

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) monitoring survey for Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) biodiversity offset

Fields 3132, 5341 and 7552 at Radford Farm, Oxfordshire

September 2025

Client details Radford Farm

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The report provides results from a biodiversity net gain botanical monitoring survey of Fields 3132, 5341 and 7552 at Radford Farm (see Figure 1 below for location). All three fields have been seeded with the same lowland calcareous grassland mix targeting g3c Other neutral grassland with potential to develop in to g2a Lowland calcareous grassland. The bespoke grass and wildflower seed mix contained 90% grass and 10% forbs. Please refer to Table 1 below for a list of species included in the seed mix and respective percentages for grasses and forbs. In addition to grassland creation, Field 3132 was planted with thirteen individual trees, Field 5341 with twelve individual trees and Field 7552 with twenty six individual trees. Please refer to Table 2 below for a list of planted individual tree species and the number of each species planted.



Figure 1: Location of Fields 3132, 5341 and 7552

Table 1: Bespoke seed mix specification

Latin name	Common name	% of seed mix
Forbs		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	0.3%
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	0.5%
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch	0.4%
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black knapweed	0.5%
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater knapweed	0.02%
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	0.45%
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	0.7%
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	0.8%
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	0.25%
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	0.5%
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common bird's-foot-trefoil	0.01%
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	1.835%
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	0.015%
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	0.01%
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	1%
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	0.4%
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet	1.455%
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small scabious	0.02%
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White campion	0.82%
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	0.015%
Grasses		
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> x <i>Agrostis castellana</i>	Highland common bent	5%
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Commercial Sweet vernal grass	4%
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass	0.5%
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Southland Crested dog's-tail	12%
<i>Festuca ovina</i> agg.	Bornito sheeps fescue	17%
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Character red/chewings fescue	20%
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Crested hair-grass	0.5%
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Teno Smaller cat's-tail	15%
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Evora smooth stalked meadow grass	15%
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Commercial Yellow oat grass	1%

Table 2: List of individual tree species planted

Latin name	Common name	% of seed mix
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	4
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch	4
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	4
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Quince	4
<i>Malus domestica</i> 'Bramley's Seedling'	Apple 'Bramley's Seedling'	1

Latin name	Common name	% of seed mix
<i>Malus domestica</i> 'James Grieve'	Apple 'James Grieve'	1
<i>Malus domestica</i> 'Laxton's Fortune'	Apple 'Laxton's Fortune'	1
<i>Malus domestica</i> 'Spartan'	Apple 'Spartan'	1
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab apple	5
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	4
<i>Prunus domestica</i> 'Victoria'	Victoria plum	4
<i>Pyrus communis</i> 'Beth'	Pear 'Beth'	1
<i>Pyrus communis</i> 'Conference'	Pear 'Conference'	1
<i>Pyrus communis</i> 'Doyenne du Comice'	Pear 'Doyenne du Comice'	1
<i>Pyrus communis</i> 'Williams Bon Chretien'	Pear 'Williams Bon Chretien'	1
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate oak	4
<i>Salix alba</i>	White willow	4
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	4

- 1.2 Ecoconsult has been asked to carry out a condition assessment of the individual trees and the grassland creation against g3c Other neutral grassland. However due to the initial survey suggesting that Lowland calcareous grassland development is attainable the report has also condition assessed against g2a Lowland calcareous grassland. The report provides feedback on establishment and management.

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The botanical monitoring survey was carried out on 30th May 2025 by Robert Gray MCIEEM of Ecoconsult Ltd. Robert has extensive experience of carrying out botanical, UKHab and phase 1 habitat surveys and has attended training events on the UKHab, use of the Metric and botanical identification. Please refer to Table 3 below for timings and conditions.
- 2.2 The survey has followed guidance in *UKHab Ltd (2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0*. The condition of habitats has been assessed using *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (July 2024)*. Species indicative of suboptimal condition listed in *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology (July 2024)* have been included as undesirable species.

Table 3: Timings and conditions of field surveys

Date	Timings	Survey work	Weather
30/05/25	Start: 11:30 Finish: 18:30	BNG Monitoring survey: Fields 3132, 5341 and 7552	21 - 22°C No rain Light breeze (Beaufort 2) 0% cloud

3 Results

3.1 Field 3132 grassland

- 3.2 Field 3132 includes 4.44 ha of g3c Other neutral grassland creation with potential to develop towards a g2a Lowland calcareous grassland sward (see Plate 1 below).
- 3.3 The field supports eight representative species of g3c Other neutral grassland (UKHab Guidance) including five that were included in the seed mix as follows: yarrow *Achillea millefolium* (F), Highland common bent *Agrostis capillaris* x *Agrostis castellana* (LF – please note that this has been included as common bent), crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* (F), meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris* (R) and red clover *Trifolium pratense* (O). Additional representative species recorded included creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* (F), perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* (LF) and white clover *Trifolium repens* (R).
- 3.4 The field supports ten indicator species of g2a Lowland calcareous grassland (UKHab Guidance) including nine that were included in the seed mix as follows: kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* (F), black knapweed *Centaurea nigra* (O), lady's bedstraw *Galium verum* (R), field scabious *Knautia arvensis* (O), ox-eye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* (A), common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* (O), hoary plantain *Plantago media* (R), salad burnet *Poterium sanguisorba* subsp. *minor* (F) and small scabious *Scabiosa columbaria* (R). The additional indicator species not included in the seed mix was dwarf thistle *Cirsium acaule* (R).
- 3.5 In total, sixteen forbs included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025 which equates to 80%.
- 3.6 In total, nine species of grass included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025 which equates to 90%.
- 3.7 In total 83.3% of plant species included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025. Please refer to Table 4 below for a list botanical species recorded and their frequencies.
- 3.8 Creeping thistle *Cirsium vulgare* was the only undesirable species recorded as frequent in the sward. The frequency of creeping thistle should be closely monitored during future surveys. The other undesirable species recorded were all infrequent and included cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* (R), spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* (R), curled dock *Rumex crispus* (R) and white clover *Trifolium repens* (R). Topping/nutrient stripping will help to control creeping thistle and other undesirable species and in-time the introduction of

sheep grazing will encourage the development of either g3c Other neutral grassland or g2a Lowland calcareous grassland.

- 3.9 The English Red Data List species quaking grass *Briza media* (Near Threatened), field scabious *Knautia arvensis* (Near Threatened), hoary plantain *Plantago media* (Near Threatened) and sainfoin *Onobrychis viciifolia* (Vulnerable) were recorded during the 2025 survey. These species were all included in the seed mix and have potential to persist within the sward. The presence and frequency of these species will be closely monitored during future monitoring surveys.



Plate 1: Field 3132

Table 4: Field 3132 botanical species list

Note: species in seed mix highlighted

Latin name	Common name	DAFO	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	F	LC	✓			
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> x <i>Agrostis castellana</i>	Highland common bent	LF	LC	✓			
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Black grass	F	LC				
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren brome	R	LC				
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch	F	LC		✓		
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass	O	LC				
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	R	LC			✓	✓
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	Parsley-piert	F	LC				
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass	O	NT				
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft brome ssp. hordeaceus	R	LC				
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse	F	LC				
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black knapweed	O	LC		✓		
<i>Cirsium acaule</i>	Dwarf thistle	R	LC		✓		
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	F	LC	✓		✓	✓
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	R	LC			✓	✓
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	R	LC				
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's-tail	F	LC	✓			
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	F	LC				
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary willowherb	R	LC				
<i>Festuca ovina</i> agg.	Sheep's fescue agg.	R	LC				
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red fescue agg.	F	LC				
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge bedstraw	O	LC				

Latin name	Common name	DAFO	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	R	LC		✓		
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	O	LC				
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood avens	R	LC				
<i>Helminthoteca echinoides</i>	Bristly oxtongue	R	LC				
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	O	NT		✓		
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce	R	LC				
<i>Lepidium coronopus</i>	Swine cress	R	LC				
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	A	LC		✓		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial rye-grass	LF	LC	✓			
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common bird's-foot-trefoil	O	LC		✓		
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed melilot	LF	LC				
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	F	VU				
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller cat's-tail	A	LC				
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	R	NT		✓		
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Evora smooth stalked meadow grass	O	LC				
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Common knotgrass	R	LC				
<i>Poterium sanguisorba subsp. minor</i>	Salad burnet	F	LC		✓		
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	O	LC				
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	R	LC	✓			
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled dock	R	LC			✓	✓
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small scabious	R	LC		✓		
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	R	LC				
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White campion	F	LC				
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly sow-thistle	O	LC				

Latin name	Common name	DAFO	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth sow-thistle	R	LC				
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	R	LC				
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	O	LC				
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	O	LC	✓			
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	R	LC	✓		✓	✓
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow oat-grass	R	LC				
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall speedwell	O	LC				
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	R	LC				
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field pansy	R	LC				
DAFOR: D=Dominant; A=Abundant; F=Frequent, O=Occasional; R=Rare; L=Locally							
England Red List Status: LC=Least Concern, NT=Near Threatened, VU=Vulnerable							

3.10 The grassland was assessed as being in Poor condition for both g3c Other neutral grassland and g2a Lowland calcareous grassland because it failed Condition Assessment Criteria A which is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types (see Table 5 below). The failure was because the appearance and composition of the vegetation didn't closely match the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type even though it does support a number of grassland indicator species. The type of grassland present is currently more representative of g3c Other neutral grassland than g2a Lowland calcareous grassland.

Table 5: Field 3132 Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	Although indicator species present, the grassland has been recently seeded and does not represent a good example
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No	The sward has an even height and will be cut to an even height
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	Bare ground >5%
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	Creeping thistle (F) Cow parsley (R) Spear thistle (R) Curled dock (R) White clover (R)
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	15.3 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		2	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved	

		×/✓	
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	✓	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Continue with hay cut and aftermath grazing.			
Notes			
Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover. Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition 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> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site. Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement. Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

3.11 The UKHab definition for g3c Other neutral grassland is grassland that does not meet the definition of either g3a Lowland meadows or g3b Upland hay meadows and meets at least three of four criteria listed in Table 5 below. The grassland does meet the criteria in UKHab as being g3c Other neutral grassland as it satisfies four of the criteria listed in Table 6 below. However, professional judgement was also used alongside the UKHab description and due to the young age of the grassland, the parcel was assessed as not representing a good example of g3c Other neutral grassland even though it passed the four criteria.

Table 6: Field 3132 UKHab definition for g3c Other neutral grassland

UKHab g2a Lowland calcareous grassland definition		
Definition Criteria	Criteria met (Yes or No)	Notes
1. >20% cover of broadleaved	Yes	

herbs and sedges		
2. >8 species per m² (including forbs, grasses, sedges and rushes and excluding bryophytes).	Yes	15.3 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
3. >1 grass species that is not normally sown for intensive agricultural production (ie. Rye-grasses <i>Lolium</i> spp., Timothy <i>Phleum pratense</i>, Cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, Meadow fescue <i>Festuca pratensis</i>) is at least abundant.	Yes	Smaller cat's-tail (A)
4. Cover of rye grasses <i>Lolium</i> spp. and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> where present is <30%.	Yes	
Separately from the criteria above, a neutral grassland that meets the criteria for waxcap grassland.	Unknown	No mycological surveys carried out

3.12 The UKHab definition for g2a Lowland calcareous grassland is grassland that meets at least two of three criteria listed in Table 7 below. In addition two or more of the UKHab indicator species must be classed as frequent and three or more indicator species must be classed as occasional. The grassland does meet the criteria in UKHab as being g2a Lowland calcareous grassland (see Table 7 below). Professional judgement was also used alongside the UKHab description and due to the young age of the grassland, the parcel was assessed as not representing a good example of g2a Lowland calcareous grassland even if a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species were present and was more closely matched to g3c Other neutral grassland (see Figure 2 below).

Table 7: Field 3132 UKHab definition for g2a Lowland calcareous grassland

UKHab g2a Lowland calcareous grassland definition		
Definition Criteria	Criteria met (Yes or No)	Notes
1. >15 species per m² (including grasses and excluding bryophytes).	Yes	15.3 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
2. >30% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges (excluding white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus</i>	Yes	

<i>repens</i> and injurious weeds.		
3. <10% cover of rye grasses and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>.	Yes	
AND ≥ 2 of these indicators are classed as 'frequent' on the DAFOR scale.	Yes	Kidney vetch (F) Ox-eye daisy (A) Salad burnet (F)
AND ≥ 3 of these indicators are classed as 'occasional' on the DAFOR scale.	Yes	Black knapweed (O) Field scabious (O) Bird's-foot-trefoil (O)

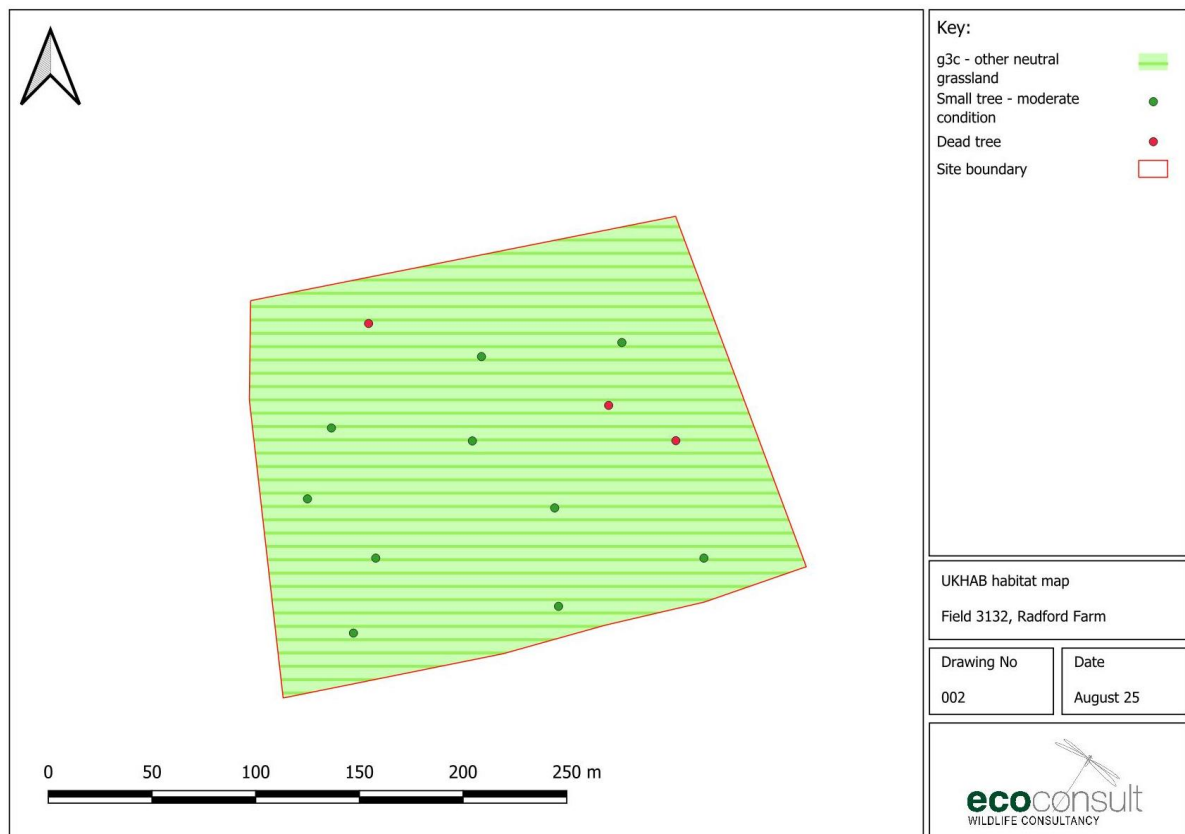


Figure 2: Field 3132 UKHab map

3.13 Field 3132 Individual trees

3.14 Thirteen individual trees were planted in Field 3132 of which three have died. The species include both native and non-native trees. Please refer to Figure 3 below showing the location of trees including both alive and dead specimens. Please note that due to the type of tree guard erected around the trees and no records made at the time of planting, identification of some of the trees was difficult and their classification could change during future monitoring visits.

3.15 The ten remaining alive trees were all assessed as being in moderate condition (see Table 8 below).

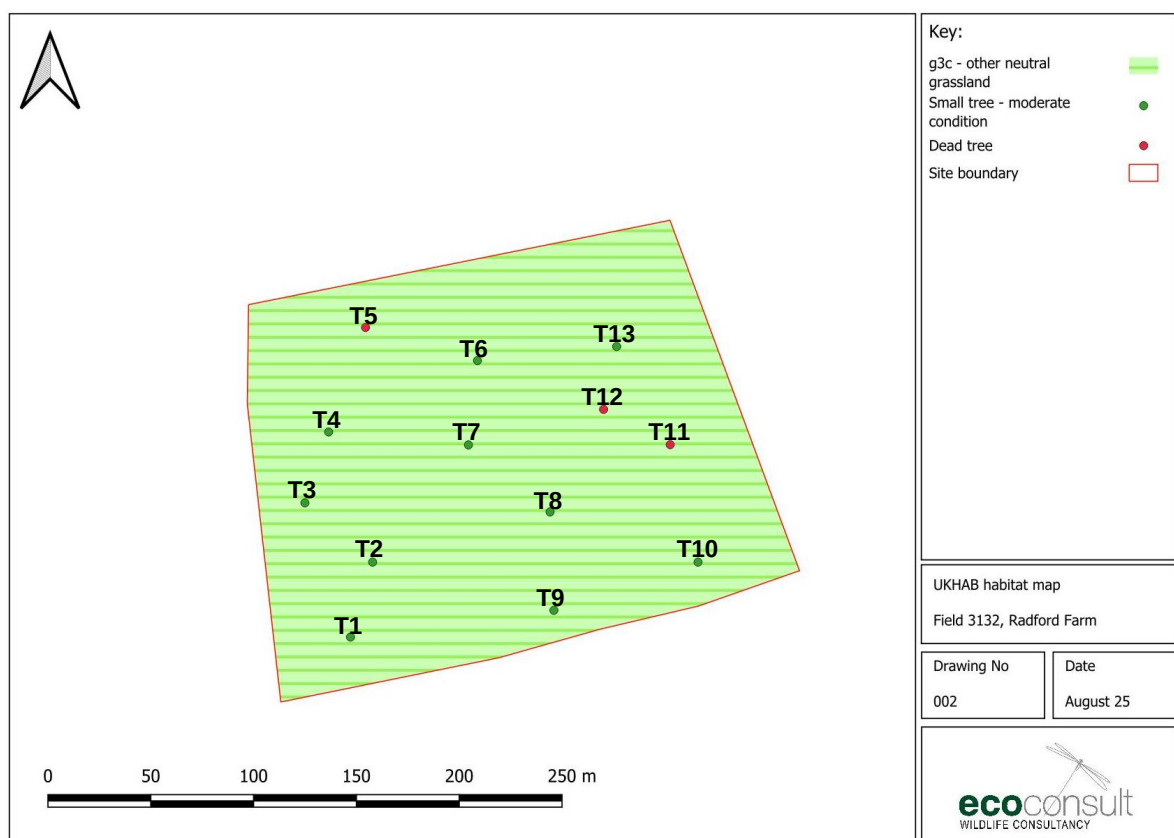


Figure 3: Location of planted individual trees in Field 3132

Table 8: Field 3132 Individual trees Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Tree number												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)												
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes Rowan	Yes Rowan	Yes Rowan	Yes Wild cherry	N/A DEAD	Yes Pedunculate oak	No Victoria plum	Yes Rowan	No Pear 'Beth'	No Pear 'Conference'	N/A DEAD	N/A DEAD	No Quince
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	No
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	N/A	No
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Yes
Number of criteria passed		4	4	4	4	N/A	4	3	4	3	3	N/A	N/A	3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved ×/✓											
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)													

Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)													
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.														
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²														
Replace dead trees														
Footnotes														
Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:														
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)														
and:														
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)														
Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.														

3.16 Field 3132 summary

3.17 3132 has been assessed as supporting g3c Other neutral grassland in poor condition. The field supports ten small rural trees in moderate condition. Please refer to Table 9 below for Field 3132 details.

Table 9: Field 3132 details

Field number	Current UKHAB habitat	Target UKHAB habitat	Secondary codes	Condition	Area (ha)
3132	g3c Other neutral grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland Potentially g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	100 Grazed 109 Hay	Poor	4.44
3132	10 x Individual trees (Rural tree)	13 x Individual trees (Rural tree)	201 Young trees - planted	Moderate	0.0407
Total area (ha)					4.4807

3.18 Suggested management actions

3.19 Please refer to Table 10 below for a list of suggested management actions for Field 3132.

Table 10: Suggested management actions for Field 3132

Management action	Recommendations
Grazing	Introduce light grazing (cattle or sheep) following guidance in HMMP. Large areas of bare ground are already present and the grazing regime should take this in to account and seek not to increase bare earth.
Nutrient stripping	Continue to cut and remove arisings following guidance in the HMMP with the aim to reduce nutrients to a low level and then manage through grazing to encourage structural diversity. A 'Summer Solstice' cut generally removes the greatest amount of nutrient. Aftermath graze.
Weed control	Creeping thistle was recorded as frequent in the sward and should be controlled. Creeping thistle is a rhizomatous perennial and should be cut/pulled when flowering and prior to seeding to weaken the plant. Creeping thistle relies heavily on rhizomatous vegetative spread more than seed production and dispersal.
Replace dead trees	Replace dead trees.

Field 5341 grassland

- 3.20 Field 5341 includes 4.53 ha of g3c Other neutral grassland creation with potential to develop towards a g2a Lowland calcareous grassland sward (see Plate 2 below).
- 3.21 The field supports eight representative species of g3c Other neutral grassland (UKHab Guidance) including five that were included in the seed mix as follows: yarrow (F), Highland common bent (F – please note that this has been included as common bent), crested dog's-tail (A), meadow buttercup (O) and red clover (O). Additional representative species recorded included creeping thistle (O), rough-stalked meadow-grass *Poa trivialis* (O) and white clover (LF).
- 3.22 The field supports nine indicator species of g2a Lowland calcareous grassland (UKHab Guidance) including seven that were included in the seed mix as follows: kidney vetch (A), black knapweed (O), field scabious (O), ox-eye daisy (A), common bird's-foot-trefoil (O), hoary plantain (O) and salad burnet (F). The additional indicator species not included in the seed mix were Thyme-leaved sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia* (R) and wild basil *Clinopodium vulgare* (R).
- 3.23 In total, fourteen species of forbs included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025 which equates to 70%.
- 3.24 In total, nine species of grass included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025 which equates to 90%.
- 3.25 In total 76.7% of plant species included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025. Please refer to Table 11 below for a list botanical species recorded and their frequencies.
- 3.26 Creeping thistle and white clover were undesirable species recorded as locally frequent in the sward. The frequency of white clover and creeping thistle should be closely monitored during future surveys. The other undesirable species recorded were all infrequent and included greater plantain (R) and broadleaved dock (R). Topping/nutrient stripping will help to control creeping thistle and other undesirable species and in-time the introduction of sheep grazing will encourage the development of either g3c Other neutral grassland or g2a Lowland calcareous grassland.
- 3.27 Red Data List species quaking grass (Near Threatened), field scabious (Near Threatened), hoary plantain (Near Threatened) and sainfoin (Vulnerable) were recorded during the 2025 survey. These species were all included in the seed mix and have

potential to persist within the sward. The presence and frequency of these species will be closely monitored during future monitoring surveys.



Plate 2: Field 5341

Table 11: Field 5341 botanical species list

Note: species in seed mix highlighted

Latin name	Common name	DAFOR	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	F	LC	✓			
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> x <i>Agrostis castellana</i>	Highland common bent	F	LC	✓			
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch	A	LC		✓		
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass	O	LC				
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	Parsley-piert	O	LC				
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved sandwort	R	LC		✓		
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass	O	NT				
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft brome ssp. hordeaceus	R	LC				
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse	R	LC				
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black knapweed	O	LC		✓		
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O	LC				
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	LF	LC	✓		✓	✓
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild basil	R	LC		✓		
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	LF	LC				
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's-tail	A	LC	✓			
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	O	LC				
<i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Hoary willowherb	R	LC				
<i>Festuca ovina</i> agg.	Sheep's fescue agg.	O	LC				
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red fescue agg.	A	LC				
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge bedstraw	F	LC				
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved crane's-bill	O	LC				
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot crane's-bill	R	LC				

Latin name	Common name	DAFOR	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common ragwort	R	LC				
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	O	NT		✓		
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	R	LC				
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	R	LC				
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	A	LC		✓		
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common bird's-foot-trefoil	O	LC		✓		
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed melilot	R	LC				
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field forget-me-not	R	LC				
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	F	VU				
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller cat's-tail	A	LC				
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	R	LC			✓	✓
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	O	NT		✓		
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	R	LC				
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Evora smooth stalked meadow grass	O	LC				
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough-stalked meadow-grass	O	LC	✓			
<i>Poterium sanguisorba subsp. minor</i>	Salad burnet	F	LC		✓		
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	O	LC				
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	O	LC	✓			
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broadleaved dock	R	LC			✓	✓
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	R	LC				
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	R	LC				
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White campion	F	LC				
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly sow-thistle	O	LC				
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	R	LC				

Latin name	Common name	DAFOR	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	O	LC				
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	O	LC	✓			
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	R	LC				
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	LF	LC	✓		✓	✓
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow oat-grass	O	LC				
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall speedwell	O	LC				
DAFOR: D=Dominant; A=Abundant; F=Frequent, O=Occasional; R=Rare; L=Locally							
England Red List Status: LC=Least Concern, NT=Near Threatened, VU=Vulnerable							

3.28 The grassland was assessed as being in Poor condition for both g3c Other neutral grassland and g2a Lowland calcareous grassland because it failed Condition Assessment Criteria A which is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types (see Table 12 below). The failure was because the appearance and composition of the vegetation didn't closely match the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type even though it does support a number of grassland indicator species. The type of grassland present is currently more representative of g3c Other neutral grassland than g2a Lowland calcareous grassland

Table 12: Field 5341 Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	Although indicator species present, the grassland has been recently seeded and does not represent a good example
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No	The sward has an even height and will be cut to an even height
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	Bare ground >5%
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	White clover (LF) Creeping thistle (LF) Greater plantain (R) Broadleaved dock (R)
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	14.5 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		2	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved	

		×/✓	
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	✓	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Continue with hay cut and aftermath grazing.			
Notes			
Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover. Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition 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> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site. Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement. Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

3.29 The UKHab definition for g3c Other neutral grassland is grassland that does not meet the definition of either g3a Lowland meadows or g3b Upland hay meadows and meets at least three of four criteria listed in Table 12 below. The grassland does meet the criteria in UKHab as being g3c Other neutral grassland as it satisfies four of the criteria listed in Table 13 below. However, professional judgement was also used alongside the UKHab description and due to the young age of the grassland, the parcel was assessed as not representing a good example of g3c Other neutral grassland even though it passed the four criteria.

Table 13: Field 5341 UKHab definition for g3c Other neutral grassland

UKHab g2a Lowland calcareous grassland definition		
Definition Criteria	Criteria met (Yes or No)	Notes
1. >20% cover of broadleaved	Yes	

herbs and sedges		
2. >8 species per m² (including forbs, grasses, sedges and rushes and excluding bryophytes).	Yes	14.5 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
3. >1 grass species that is not normally sown for intensive agricultural production (ie. Rye-grasses <i>Lolium</i> spp., Timothy <i>Phleum pratense</i>, Cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, Meadow fescue <i>Festuca pratensis</i>) is at least abundant.	Yes	Crested dog's-tail (A) Red fescue agg. (A) Smaller cat's-tail (A)
4. Cover of rye grasses <i>Lolium</i> spp. and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> where present is <30%.	Yes	
Separately from the criteria above, a neutral grassland that meets the criteria for waxcap grassland.	Unknown	No mycological surveys carried out

- 3.30 The UKHab definition for g2a Lowland calcareous grassland is grassland that meets at least two of three criteria listed in Table 14 below. In addition two or more of the UKHab indicator species must be classed as frequent and three or more indicator species must be classed as occasional. The grassland does meet the criteria in UKHab as being g2a Lowland calcareous grassland (see Table 14 below). Professional judgement was also used alongside the UKHab description and due to the young age of the grassland, the parcel was assessed as not representing a good example of g2a Lowland calcareous grassland even if a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species were present and was more closely matched to g3c Other neutral grassland (see Figure 4 below).

Table 14: Field 5341 UKHab definition for g2a Lowland calcareous grassland

UKHab g2a Lowland calcareous grassland definition		
Definition Criteria	Criteria met (Yes or No)	Notes
1. >15 species per m² (including grasses and excluding bryophytes).	Yes	15.3 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
2. >30% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges (excluding white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus</i>	Yes	

<i>repens</i> and injurious weeds.		
3. <10% cover of rye grasses and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>.	Yes	
AND ≥2 of these indicators are classed as 'frequent' on the DAFOR scale.	Yes	Kidney vetch (A) Ox-eye daisy (A) Salad burnet (F)
AND ≥3 of these indicators are classed as 'occasional' on the DAFOR scale.	Yes	Black knapweed (O) Field scabious (O) Bird's-foot-trefoil (O) Hoary Plantain (O)

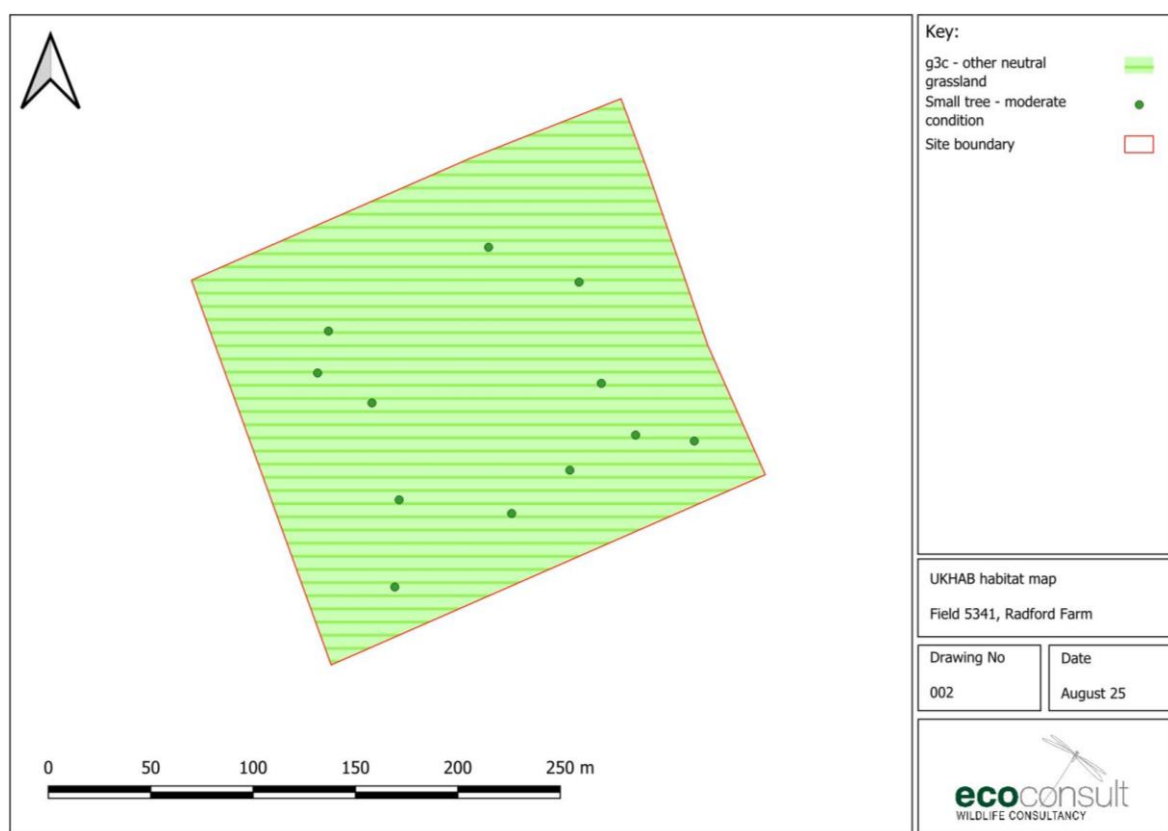


Figure 4: Field 5341 UKHab map

3.31 Field 5341 Individual trees

3.32 Twelve individual trees were planted in Field 5341 of which all have survived. The species include both native and non-native trees. Please refer to Figure 5 below showing the location of trees. Please note that due to the type of tree guard erected around the trees and no records made at the time of planting, identification of some of the trees was difficult and their classification could change during future monitoring visits.

3.33 The twelve trees were all assessed as being in moderate condition (see Table 15 below).

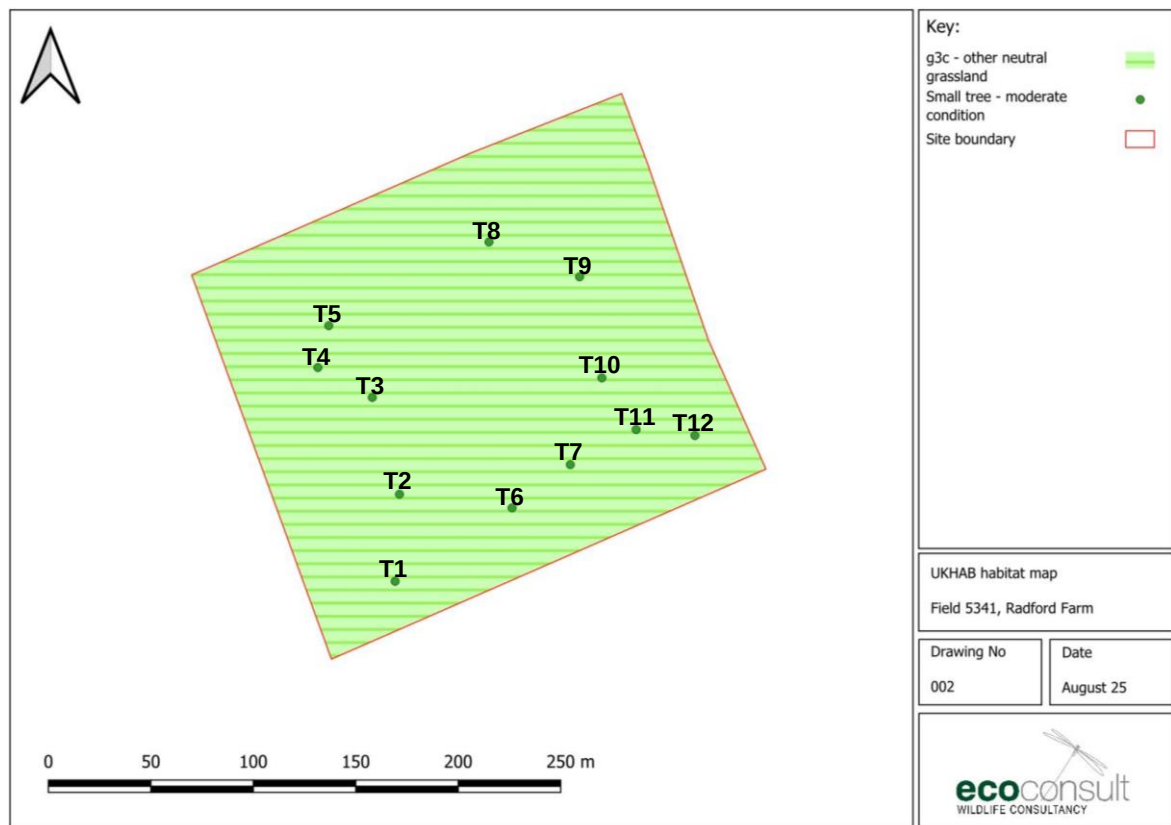


Figure 5: Location of planted individual trees in Field 5341

Table 15: Field 5341 Individual trees Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Tree number											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	No Quince	No Victoria plum	Yes Wild cherry	Yes Wild cherry	Yes Pedunculate oak	No Pear 'Doyenne'	No Quince	Yes Wild cherry	Yes Hornbeam	Yes Pedunculate oak	No Quince	No Pear 'Williams'
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of criteria passed		3	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved ×/✓										

Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)												
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)												
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.													
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²													
N/A													
Footnotes													
Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:													
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)													
and:													
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)													
Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.													

3.34 Field 5341 summary

3.35 Field 5341 has been assessed as supporting g3c Other neutral grassland in poor condition. The field supports twelve small rural trees in moderate condition. Please refer to Table 16 below for Field 5341 details.

Table 16: Field 5341 details

Field number	Current UKHAB habitat	Target UKHAB habitat	Secondary codes	Condition	Area (ha)
5341	g3c Other neutral grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland Potentially g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	100 Grazed 109 Hay	Poor	4.53
5341	12 x Individual trees (Rural trees)	12 x Individual trees (Rural trees)	201 Young trees - planted	Moderate	0.0489
Total area (ha)					4.5789

3.36 Suggested management actions

3.37 Please refer to Table 17 below for a list of suggested management actions for Field 5341.

Table 17: Suggested management actions for Field 5341

Management action	Recommendations
Grazing	Introduce light grazing (cattle or sheep) following guidance in HMMP. Large areas of bare ground are already present and the grazing regime should take this in to account and seek not to increase bare earth.
Nutrient stripping	Continue to cut and remove arisings following guidance in the HMMP with the aim to reduce nutrients to a low level and then manage through grazing to encourage structural diversity. A 'Summer Solstice' cut generally removes the greatest amount of nutrient. Aftermath graze.
Weed control	Creeping thistle was recorded as locally frequent in the sward and should be controlled. Creeping thistle is a rhizomatous perennial and should be cut/pulled when flowering and prior to seeding to weaken the plant. Creeping thistle relies heavily on rhizomatous vegetative spread more than seed production and dispersal.

3.38 Field 7552 grassland

- 3.39 Field 7552 includes 5.72 ha of g3c Other neutral grassland creation with potential to develop towards a g2a Lowland calcareous grassland sward (see Plate 3 below).
- 3.40 The field supports nine representative species of g3c Other neutral grassland (UKHab Guidance) including five that were included in the seed mix as follows: yarrow (F), Highland common bent (F – please note that this has been included as common bent), crested dog's-tail (A), meadow buttercup (O) and red clover (O). Additional representative species recorded included creeping thistle (O), cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* (LA), rough-stalked meadow-grass (O) and white clover (O).
- 3.41 The field supports eight indicator species of g2a Lowland calcareous grassland (UKHab Guidance) including seven that were included in the seed mix as follows: kidney vetch (A), black knapweed (F), field scabious (O), ox-eye daisy (A), common bird's-foot-trefoil (O), hoary plantain (R) and salad burnet (F). The additional indicator species not included in the seed mix was wild basil (R).
- 3.42 In total, fourteen species of forbs included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025 which equates to 70%.
- 3.43 In total, nine species of grass included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025 which equates to 90%.
- 3.44 In total 76.7% of plant species included in the seed mix were recorded as present in 2025. Please refer to Table 18 below for a list botanical species recorded and their frequencies.
- 3.45 No undesirable species were recorded as frequent or above within the sward. The most frequently recorded undesirable species were creeping thistle and white clover both as occasional. The frequency of white clover and creeping thistle should be closely monitored during future surveys. The other undesirable species recorded were all infrequent and included spear thistle (R), and greater plantain (R). Topping/nutrient stripping will help to control creeping thistle and other undesirable species and in-time the introduction of sheep grazing will encourage the development of either g3c Other neutral grassland or g2a Lowland calcareous grassland.
- 3.46 Red Data List species quaking grass (Near Threatened), field scabious (Near Threatened), hoary plantain (Near Threatened) and sainfoin (Vulnerable) were recorded during the 2025 survey. These species were all included in the seed mix and have

potential to persist within the sward. The presence and frequency of these species will be closely monitored during future monitoring surveys



Plate 3: Field 7552

Table 18: Field 7552 botanical species list

Note: species in seed mix highlighted

Latin name	Common name	DAFOR	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	F	LC	✓			
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>	Fool's parsley	R	LC				
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i> x <i>Agrostis castellana</i>	Highland common bent	F	LC	✓			
<i>Alopecurus myosuroides</i>	Black grass	O	LC				
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch	A	LC		✓		
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal grass	O	LC				
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	Parsley-piert	R	LC				
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass	O	NT				
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse	R	LC				
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black knapweed	F	LC		✓		
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle	O	LC	✓		✓	✓
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	R	LC			✓	✓
<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild basil	R	LC		✓		
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's-tail	A	LC	✓			
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	LA	LC	✓			
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot	F	LC				
<i>Festuca ovina</i> agg.	Sheep's fescue agg.	O	LC				
<i>Festuca rubra</i> agg.	Red fescue agg.	A	LC				
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge bedstraw	F	LC				
<i>Hieracium</i> sp.	A hawkweed	R	LC				
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	O	NT		✓		

Latin name	Common name	DAFOR	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	R	LC				
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	A	LC		✓		
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian rye-grass	R	LC				
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common bird's-foot-trefoil	O	LC		✓		
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	A	VU				
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy	R	LC				
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller cat's-tail	A	LC				
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	R	LC			✓	✓
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	R	NT		✓		
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	R	LC				
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Evora smooth stalked meadow grass	O	LC				
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough-stalked meadow-grass	O	LC	✓			
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	R	LC				
<i>Poterium sanguisorba subsp. minor</i>	Salad burnet	F	LC		✓		
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	O	LC				
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	O	LC	✓			
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red campion	R	LC				
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White campion	F	LC				
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly sow-thistle	LF	LC				
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth sow-thistle	R	LC				
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	R	LC				
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	R	LC				
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	O	LC	✓			
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	R	LC				

Latin name	Common name	DAFOR	England Red List Status	Grassland indicator/representative species (UKHab Guidance)		Undesirable species (The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1)	
				g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland	g2a Lowland calcareous grassland
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	O	LC	✓		✓	✓
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow oat-grass	R	LC				
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common field speedwell	R	LC				
<i>Vulpia myuros</i>	Rat's-tail fescue	R	LC				
DAFOR: D=Dominant; A=Abundant; F=Frequent, O=Occasional; R=Rare; L=Locally							
England Red List Status: LC=Least Concern, NT=Near Threatened, VU=Vulnerable							

3.47 The grassland was assessed as being in Poor condition for both g3c Other neutral grassland and g2a Lowland calcareous grassland because it failed Condition Assessment Criteria A which is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types (see Table 19 below). The failure was because the appearance and composition of the vegetation didn't closely match the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type even though it does support a number of grassland indicator species. The type of grassland present is currently more representative of g3c Other neutral grassland than g2a Lowland calcareous grassland.

Table 19: Field 7552 Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	Although indicator species present, the grassland has been recently seeded and does not represent a good example
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No	The sward has an even height and will be cut to an even height
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	Bare ground >5%
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	White clover (O) Creeping thistle (O) Spear thistle (R) Greater plantain (R)
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	15.8 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		2	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved	

		×/✓	
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	✓	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Introduce grazing following completion of nutrient stripping (cutting and removing)			
Notes			
Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover. Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition 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> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site. Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement. Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

3.48 The UKHab definition for g3c Other neutral grassland is grassland that does not meet the definition of either g3a Lowland meadows or g3b Upland hay meadows and meets at least three of four criteria listed in Table 20 below. The grassland does meet the criteria in UKHab as being g3c Other neutral grassland as it satisfies four of the criteria listed in Table 18 below. However, professional judgement was also used alongside the UKHab description and due to the young age of the grassland, the parcel was assessed as not representing a good example of g3c Other neutral grassland even though it passed the four criteria.

Table 20: Field 7552 UKHab definition for g3c Other neutral grassland

UKHab g2a Lowland calcareous grassland definition		
Definition Criteria	Criteria met (Yes or No)	Notes
1. >20% cover of broadleaved	Yes	

herbs and sedges		
2. >8 species per m² (including forbs, grasses, sedges and rushes and excluding bryophytes).	Yes	18.8 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
3. >1 grass species that is not normally sown for intensive agricultural production (ie. Rye-grasses <i>Lolium</i> spp., Timothy <i>Phleum pratense</i>, Cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, Meadow fescue <i>Festuca pratensis</i>) is at least abundant.	Yes	Crested dog's-tail (A) Cock's-foot (A) Red fescue agg. (A) Smaller cat's-tail (A)
4. Cover of rye grasses <i>Lolium</i> spp. and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> where present is <30%.	Yes	
Separately from the criteria above, a neutral grassland that meets the criteria for waxcap grassland.	Unknown	No mycological surveys carried out

- 3.49 The UKHab definition for g2a Lowland calcareous grassland is grassland that meets at least two of three criteria listed in Table 21 below. In addition two or more of the UKHab indicator species must be classed as frequent and three or more indicator species must be classed as occasional. The grassland does meet the criteria in UKHab as being g2a Lowland calcareous grassland (see Table 21 below). Professional judgement was also used alongside the UKHab description and due to the young age of the grassland, the parcel was assessed as not representing a good example of g2a Lowland calcareous grassland even if a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species were present and was more closely matched to g3c Other neutral grassland (see Figure 6 below).

Table 21: Field 7552 UKHab definition for g2a Lowland calcareous grassland

UKHab g2a Lowland calcareous grassland definition		
Definition Criteria	Criteria met (Yes or No)	Notes
1. >15 species per m² (including grasses and excluding bryophytes).	Yes	15.3 species per m ² based on ten quadrats
2. >30% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges (excluding white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus</i>	Yes	

<i>repens</i> and injurious weeds.		
3. <10% cover of rye grasses and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>.	Yes	
AND ≥ 2 of these indicators are classed as 'frequent' on the DAFOR scale.	Yes	Kidney vetch (A) Ox-eye daisy (A) Salad burnet (F)
AND ≥ 3 of these indicators are classed as 'occasional' on the DAFOR scale.	Yes	Black knapweed (F) Field scabious (O) Bird's-foot-trefoil (O)



Figure 6: Field 7552 UKHab map

3.50 Field 7552 Individual trees

3.51 Twenty six individual trees were planted in Field 7552 of which three have died. The species include both native and non-native trees. Please refer to Figure 7 below showing the location of trees including both alive and dead specimens. Please note that due to the type of tree guard erected around the trees and no records made at the time of planting, identification of some of the trees was difficult and their assessment could change during future monitoring visits.

3.52 The remaining twenty three Individual trees were all assessed as being in moderate condition (see Tables 22 and 23 below).

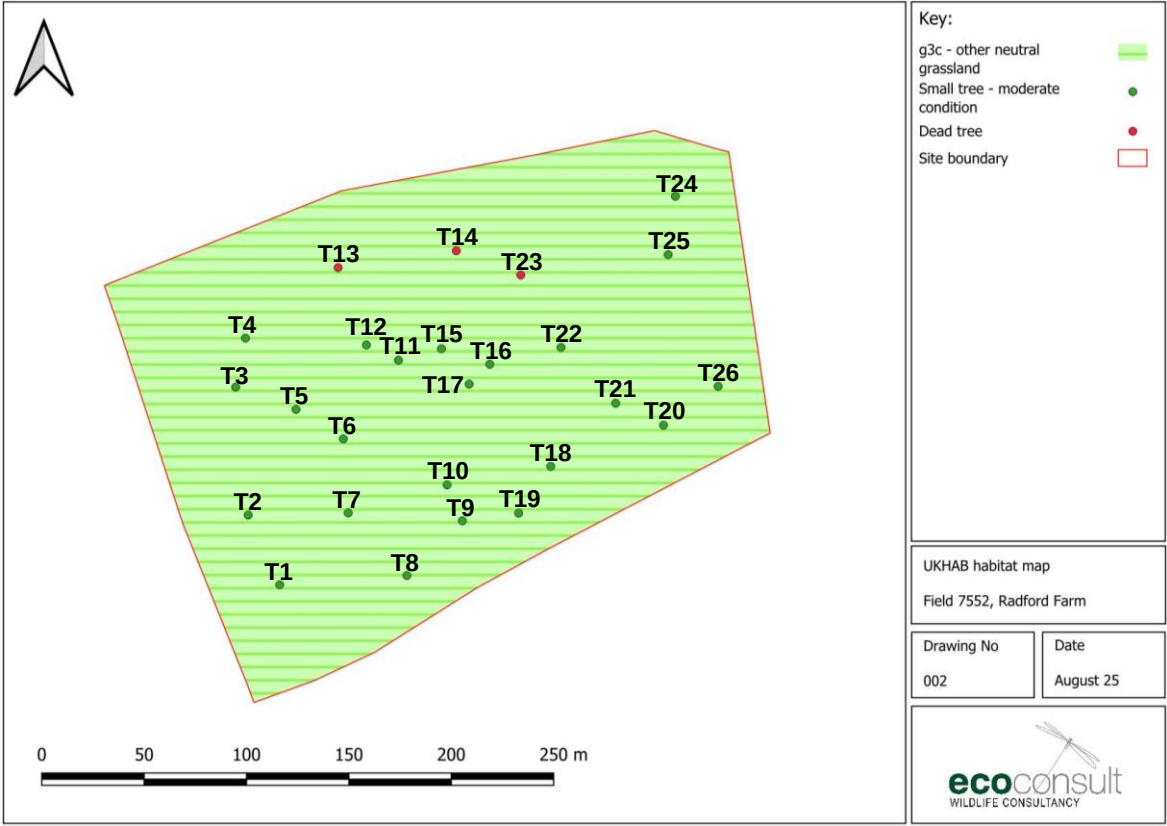


Figure 7: Location of planted individual trees in Field 7552

Table 22: Field 7552 Individual trees Condition Assessment – trees 1 to 13

Condition Assessment Criteria		Tree number												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)												
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes Hornbeam	Yes Crab apple	Yes Crab apple	Yes Crab apple	Yes Hornbeam	Yes Crab apple	No Victoria plum	No Apple 'Laxton'	Yes Field maple	Yes Field maple	No White willow	No White willow	N/A DEAD
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Number of criteria passed		3	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	N/A

Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved ×/✓											
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)													
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)													
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.														
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score ²														
N/A														
Footnotes														
Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:														
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)														
and:														
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)														
Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.														

Table 23: Field 7552 Individual trees Condition Assessment – trees 14 to 26

Condition Assessment Criteria		Tree number												
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)												
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	N/A Dead	Yes Pendunculate oak	Yes Hornbeam	Yes Field maple	Yes Field maple	No Apple 'Bramley'	No Apple 'Spartan'	No Plum 'Victoria'	Yes Hornbeam	N/A DEAD	No White willow	Yes Crab apple	No Apple 'James'
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A

	>5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).													
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No	N/A
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N/A	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	N/A	No	No	N/A
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A
Number of criteria passed		N/A	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	N/A	3	4	N/A
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved x/✓											
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)													
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)													
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.														
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score²														
N/A														

Footnotes
Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)
and: Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.

3.53 Field 7552 summary

3.54 Field 7552 has been assessed as supporting g3c Other neutral grassland in poor condition. The field supports twenty three small rural trees in moderate condition. Please refer to Table 24 below for Field 7552 details.

Table 24: Field 7552 details

Field number	Current UKHAB habitat	Target UKHAB habitat	Secondary codes	Condition	Area (ha)
7552	g3c Other neutral grassland	g3c Other neutral grassland Potentially g2a Lowland calcareous grassland	100 Grazed 109 Hay	Poor	5.72
7552	23 x Individual trees (Rural trees)	26 x Individual trees (Rural trees)	201 Young trees - planted	Moderate	0.0936
Total area (ha)					5.8136

3.55 Suggested management actions

3.56 Please refer to Table 25 below for a list of suggested management actions for Field 7552.

Table 25: Suggested management actions for Field 7552

Management action	Recommendations
Grazing	Introduce light grazing (cattle or sheep) following guidance in HMMP. Large areas of bare ground are already present and the grazing regime should take this in to account and seek not to increase bare earth.
Nutrient stripping	Continue to cut and remove arisings following guidance in the HMMP with the aim to reduce nutrients to a low level and then manage through grazing to encourage structural diversity. A 'Summer Solstice' cut generally removes the greatest amount of nutrient. Aftermath graze.
Weed control	Creeping thistle was recorded as occasional in the sward and should be controlled to ensure it does not become more frequent. Creeping thistle is a rhizomatous perennial and should be cut/pulled when flowering and prior to seeding to weaken the plant. Creeping thistle relies heavily on rhizomatous vegetative spread more than seed production and dispersal.

Replace dead trees	Replace dead trees.
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4 References

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (July 2024) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (February 2024) The Statutory Biodiversity Metric: User Guide

England Woodland Biodiversity Group (2020) Woodland Condition Survey Method

Stace, C. (2019) New Flora of the British Isles (4th ed.). C&M Floristics

TVERC (2022) Survey and monitoring standards for offset sites funded by Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE)

UKHab Ltd (2023) UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (at <https://www.ukhab.org>)

Appendix A: Relevant UKHAB Habitat descriptions



Code and Name

g3c Other neutral grassland

Category Type

Primary Level 4

Spatial Feature Type

Area

Definition

A neutral grassland that does not meet the definition of either g3a or g3b AND that meets at least three of these four criteria:

1. >20% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges;
2. >8 species per m² (including forbs, grasses, sedges and rushes, and excluding bryophytes);
3. ≥1 grass species that is not generally sown for intensive agricultural production (ie. Rye-grasses *Lolium spp.*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Meadow fescue *Festuca pratensis*) is at least abundant;
4. Cover of Rye-grasses *Lolium spp.* and White Clover *Trifolium repens*, where present, is <30%.

Separately from the criteria above, a neutral grassland that meets the criteria for waxcap grassland (see 130).

Landscape and ecological context

This is a widespread and commonly encountered grassland of the lowlands that occurs on farmland and in built-up areas. Low input pastures, many verges of roads, paths, tracks, rivers and railways, and the edges of fields are likely to be this grassland. Land that is not farmed but is cut or mown annually often becomes this habitat.

Inclusions

Many of the more species-rich swards that in previous classifications were included within 'semi-improved neutral grassland'. Species-rich swards

can be characterised using 18 – Species-rich grassland).

Unmanaged swards on neutral soils, where species richness may be lower.

Surveyors may wish to add detail to this category. (e.g. 60 – long-continuity habitat, 519 – 'abandoned', 521 – 'unmanaged', 501 – 'mesic', 502 – 'seasonally wet', 503 – 'wet', 128 – 'sward type mosaic', 129 – 'tall or tussocky sward').

Exclusions

Species-poor swards that in previous classifications were included within 'semi-improved neutral grassland' (see g4).

Grasslands <2 years old on land formerly cropped (see c~).

Species

Grasses may include Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis* and Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*. On wetter sites, Velvet Bent *Agrostis canina*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus* may be frequent, and rushes such as Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* and Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* are likely to be present.

Herbs commonly found include Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and Daisy *Bellis perennis*. On wetter sites, herbs commonly found including Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*, Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris* and Fleabane *Pulicaria dysenterica*.

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Code and Name

g2a Lowland calcareous grassland

Category Type

Primary Level 4

Spatial Feature Type

Area

Status

Priority Habitat

Definition

A grassland that meets at least two of these three criteria:

1. >15 species per m² (including grasses and excluding bryophytes);
2. >30% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges (excluding White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* and injurious weeds);
3. <10% cover of rye grasses and White Clover *Trifolium repens*.

AND ≥2 of these indicators are classed as 'frequent' on the DAFOR scale.

AND ≥3 of these indicators are classed as 'occasional' on the DAFOR scale.

g2a Indicator species list

Common name	Scientific name
Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>
Betony	<i>Betonica officinalis</i>
Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Burnet saxifrage	<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>
Carlina thistle	<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>
Clustered bellflower	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>
Common rock-rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>
Common knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>

g2a Indicator species list (cont)

Common name	Scientific name
Dropwort	<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>
Devil's-bit scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>
Fairy flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>
Spring gentian	<i>Gentiana verna</i>
Autumn gentian	<i>Gentianella amarella</i>
Chiltern gentian	<i>Gentianella germanica</i>
Greater knapweed	<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>
Hairy violet	<i>Viola hirta</i>
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Hoary plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>
Hoary rock-rose	<i>Helianthemum oelandicum</i>
Horseshoe vetch	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>
Kidney vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>
Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
Wild marjoram	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>
Common milkwort	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>
Chalk milkwort	<i>Polygala calcarea</i>
Dwarf milkwort	<i>Polygala amarella</i>
Mouse-ear hawkweed	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>
Orchids	Various
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Purple milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus danicus</i>
Common restharrow	<i>Ononis repens</i>
Rough hawkbit	<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>
Lesser hawkbit	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>
Salad burnet	<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i> subsp. minor
Saw-wort	<i>Serratula tinctoria</i>
Small scabious	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>
Squincywort	<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>
Dwarf thistle	<i>Cirsium acaule</i>
Thyme-leaved sandwort	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>
Wild basil	<i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>
Wild thyme	<i>Thymus drucei</i>
Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>



g2a Lowland calcareous grassland (continued)

Landscape and ecological context

Found on calcareous soils over chalk and limestone in the lowlands and upland fringe, generally <300 m in altitude. They are largely restricted to the warmer and drier climates of the southern and eastern areas of the UK.

Inclusions

Calcareous grassland that meets the qualifying thresholds around Morecambe Bay in Cumbria or on roadside verges.

Exclusions

Calcareous grassland in functional enclosures that do not meet the qualifying thresholds (see g2c).

Calcareous grassland in the unenclosed uplands (see g2b).

Calcareous grassland on the Pennines (see g2b).

Heath false-brome *Brachypodium pinnatum* dominated grassland is unlikely to meet the criteria above unless there has been a long history of heavy grazing.

Species

As well as the indicator species listed in the core definition, typical grasses include Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha*, Blue Moor-grass *Sesleria caerulea*, Hairy Oat-grass *Avenula pubescens*, Quaking-grass *Briza media*, Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Cock's Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta*, Tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*. These do not contribute to the indicator score.

NVC Associations

Close correspondence with the following NVC communities is a prerequisite for this habitat type: CG1-CG8 (CG9 in Scotland) although CG4 communities are unlikely to meet the core definition criteria (see g2c).

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Code and Name

201 Young trees – planted

Category Type

Additional Secondary Codes - Woodlands and Trees

Spatial Feature Type

Area

Allowable Primary Codes

w~

Definition

Areas where planting is clearly visible. Guards to protect trees may still be visible.

Inclusions

Trees planted along the side of a road, usually located on the pavement edge in tree pits.

Exclusions

Agro-forestry (see 617).

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