.	No	No
3. There is an absence of invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended) and undesirable species ¹ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	No	No
4. The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and / or herbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat(s).	No	No
5. There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	No
Good: passes 5 of 5 criteria	No	No
Moderate: passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria	No	No
Poor: passes 0, 1 or 2 of 5 criteria	Yes	Yes
Additional Information: ¹ Species considered undesirable for this habitat type include: Creeping Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), Common Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>), Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp.), Buddleia (<i>Buddleja</i> spp.), Cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.), and Spanish Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>) (or hybrids).		

Table 6.2: Condition Assessment for Modified Grassland

Condition Assessment Criteria	Habitat 2
1. There must be 6-8 species per m2. Note - if a grassland has 9 or more species per m2 it should be classified as a moderate distinctiveness grassland habitat type. NB - this criterion is non-negotiable for achieving good condition.	No
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.	No
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.	Yes
4. Physical damage evident in less than 5% of total grassland area, such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes
5. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	No
6. Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Yes
7. There is an absence of invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended) and undesirable species ¹ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	No
Good: Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including non-negotiable criterion 7	No
Moderate: Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria; OR passes 6 of 7 criteria excluding non-negotiable criterion 7	No
Poor: Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria	Yes
Additional Information: ¹ Footnote 1: species considered undesirable for this habitat type include: Creeping Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), Spear Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), Curled Dock (<i>Rumex crispus</i>), Broad-leaved Dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>), Common Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), Greater Plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>), White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) and Cow Parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>).	

Table 6.3: Condition Assessments for Urban Trees

Condition Assessment Criteria	Habitat 4
1. More than 70% of trees are native species.	Yes
2. Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	No
3. More than 50% of trees are mature ² or veteran ³ .	No
4. There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	No
5. Management regime has encouraged micro habitat sites for birds, mammals and insects e.g. presence of deadwood, cavities or loose bark etc.	Yes
6. Trees are immediately adjacent to other vegetation, and tree canopies are oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes
Good: Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	No
Moderate: Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Yes
Poor: Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	No
Additional information / definitions: M "Footnote 1 - This covers all trees in artificial urban habitats such as private gardens, private land, institutional land and land used for transport functions; roads, streets, canals, rail, footpaths etc. Trees in urban areas can under the right conditions provide a large range of habitat opportunities, supporting lichens, invertebrates and birds. Tree planting in urban areas has for over two hundred years also introduced non-native species into towns and cities. In the context of biodiversity native species are the preferred option. However, non-native tree species can contribute positively to biodiversity richness particularly in relation to providing a seasonal food source for nectar feeders and other invertebrates as well as supporting vertebrates that feed on species that are hosted by non-native trees. Examples are early and late flowering species of Prunus and aphids on varieties of Acer providing food for species higher up the food chain. The species of trees (native or non-native) together with the intensity and type of management they are subject to will determine the biodiversity value of the trees in question. Trees in urban areas provide opportunistic sites for biodiversity to colonise and re-colonise, increasing connectivity and contributing to biodiversity critical mass between already established patches or sites. This is especially so where transport corridors are populated with mixed native species Footnote 2 - A mature tree in this context is one that is at least 2/3 expected fully mature height for the species. Footnote 3 - All ancient trees are veteran trees, but not all veteran trees are ancient. A veteran tree may not be very old, but it has decay features, such as branch death and hollowing. These features contribute to its biodiversity, cultural and heritage value. Veteran trees can be classified if they have four out of the five following features: 1. Rot sites associated with wounds which are decaying >400cm²; 2. Holes and water pockets in the trunk and mature crown >5 cm diameter; 3. Dead branches or stems >15 cm diameter; 4. Any hollowing in the trunk or major limbs; 5. Fruit bodies of fungi known to cause wood decay."	

6.2 Proposed Condition of Habitats to be Created at the Site

Table 6.4: Proposed Condition for Proposed Native Shrubs

Condition Assessment Criteria	Proposed Scrub / Shrubs
1. Habitat is representative of UKHab description (where in its natural range). There are at least three woody species, with no one species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except common juniper, sea buckthorn or box, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes
2. There is a good age range – all of the following are present: seedlings, young shrubs and mature shrubs.	No
3. There is an absence of invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended) and undesirable species ¹ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes
4. The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and / or herbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat(s).	Yes
5. There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No
Good: passes 5 of 5 criteria	No
Moderate: passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria	Yes
Poor: passes 0, 1 or 2 of 5 criteria	No
Additional Information: ¹ Species considered undesirable for this habitat type include: Creeping Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), Common Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>), Snowberry (<i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp.), Buddleia (<i>Buddleja</i> spp.), Cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster</i> spp.), and Spanish Bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>) (or hybrids).	

Table 6.5: Proposed Condition for Wildflower Grassland (Using Assessment for Grassland Habitats of Medium, High and Very High Distinctiveness)

Condition Assessment Criteria	Proposed Wildflower Grassland
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.	Yes
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.	No
3. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Yes
4. Cover of bracken less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) less than 5%.	Yes
5. There is an absence of invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended). Combined cover of undesirable species ¹ 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.	Yes
Good: passes 5 of 5 criteria	No
Moderate: passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria	Yes
Poor: passes 0, 1 or 2 of 5 criteria	No
Additional Information:	
¹ Footnote 1: Species considered undesirable for this habitat type include: Creeping Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), Spear Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), Curled Dock (<i>Rumex crispus</i>), Broad-leaved Dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>), Common Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), Greater Plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>), White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), Cow Parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>).	

Table 6.6: Proposed Condition for Modified Grassland

Condition Assessment Criteria	Proposed Modified Grassland
1. There must be 6-8 species per m2. Note - if a grassland has 9 or more species per m2 it should be classified as a moderate distinctiveness grassland habitat type. NB - this criterion is non-negotiable for achieving good condition.	No
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.	No
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.	Yes
4. Physical damage evident in less than 5% of total grassland area, such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes
5. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens.	Yes
6. Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Yes
7. There is an absence of invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> (as amended) and undesirable species ¹ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Yes
Good: Passes 6 or 7 of 7 criteria including non-negotiable criterion 7	No
Moderate: Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria; OR passes 6 of 7 criteria excluding non-negotiable criterion 7	Yes
Poor: Passes 0, 1, 2 or 3 of 7 criteria	No
Additional Information:	
¹ Footnote 1: species considered undesirable for this habitat type include: Creeping Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), Spear Thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), Curled Dock (<i>Rumex crispus</i>), Broad-leaved Dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>), Common Nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), Greater Plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>), White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) and Cow Parsley (<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>).	

Table 6.7: Proposed Condition for Urban Trees

Condition Assessment Criteria	Proposed Urban Trees
1. More than 70% of trees are native species.	Yes
2. Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	No
3. More than 50% of trees are mature or veteran	No
4. There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by anthropogenic activities such as vandalism or herbicide use. There is no current regular pruning regime so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes
5. Management regime has encouraged micro habitat sites for birds, mammals and insects e.g. presence of deadwood, cavities or loose bark etc.	No
6. Trees are immediately adjacent to other vegetation, and tree canopies are oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes
Good: Passes 5 or 6 of 6 criteria	No
Moderate: Passes 3 or 4 of 6 criteria	Yes
Poor: Passes 0, 1 or 2 of 6 criteria	No

6.3 Figures

Figure 1: Plan to Show Area-based Baseline Habitats Inputted into the BNG Calculator

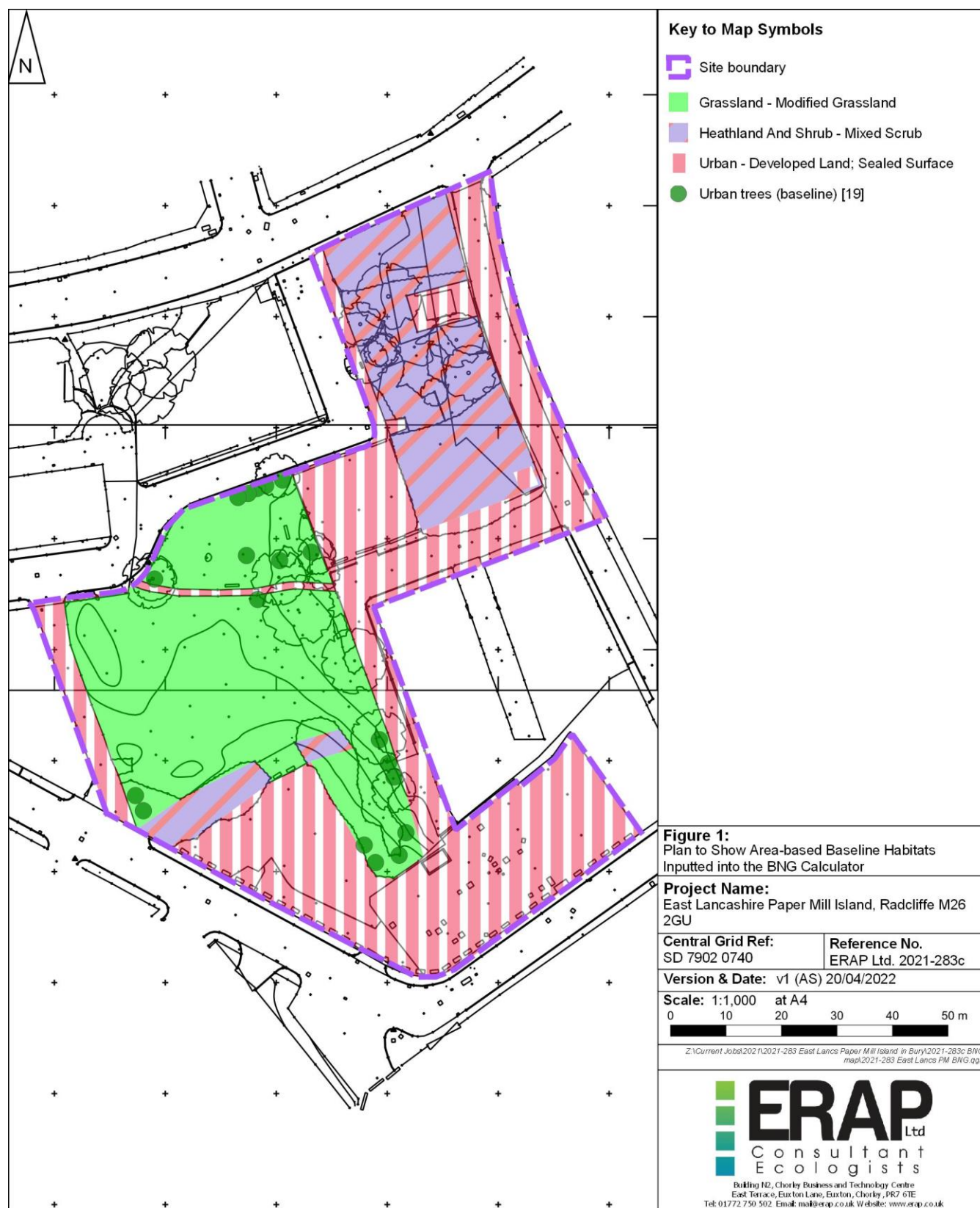


Figure 2: Plan to Show Proposed Area-based and Linear Habitats Inputted into the BNG Calculator

