

Habitat Creation Overview - Arable / Cropland Baseline

The below is intended to provide an indication of the types of habitats that may be appropriate / beneficial to create on land that currently comprises cereal and non-cereal crops.

Be aware, that land currently entered into a farming / stewardship agreement may represent a higher baseline, including potentially medium distinctiveness tussocky / wild bird / game bird mixes etc. that we would not want to include within any BNG Gain Site proposals.

Within the grassland habitat, individual tree planting would also provide additional Biodiversity Units at 1BU for every 80 trees planted.

The below is all based on either 1ha or 1acre, depending on how useful either may be to inform discussions.

Broad Habitat: Grassland					
Proposed Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Per Hectare	Per Acre	Notes
Modified Grassland	Low	Moderate	1.47	1.32	This will generally represent open space areas / verges, with moderate condition likely to be most appropriate for these areas given the anticipated higher footfall / expectation for tighter and shorter mowing.
Modified Grassland	Low	Good	2.68	1.81	
Other Neutral Grassland	Medium	Moderate	4.69	1.90	Should be relatively straight forward to achieve – soil analysis may be required to demonstrate suitability. Not expected to be extensively accessed by residents / isn't necessarily an amenity space where access is encouraged.
Other Neutral Grassland	Medium	Good	6.40	2.59	Much more ambitious than moderate condition and public access may be restricted – soil analysis may be required to demonstrate suitability. Only really going to be suitable over larger / more extensive grassland areas. Harder to justify on a housing scheme.
Traditional Orchard	High	Poor	3.02	1.22	Heavily reliant on the underlying grassland representing at least medium distinctiveness grassland. If this happens, poor condition should be readily achievable. Generally better scoring if already starting on a grassland base.
Traditional Orchard	High	Moderate	3.88	1.57	Heavily reliant on the underlying grassland representing at least medium distinctiveness grassland. If this happens, moderate condition can be achieved with considered management. Generally better scoring if already starting on a grassland base.

Broad Habitat: Woodland and forest

Proposed Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Per Hectare	Per Acre	Notes
Broadleaved Woodland	Medium	Poor	1.35	0.55	Newly created woodland achieving 'good' condition is unrealistic. Woodland creation

Broadleaved Woodland	Medium	Moderate	2.69	1.09	generally scores less than grassland and scrub because of how long it takes to effectively function as a woodland habitat.
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Broad Habitat: Heathland and shrub

Proposed Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Per Hectare	Per Acre	Notes
Mixed scrub	Medium	Moderate	4.69	1.90	Should be relatively straight forward to achieve.
Mixed scrub	Medium	Good	6.40	2.59	Will likely need to be created over a larger area, to achieve all necessary condition assessment criteria, but should otherwise be relatively straight forward to achieve (if over a large enough area).

Broad Habitat: Lakes

Broad Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Per Hectare	Per Acre	Notes
Ponds (non-priority)	Medium	Moderate	5.19	2.10	Careful consideration needed for positioning, to ensure water permanence and not connected to wider ditch networks or drainage function.
Ponds (non-priority)	Medium	Good	8.04	3.25	
Ponds (Priority)	High	Moderate	5.23	2.11	Careful consideration needed for positioning, to ensure water permanence and not connected to wider ditch networks or drainage function. More appropriate if ponds are also present in surrounding landscape / area.
Ponds (Priority)	High	Good	8.09	3.27	

Broad Habitat: Urban

Broad Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition	Per Hectare	Per Acre	Notes
Vegetated Garden	Low	N/A		0.70	This constitutes all vegetated habitat within a private curtilage.
SuDs	Low	Moderate	0.41	0.17	Should be relatively straight forward to achieve.
SuDs	Low	Good	1.36	0.55	This will generally require water permanence.