LYTHAM GREEN DRIVE GOLF CLUB

For

Booth Ventures Ltd / Lytham Green Drive Golf Club

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Feb 2024

17 Chorley Old Road,
Bolton,
Lancashire
BL1 3AD
Tel: 01204 393 006
Fax: 01204 388 792
E-mail: info@appletonsuk.com
www.appletonsuk.com @Appletons_LArch

appletons

Landscape Architecture • Ecology • Environmental Planning & Assessment Arboriculture

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1.0 ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS SUMMARY

Table 1: Lytham Green Drive Golf Club Ecological Constraints RAG Table

Ecological Feature	Summary of Findings	Red, Amber, Green (RAG) Score
Statutory Designated Sites	Ribble Estuary NNR and SSSI (990m south-east), Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar (990m south-east)	Green – No impacts to Non-statutory sites
Non-Statutory Designated Sites	No sites within 500m. No ecological or hydrological connectivity to any sites in the wider area.	Green – No impacts to Non-statutory sites
Habitats	Habitats on site are collectively of 'site' value only.	Amber – No impacts to any notable habitats. However habitats of low distinctiveness and higher are present. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment required.
Badger	No evidence of badger recorded on site or locally	Green – Badger absent
Bats	No bat roost potential present on site. Habitats on site are of 'low' value to bats.	Amber – Bat box provisions and lighting design recommended
Birds	Localised bird nesting habitat in the form of plantation woodland and scrub. Most will be retained. No impacts to birds associated with nearby statutory designated sites.	Amber – Bird nest box provisions recommended.
Great Crested Newts	All eDNA samples returned a negative result. GCN assumed absent from the site and locally.	Green – GCN absent
Other Species	No other notable species recorded	N/A

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 REASON FOR SURVEY

Appletons have been commissioned by Booths Ventures Limited to undertake an initial ecological risk assessment of land at Lytham Green Drive Golf Club, Lytham, Lancashire. The assessment is required to determine whether proposals to reprofile / landscape an area of grassland into a golf course would result in any impacts to ecological features. The assessment broadly follows the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal format (CIEEM, 2017) and includes a vegetation survey and an assessment for potential protected species issues. The report includes a full evaluation of the ecological significance of the survey findings and provides a Red (significant limitation and mitigation required), Amber (ecological constraint managed through precautionary working measures), Green (no ecological constraint identified) score for each ecological feature.

2.2 SITE LOCATION

Lytham Green Drive Golf Club is located to the immediate north of Lytham town centre. The red line boundary for the development is located in the northeast corner of the golf course grounds, off Saltcotes Road. The sites National Grid Reference is NGR: SD 3754 2857. The application boundary of the site is provided in Figure 1 below. Habitats identified within the site are provided in Appendix A, Map 1.

Figure 1: Lytham Green Drive Golf Course Proposed Application Boundary

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 DESK SURVEY

A biodiversity data search was undertaken by Lancashire Environment Record Network (LERN) for the site and up to 2km from the site (standard search area). In addition, the Multi Agency Geographical Information Centre www.magic.gov.uk was referred to in respect of statutory sites, S41 Priority habitats (NERC Act, 2006), Great Crested Newt (GCN) licence returns, and European Protected Species Licences issued in respect of GCN, bats and otters. The dataset was referenced which contains extensive records of species and habitats generated from surveys undertaken since the company's formation in 1996. It should be noted that species records over 500m of the site are not reproduced here as they are considered to have no association with the site and are beyond the sphere of influence of the proposals.

3.2 HABITAT SURVEY

A UK Habitat Classification (UKHabs) survey (UKHab Ltd, 2023) of the habitats within the red line boundary was undertaken on 14/06/2022, with an update verification survey undertaken on 08/11/2023. The site's habitats were mapped, and vascular plant species were recorded and given a DAFOR ((Dominant (D), Abundant (A), Frequent (F), Occasional (O), Rare(R)) score. Each habitat was given a condition score (Natural England, 2022). Secondary codes have been applied where required to describe the primary habitats. Habitats have been mapped using the fine-scale minimum mapping unit.

3.3 PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEYS

3.3.1 Badger

A badger survey was undertaken of the site and up to 50m from the site boundary and followed standard survey guidance (Harris et al., 1989, and Roper, 2010). The badger survey used standard techniques for establishing the use of the site by badger, and includes searches for evidence of badgers including:

- Setts.
- Pathways.
- Footprints.
- Latrines.
- Foraging areas.
- Scratching posts.
- Boundary searches for runs, pathways and latrines.

3.3.2 Bats

The preliminary bat roost assessment (PRA) was undertaken on the 14/06/2022, with an update verification survey undertaken on 08/11/2023, following the methodology outlined in Bat Conservation Trust: Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists, Good Practice Guidelines (2023). All trees within the

site were assessed for bat roost potential. There are no buildings within the site. An assessment of the habitat in relation to bats was also completed for the site.

3.3.3 Birds

The site was assessed for its potential to support breeding and wintering birds. During the site walkover (14/06/2022 and 08/11/2023) bird sightings were recorded.

3.3.4 Great Crested Newt

The site was assessed for its potential to support GCN. This included a review of aerial imagery and the identification of any ponds within 250m of the site.

3.3.5 Habitat Suitability Index

A Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) was undertaken on six ponds which were assessed as potentially suitable to support GCN. The index applies ten suitability indices which are multiplied together to produce a score for each pond (Oldham et al, 2000). Based on the score a pond suitability for supporting GCN is applied to each pond (see Table 1 below).

Note: The HSI system is not sufficiently precise to conclude that any particular pond with a high score will support newts, or that any pond with a low score will not support newts.

Table 2 - HSI Scoring.

HSI Score	Pond Suitability
< 0.5	Poor
0.5 – 0.59	Below Average
0.6 – 0.69	Average
0.7 – 0.79	Good
> 0.8	Excellent

3.3.6 eDNA Survey

eDNA surveys were undertaken on six ponds scoped in for survey. The survey involves collecting water samples which are then sent to a laboratory for analysis. The analysis determines whether there is any environmental DNA from aquatic animals (i.e. GCN) present in a particular water body. Samples were collected from all six ponds on 24/06/2022 which is within the accepted survey period (15th April to 30th June). The samples were taken following the guidance outlined in 'How to collect an eDNA sample' – Freshwater Habitats Trust. The sample analysis was completed by SureScreen Scientifics on the 29/06/2022.

3.4 SURVEY CONSTRAINTS

The initial walkover survey was conducted on 14/06/2022 and eDNA sampling undertaken on 24/06/2022. The surveys were completed in good weather and full access to the site and the surrounding area was available. There are therefore no constraints to the surveys and the

assessments provided within this report. Due to the lapse in time since the initial site survey, an update verification walkover survey was conducted on 08/11/2023. The surveys were completed in suitable weather conditions and full access was available. All habitats and ecological features were appropriately verified. Many of the desk study records provided by LERN have been provided with a four-figure grid reference (1km square coverage). Subsequently this does not provide an accurate location for species records. Where inaccurate records occur within the site, these have been marked with an asterisk in Table 3 below. Pond 1 is located on 3rd party land and was not accessible. However close focusing binoculars were used to identify this pond from Saltcotes Road. The pond did not appear to be present and was considered dry at the time of survey. This access limitation is not considered to impact the overall assessment for the site in relation to GCN.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 DESK STUDY

A biodiversity data set was provided by LERN in August 2022. The Multi Agency Geographical Information Centre www.magic.gov.uk was referred to in respect of statutory sites. A summary of the results relevant to this site is provided below.

Table 3: Lytham Green Drive Golf Course Desk Study Data

Statutory Sites:	
On site:	Off site:
None.	Within 250m: Lytham Coastal Changes SSSI (adjacent to site on opposite side of Saltcotes Road). This SSSI is designated for geological features and scoped out of any further assessment. Within 500m: None. Between 500m – 1km: Ribble Estuary NNR and SSSI (990m south-east), Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar (990m south-east). Between 1km – 2km: None.
Non-Statutory Sites:	
On site:	Off site:
None	Within 250m: None. Within 500m: None. Between 500m-1km: Lytham Hall Woods BHS (875m south-west), Lytham Foreshore Dunes and Saltmarsh BHS (905m south), Between 1km-2km: Lytham Moss BHS (1.38km north-west).
Other Site Designations:	
On site:	Off site:
None.	None.
Protected Species:	
On site:	Off site:
None.	Within 250m: Brown hare record south of the site*. Between 250m-500m: Bittern recorded along Main Drain within Lytham Coastal

	Changes SSSI, Water vole recorded 500m west along Main Drain.
Other Species:	
On site:	Off site:
At least 30 plant records provided with 4-figure grid reference. Survey confirmed that none of the records are present within the site.	Within 250m: None Between 250m-500m: None. The site falls within the pink footed goose and whooper swan major feeding area and sensitive waterbird area[1].

* 4-figure grid reference provided only.

4.2 HABITAT SURVEY

4.2.1 UK Habitat Classification Survey Methodology

A UKHabs survey (UKHab Ltd, 2023) was undertaken and the following habitats identified. Condition assessments for each of the habitats recorded on site are provided in Appendix D (refer to Figure 1 for condition assessment land parcel references).

4.2.2 Habitats Present

g3c5 (16)	Arrhenatherum neutral grassland (tall forbs)
g4	Modified grassland
h	Scrub (various types)
u1c	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
w1h5	Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved

4.2.3 General Description

The site is primarily a large, modified grassland (g4) field with adjoining scrub and plantation woodland. The southern section of the site consists of a neutral grassland (g3c5), tall ruderal herb and scrub mosaic. A small hard standing area (used for car parking) is located in the south-east corner of the site near to the site entrance from Saltcotes Road. Currently the area is not in use by the golf club. Aerial imagery indicates that the area of modified grassland has historically been well maintained (likely as use by the golf club as a practice area).

[1] See LERN Sensitive Waterbird Area v3a 22/11/2018

4.2.4 Target Notes

Target Note 1 – g3c5 Arrhenatherum neutral grassland with tall forbs and scrub mosaic

The southern section of the site and a section in the north west corner of the site comprises a false oat-grass and Yorkshire fog dominant neutral grassland. The grassland does not appear to be subject to any management and as such tall ruderal herb and scrub has encroached to create a mosaic of habitats. Grassland species recorded include; false oat-grass (D), Yorkshire fog (LA), meadow foxtail (F), cock's-foot (O). Tall ruderal and herbaceous species recorded include; cleavers (LA), broad-leaved dock (LA), common hogweed (F), common nettle (F), creeping thistle (F), cow parsley (O), and silverweed (O). Indian balsam (non-native invasive plant species) was also recorded on the southern edge of the site boundary. Scrub species recorded include; bramble (LA), willow species (LA), dogwood (LA), and hawthorn (LF). The grassland is assessed as being in moderate condition.

4.2.5 Target Note 2 – g3c5 Arrhenatherum neutral grassland with evidence of marshy conditions.

At the northern extent of the g3c5 grassland, the land falls away to the north. The underground foot conditions and species composition indicates that this small area is wetter and marshy in nature. Although false oat-grass and Yorkshire fog are still present, their abundance has reduced and instead a higher coverage of herbaceous species is present. Grassland species recorded include; meadow grass species (A), marsh fox-tail (LA), Yorkshire fog (LA), floating sweet-grass (LF), and false oat-grass (LF). Herbaceous plant species recorded include; lesser stitchwort (LA), silverweed (LA), curled dock (LA), common hemp nettle (O), and creeping buttercup (O). The grassland is assessed as being in poor condition.

4.2.6 Target Note 3 – g4 (108) Modified grassland (frequently mown)

The majority of the site consists of a g4 modified grassland which is frequently mown (108) by the golf club. There was a dominance of grass species within the sward with some localised herbaceous plants growing in small patches throughout. Grassland species recorded include; meadow grass species (A), Yorkshire fog (LA), and cock's-foot (LF). Herbaceous plant species recorded include; creeping buttercup (LA), lesser stitchwort (LF), creeping thistle (LF), and dock species (LF). The grassland is assessed as being in poor condition.

4.2.7 Target Note 4 – w1h5 (29) Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved (plantation).

A strip of plantation woodland is located along the eastern boundary of the site, along Saltcotes Road. The woodland is semi-mature in age and comprises predominantly osier and pedunculate oak. Occasional larch is also present within the canopy. Historic aerial imagery indicates that the strip of woodland was planted at some point between 2005 and 2011. A strip of landscape plantation woodland is located adjacent to the existing 3rd hole, in the south west corner of the site. This includes conifer species, birch and maple species. Both woodlands are assessed as being in poor condition.

4.2.8 Target Note 5 – r1 (141) Pond

A man-made pond is located within the north west corner of the site. The pond has a ditch system which connects the water body to additional water bodies within the golf course. Common reed is abundant throughout the pond. The pond is assessed as being in moderate condition.

4.3 PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEYS

4.3.1 Badger Survey

Setts

The survey found no setts on site or within 50m of the site.

Foraging Signs and Pathways

No sign of badger activity was found on site or within 50m of the site. Therefore, it can be concluded that the species is not using this area for foraging or commuting.

Boundary Search

All of the boundaries of the site were walked and examined for potential runs, pathways, and latrines. The search found no evidence to suggest badger activity along any of the site boundaries. The absence of any activity signs indicates that badgers are not entering the site. The absence of latrines indicates a lack of territorial activity in the near vicinity of the site.

4.3.2 Bats

A Preliminary Roost Assessment (PRA) was undertaken on the trees within the site. No cavities suitable for use by bats was recorded within the site. Generally the trees on site were scrubby and lacked any maturity, thus reducing the potential for suitable crevices to be present.

Habitat Condition Assessment

The site is situated on the edge of Lytham town. The majority of the grassland habitats on site are sub-optimal for use by bats. However the woodland edges, and mosaic habitat area to the south of the site do offer suitable foraging habitat locally. The site is situated adjacent to Lytham Green Drive Golf Club which provides optimal foraging and commuting habitats for bats (mature woodland, tree lines, waterbodies and brooks). The site is considered to provide ‘moderate’ suitability for bats.

4.3.3 Birds

Breeding Birds

Suitable bird nesting habitat is present in the form of plantation woodland and patches of scrub. Bird activity on the site was generally low and consisted of typical farmland and garden bird species. Species recorded include; black-headed gull (approx. 15), blue tit, great tit, starling (approx. 6), tree creeper, and oyster catcher (flying overhead only).

Wintering Birds

The surveys undertaken in November 2023 did not record any wintering bird species within the site. Reference to MAGIC data revealed the following information regarding statutorily designated sites, where wintering wildfowl populations are a qualifying feature:

- Ribble Estuary NNR and SSSI (990m south-east),
- Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar (990m south-east).

The site falls within a Sensitive Waterbird Area (SWA). The Sensitive Waterbird Area is defined based on tetrad counts over the period winter 2008/09 to winter 2017/18[2]. The Sensitive Waterbird Area includes all tetrads with a greatest regular use class of at least '1% Lancashire & North Merseyside Population', plus any adjacent tetrads that are regularly flown over by Geese and Swans. As the boundary of the SWA is defined on a tetrad (2x2km squares) basis, it also contains land that is not regularly utilised by Pink footed geese (PFG) or is unsuitable for those species. Consequently, whilst the site is close to the SWA, this doesn't mean that all of the land within the SWA is used by wintering birds. The proposal site is composed of primarily modified grassland which is cut for silage. The grassland is considered to have 'negligible' value for PFG and swans, due to their innate lack of foraging value. All other habitats on site are considered to be of no value for wintering birds and include; woodland (woodland fringes), mature scrub, tall ruderal herb and amenity grassland. Historic aerial imagery (Google earth) indicates that the field has been a modified grassland since at least 2000. Therefore it is highly unlikely that wintering PFG or whooper swan will have formed or retained any habitual foraging relationship with the site. As well as crop type, areas of land used or avoided by PFG is influenced by other factors that include the following.

- Field size.
- Contiguity of suitable habitat.
- Presence of boundary features.
- Levels of human disturbance.
- Crop protection/deterrents.
- Topography.

The modified grassland is surrounded by mature plantation woodland, embankments and scrub, all of which contribute to a highly unsuitable area of land for wintering birds (see below).

[2] See LERN Sensitive Waterbird Area v3a 22/11/2018

Image showing northern boundary of field with tree line.

Overview of modified grassland cut for sileage. Sub-optimal for use by wintering birds.

Embankment, scrub and lines of trees surround the field parcel.

The effect of the overbearing presence of mature trees, scrub and embankments encasing this site, combined with the unsuitability of the field for feeding, conflicts with the key attributes known to be important for wintering wildfowl (as per Kirby et al 2000) which include areas with unrestricted views

>500m with an effective field size of >6ha, and clear flight lines leading onto and away from the fields[3]. On arable farmland, wintering wild geese and swans prefer to feed in open expansive areas and naturally avoid feeding in areas near woodland and trees. Where woodland, trees and overbearing embankments occur, both geese and swans 'stand-off' from these features due to a perceived threat of predators that might be present and hidden from view. This stand-off is particularly marked in PFG who always forage away from such features*. * It should be noted that wintering PFG can be observed close to boundaries and in relatively close proximity to human pedestrian activity at Marshside, Southport. However, this is atypical behaviour where the birds have adapted to utilising protected sites, this activity is not typical of working agricultural land. Such stand off zones are increased where there is regular pedestrian activity, as is the case at Lytham Green Drive Golf Club, with frequent greenkeeper movement around site and continuous play of golf along the raised embankments adjoining the site on the west side. Further consideration is given to the presence of the off-site SPAs and other optimal habitat. The Ribble & Alt Estuary is an important roost and wintering site for PFG and whooper swan, which is located on the nearby coastal fringe approx. 1km south of the site. The SPA is very extensive, and contains optimal habitat for both species, whereas the proposal site does not. Habitats of value within the wider area include extensive open arable farmlands to the north and east of the site, and to the south of the Ribble Estuary.

[3] Kirby. J et al (2000) Key Habitat Attributes for Birds and Bird Assemblages in England. English Nature Research Report no. 359

The area affected by the proposal is also considered to have little value for other wintering qualifying species of the SPA, for example shelduck, curlew and redshank etc., due to the management and operations within and immediately adjacent to the site. Whilst their occasional presence cannot be ruled out, the use by qualifying species is considered opportunistic rather than habitual and/or functionally linked to the statutory sites. These factors combined with the small scale of the proposals (reprofiling of grassland field and reinstating to golf course) mean that impacts to wintering birds can be discounted.

Great Crested Newt

The pond scoping exercise identified 12 ponds within 250m of the site. Five ponds were dry at the time of survey and were not subject to further assessment. Pond 1 was inspected from Saltcotes Road and appeared to be dry. Those ponds which held water were subject to Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) surveys, followed by an eDNA sample. The results are provided in Table 4 below. The pond locations are provided in Appendix A, Map 2.

Table 4: GCN Assessment Summary Table

Pond Ref	Pond Dry?	HSI Score	eDNA Result	Notes
1	Yes	N/A	N/A	
2	Yes	N/A	N/A	
3	No but unsuitable for eDNA	0.61 Average	N/A	Ponds 3 to 5 almost dry and dense organic leaf matter present. No eDNA possible. Hydrologically connected to Pond 6.
4	No but unsuitable for eDNA	0.61 Average	N/A	
5	No but unsuitable for eDNA	0.61 Average	N/A	
6	No	0.61 Average	Negative	
7	No	0.78 Good	Negative	Ponds 7 and 8 hydrologically connected.
8	No	0.5 Below Average	Negative	
9	Yes	N/A	N/A	
10	No	0.81 Excellent	Negative	
11	No	0.81 Excellent	Negative	
12	No	0.81 Excellent	Negative	

All six ponds subject to eDNA survey returned a negative eDNA sample. The results provided by SureScreen Scientifics can be found in Appendix C. It is concluded that GCN are absent from the site and locally.

5.0 ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATIONS

The following section evaluates the site in relation to statutory/non-statutory sites, protected species and species/habitats listed under the NERC Act (2006) Section 41; Species/Habitats of Principal Importance in England.

5.1 DESK STUDY

Statutory Sites

The nearest statutorily designated site is Lytham Coastal Changes SSSI (adjacent to site on opposite side of Saltcotes Road). This SSSI is designated for geological features and scoped out for further ecological assessment. The Ribble Estuary NNR and SSSI (990m south-east), Ribble & Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar (990m south-east) are all located within 1km of the site. Due to the distance between the development and the designated site and the scale of the proposed development, the Natural England Impact Risk Zone[4] indicates that consultation will be required to rule out any likely significant effects on these sites. In this instance, likely significant effects to birds associated with these sites has been ruled out. Refer to Section 5.3.3 (b), below for wintering bird evaluation.

Recommendations: Statutory Designated Sites

No further survey or assessment is required. It is recommended that the evaluation provided in Section 5.3.3 (b), is used as part of any consultation to rule out any likely significant effects on statutory designated sites.

Biological Heritage Sites / Non-statutory Sites

There are no known BHS sites within 500m of the site. Several BHS are located between 500m and 1km from the site; however there is considered to be no ecological or hydrological connectivity to these sites.

Recommendations: Statutory Designated Sites

No further survey or assessment is required.

5.2 HABITATS

Sites Habitats & High Plant Species

The primary habitats on site include g3c5 neutral grassland, g4 modified grassland and areas of plantation woodland, pond and scrub. The habitats have a low floristic diversity and are common and widespread throughout the local area and wider country. Collectively the habitats associated with the site are considered to be of 'site' value only.

[4] GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks posed by development proposals to statutorily designated sites.

Recommendations: Habitats & Higher Plant Species:

Habitats of 'low' distinctiveness or above would require appropriate compensation to ensure an overall biodiversity net gain is achieved from the development (Natural England, 2023). A biodiversity net gain assessment is recommended. The assessment should include the use of the biodiversity metric (v4.0 or later revision if available) to demonstrate how the development will achieve a net gain overall. Indian balsam was recorded on the southern edge of the site boundary. The plant is notoriously difficult to control. Although eradication of the plant from the site may not be possible, the development will need to ensure that this species does not spread onto adjacent land ownership. This should be done through good working practices (e.g. machinery cleaning before leaving site, avoid disturbing the plant as far as is possible). The measures should be outlined in a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) or similar document.

5.3 PROTECTED SPECIES

Badgers

Badgers are protected under Schedule 5 and 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, which prohibits deliberate interference with the animal or its sett. No evidence of badger has been recorded within the site and the surrounding area and badger are considered to be absent from the site and locally.

Recommendations: Badgers

There are no issues in relation to badgers. There are no requirements for further surveys.

Bats

Bats are comprehensively protected under European legislation (Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019). The PRA concluded that there are no suitable roosting features present on site. Overall the habitat associated with the site is considered to be of moderate value to bats. All key foraging and commuting habitats (woodland edges, ponds) will be retained as part of the proposals. There will be no functional change to the site from the proposals, in relation to bats. Therefore no long-term impacts to bat habitats are anticipated.

Recommendations: Bats

There are no requirements for further surveys. It is recommended that provisions in the form of bat boxes are erected within retained vegetation (e.g. plantation woodland areas and/or woodland areas within the adjacent golf course). These enhancement measures would contribute to achieving an overall biodiversity net gain. In all cases illumination of peripheral boundary areas should be avoided, particularly in proximity to sensitive bat habitats (e.g. plantation woodland strip along eastern site boundary and immediately north of the site). Where lighting is required, this must be low level, low intensity and directed downwards away from boundaries. The following principles will apply;

- Where and if lighting is required, this will be directed internally within the site avoiding spillage towards boundary habitats.
- The use of low powered sodium lights or similar will be used and these will be fitted with cowls / covers that prevent lateral light spillage towards boundary habitats.
- Wherever possible and only if required low level (1-1.5m high) bollard lighting will be used.
- If required lights will be fitted with timer controls that minimise the duration of lighting.

Lighting requirements will follow guidance provided by the Bat Conservation Trust. https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/

Birds

All breeding birds (with only minor exceptions) are offered various levels of protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended.

Breeding Birds

There are some localised nesting opportunities within the woodland and scrub. The site is primarily an open grassland field which is subject to frequent cutting which may offer potential for ground nesting bird species. Suitable nesting opportunities will be retained and there are considered to be negligible effects to bird nesting provisions.

Wintering Birds

The site assessment concluded that the proposal site has 'negligible' value for wintering birds, including those birds listed as qualifying species within the Ribble & Alt Estuaries Ramsar / SPA / SSSI.

Recommendations: Birds

Breeding Birds

There are no requirements for further survey. It is recommended that provisions in the form of nest boxes are erected within retained vegetation (e.g. plantation woodland areas and/or woodland areas within the golf course). These enhancement measures would contribute to achieving an overall biodiversity net gain.

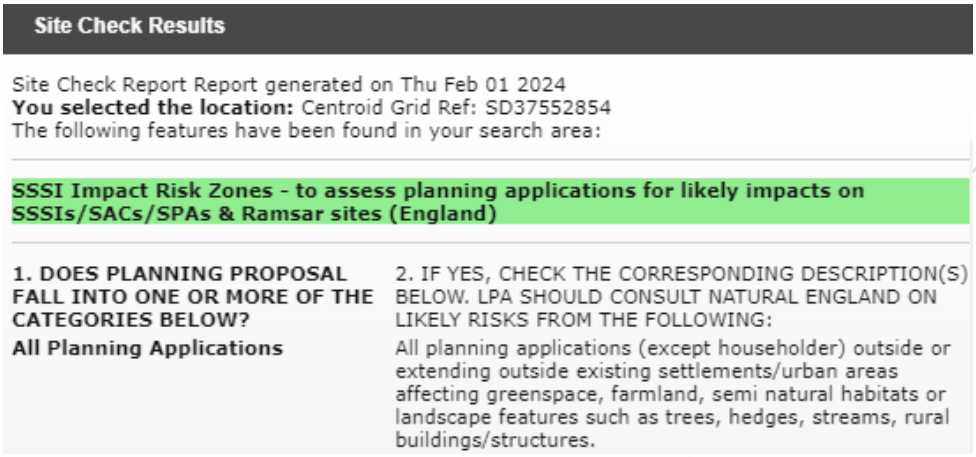
Wintering Birds

Given the important statutory status of the sites stated above, Natural England's SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) guidance was consulted in relation to this project. The SSSI IRZs can be used by Local Planning Authorities, developers, and consultants in relation to planning applications, 'The Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSIs posed by development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. The IRZs also cover the interest

features and sensitivities of European sites, which are underpinned by the SSSI designation and "Compensation Sites", which have been secured as compensation for impacts on Natura 2000/Ramsar sites'[5]

Reference to the IRZ shows that the site meets the 'All Planning Applications' of the IRZ criteria as cited previously, and as a consequence the LPA are advised by NE to consult them over the likely risks arising from the proposal.

Figure 2: IRZ site check results (MAGIC)



Site Check Results

Site Check Report Report generated on Thu Feb 01 2024
You selected the location: Centroid Grid Ref: SD37552854
The following features have been found in your search area:

SSSI Impact Risk Zones - to assess planning applications for likely impacts on SSSIs/SACs/SPAs & Ramsar sites (England)

1. DOES PLANNING PROPOSAL FALL INTO ONE OR MORE OF THE CATEGORIES BELOW?	2. IF YES, CHECK THE CORRESPONDING DESCRIPTION(S) BELOW. LPA SHOULD CONSULT NATURAL ENGLAND ON LIKELY RISKS FROM THE FOLLOWING:
All Planning Applications	All planning applications (except householder) outside or extending outside existing settlements/urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland, semi natural habitats or landscape features such as trees, hedges, streams, rural buildings/structures.

Whilst NE advise consultation with them over the likely risk to the notifiable features of the statutory sites, there are significant negative influencing features associated with the proposal site that significantly reduce the site's value for wintering geese and swans. As a consequence the impacts on any of the qualifying wintering birds of the statutory sites is considered to be 'negligible', and we consider that the information provided in this report is sufficient for the Competent Authority to discharge their duty in respect of a Stage 1 HRA, and to conclude that further consideration under an Appropriate Assessment and submission of a Stage 2 HRA is not required in this instance. Nevertheless, the LPA's ecologist will decide whether or not consultation with NE is required in this instance.

Great Crested Newt

Great crested newts are comprehensively protected under European legislation (Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019). The eDNA results conclude that GCN are absent from all ponds within 250m of the site and therefore considered to be absent from the site and locally.

Recommendations: Great Crested Newt

Therefore, no requirements for further survey.

[5] SSSI Impact Risk User Guidance - see www.magic.gov.uk

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1

Appendix A: Figures

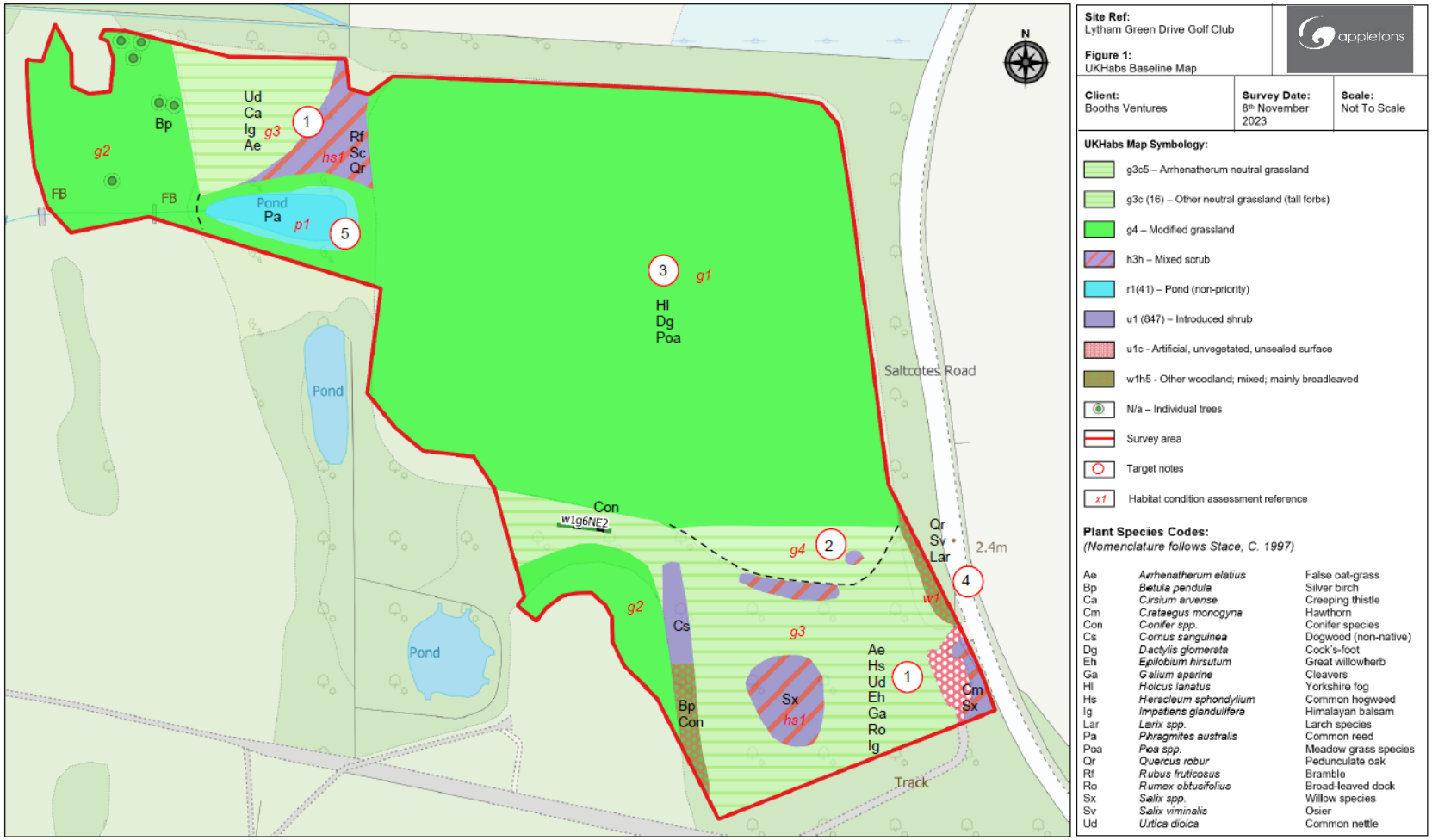

Figure 1: UKHabs Baseline Map (also provided as a separate file)

APPENDIX 2

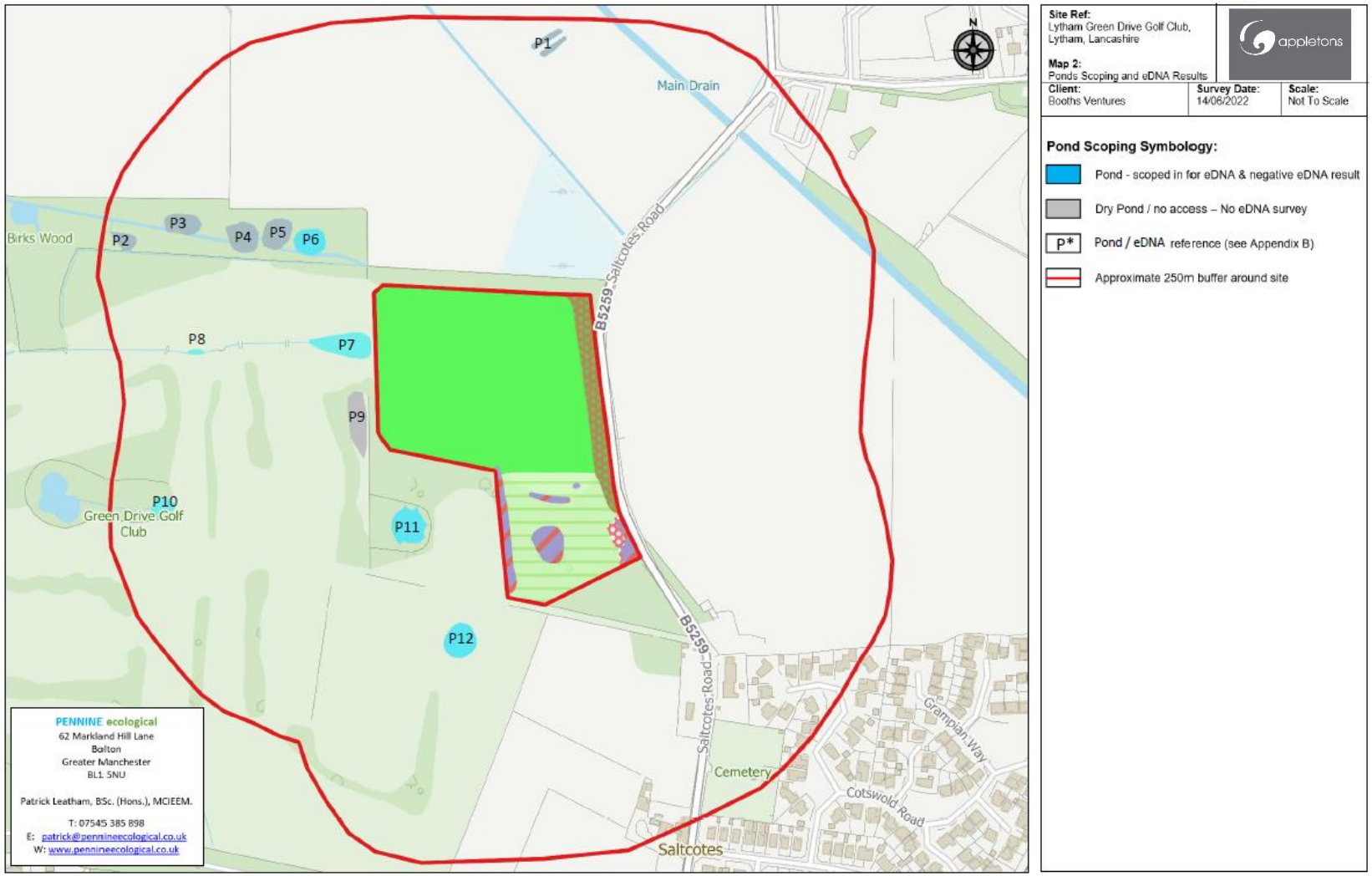

Figure 2: Pond Scoping and eDNA Results

APPENDIX 3

Appendix B: Target Notes and Photographs

Photograph 1: Target Note 1 – g3c5 neutral grassland with scrub and tall ruderal.

Photograph 2: Target Note 1 – g3c5 neutral grassland with scrub and tall ruderal.

Photograph 3: Indian balsam located on the southern boundary of the site.

Photograph 4: Target Note 2 – area of g3c5 grassland in depression. Local conditions are marshy.

Photograph 5: Overview of g3c5 grassland (TN1 and TN2) looking towards southern boundary.

Photograph 6: Target Note 3 – g4 modified grassland which subject to regular mowing and maintenance.

Photograph 7: Target Note 3 – g4 modified grassland with a dominance of Yorkshire fog and meadow grass.

Photograph 8: Target Note 4 – plantation woodland along Saltcotes Road. Reed canary grass strip in foreground.

Photograph 9: Pond 3; eDNA sample not possible due to organic matter affecting water sample and drying.

Photograph 10: Pond 4; eDNA sample not possible due to organic matter affecting water sample and drying.

Photograph 11: Pond 5; eDNA sample not possible due to organic matter affecting water sample and drying.

Photograph 12: Pond 6; Negative eDNA result.

Photograph 13: Pond 7; Negative eDNA result.

Photograph 14: Pond 8; Negative eDNA result.

Photograph 15: Pond 9; Dry.

Photograph 16: Pond 10; Negative eDNA result.

Photograph 17: Pond 11; Negative eDNA result.

Photograph 18: Pond 12; Negative eDNA result

APPENDIX 4

Appendix C: eDNA Survey Results

SureScreen Scientifics

Folio No: E14609
Report No: 1
Purchase Order: BOOTHSGC01
Client: PENNINE ECOLOGICAL
Contact: Patrick Leatham

TECHNICAL REPORT

ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DNA IN POND WATER FOR THE DETECTION OF GREAT CRESTED NEWTS (TRITURUS CRISTATUS)

SUMMARY

When great crested newts (GCN), *Triturus cristatus*, inhabit a pond, they continuously release small amounts of their DNA into the environment. By collecting and analysing water samples, we can detect these small traces of environmental DNA (eDNA) to confirm GCN habitation or establish GCN absence.

RESULTS

Date sample received at Laboratory: 29/06/2022
Date Reported: 12/07/2022
Matters Affecting Results: None

Lab Sample No.	Site Name	O/S Reference	SIC	DC	IC	Result	Positive Replicates
6221	P12 Lytham Green Drive		Pass	Pass	Pass	Negative	0
6227	P7 Lytham Green Drive	SD 3742 2866	Pass	Pass	Pass	Negative	0
6228	P6 Lytham Green Drive	SD 3737 2871	Pass	Pass	Pass	Negative	0
6229	P8 Lytham Green Drive	SD 3725 2860	Pass	Pass	Pass	Negative	0
6230	P10 Lytham Green Drive	SD 3722 2845	Pass	Pass	Pass	Negative	0
6231	P11 Lytham Green Drive	SD 3746 2844	Pass	Pass	Pass	Negative	0

Appendix D: Habitat Condition Assessments

G1

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)			
Grassland – Modified grassland			
Site name and location	Lytham Green Drive Golf Club	**On-site or off-site**	On site
Limitations (if applicable)	None	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	g1

Habitat Description

Frequently managed species poor modified grassland

ukhab - UK Habitat Classification

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m^2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). **Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.**	No	Modified grassland cut for silage. Dominated by grasses with very few forbs.
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	No	Frequently cut and all single height sward subsequently.
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes	No scrub within field
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes	
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	Yes	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes	
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		No
	Number of criteria passed		5

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	x	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			

G2

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)												
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)												
Grassland – Modified grassland												
Habitat Description												
ukhab - UK Habitat Classification												
Site name and location	Lytham Green Drive Golf Club	**On-site or off-site**	On site									
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)	None	**Habitat parcel reference**										
		g2										
		Grid reference										
Condition Assessment Criteria												
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										**Notes (such as justificatio n)**
A	There are 6–8 vascular plant species per m^2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). **Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.** Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m^2 (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	No										Intensively managed golf course (amenity grassland).
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	No										
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note – patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes										
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes										
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes										
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	Yes										
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes										
	Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)	No										
	Number of criteria passed	5										
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved x/l**										
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)											
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)											
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 – 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	X										

G3

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
Sparsely vegetated land – Calaminarian grassland			
Site name and location	Lytham Green Drive Golf Club	**On-site or off-site**	On site
Limitations (if applicable)	None	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	refer to PEA Appendix A, Figure 1
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	g3

Habitat Description

Area of formerly neutral grassland which is now established as tall forbs ((g3c(16)). Dominated by common nettle, common hogweed, willowherb, ragwort, creeping thistle and frequent to occassional grasses.
There are two sections of tall forbs within the site that are similar in condition and included under this condition sheet (refer to PEA Appendix A, Figure 1).
ukhab - UK Habitat Classification

	Condition Assessment Criteria	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	**Notes (such as justificatio**
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description – the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. **Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	No	Grassland has transitioned into tall forbs and does not closely match any grassland types listed in UKHabs.
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	Limited short sward and dominated by tall forbs.
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[1].	Yes	
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition[2] 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[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	Himalayan balsam present.
Additional Criterion – must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note – this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	No	
	Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)	No	
	Number of criteria passed	2	

Condition Assessment Resu	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved x/**
Acid Grassland Types (Result out of 5 criteria)		
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
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)	x

G4

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)													
Habitat Description													
Section of marshy grassland within depression. Species composition reflective of this; marsh fox tail, floating sweet grass, lesser stitchwort. However grassland area shows evidence of high nutrient input (likely from adjacent g4 grassland) and lacks species diversity.													
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
Site name and location	Lytham Green Drive Golf Club	**On-site or off-site**	on site										
		Survey reference (if relating to a	Refer to PEA Appendix A, Figure 1.										
Limitations (if applicable)	None	**Habitat parcel reference**											
		g4											
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Grid reference**											
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											**Notes (such as**
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	No										Closest match to g3c5, however mesic grass species more frequent.
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.	Yes										Occassional bramble patches and localised areas of taller grass sward
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens[4].	Yes										
D	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes										
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition[2] 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[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Yes										
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types													
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.**	No										
	Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)	No											
	Number of criteria passed	4											
Condition Assessment Resu	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved x/l**											
Acid Grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)													
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)												
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)												
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)												
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)	x											

Hs1

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
Habitat Description			
Areas of mixed scrub, mainly within the tall forb parcels. Scrub includes willow (predominantly goat), bramble, hawthorn, oak (saplings) and sycamore (saplings).			
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:	Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)		
For other scrub types see:	ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
Site name and location	Lytham Green Drive	**On-site or off-site**	On site
Limitations (if applicable)	None	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Refer to PEA appendix A, Figure 1
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	hs1
Condition Assessment Criteria		**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	**Notes (such as justification)**
A	The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type. At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species[1], with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel *Corylus avellana*, common juniper *Juniperus communis*, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* or box *Buxus sempervirens*, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes	Small parcels of scrub not dominated by any single species.
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran[2]) shrubs are all present.	Yes	
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition[5] make up less than 5% of ground cover.	No	Himalayan balsam present throughout.
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes	

E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No	
		Number of criteria passed	

Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/**
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

W1

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

Condition Assessment Criteria

	Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points	Poor (1 point)	Score per	Notes (such as justification)
A	**Age distribution of trees**	Three age-classes[1] present.	Two age-classes[1] present.	One age-class[1] present.	1	
B	**Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage**	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or less of whole woodland[2].	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland[2].	2	
C	**Invasive plant species**	No invasive species[3] present in woodland.	Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* or cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* not present, other invasive species[3] <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species[3] >10% cover.	1	Non-native trees planted within
D	**Number of native tree species**	Five or more native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species[4] found across woodland parcel.	Two or less native tree or shrub species[4] across woodland parcel.	2	Non-native species also planted
E	**Cover of native tree and shrub species**	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	50 – 80% of canopy trees and 50 – 80% of understory shrubs are native[5].	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native[5].	2	
F	**Open space within woodland**	10 – 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 – 20% temporary open space is permitted[7].	21 – 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6].	<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space[6]. But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category[7].	2	
G	**Woodland regeneration**	All three classes present in woodland[8]; trees 4 – 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland[8].	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland[8].	1	
H	**Tree health**	Tree mortality less than 10%, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback[9].	11% to 25% mortality and/or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present[9].	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present[9].	2	
I	**Vegetation and ground flora**	Recognisable NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community[10] at ground layer present.	1	
J	**Woodland vertical structure**	Three or more storeys across all survey plots or a complex woodland[11].	Two storeys across all survey plots[11].	One or less storey across all survey plots[11].	1	
K	**Veteran trees**	Two or more veteran trees[12] per hectare.	One veteran tree[12] per hectare.	No veteran trees[12] present in woodland.	1	
L	**Amount of deadwood**	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities[13].	1	
M	**Woodland disturbance**	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident[14].	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	More than 1 hectare of nutrient enrichment and or more than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground[14].	2	
				Total Score (out of a possible 39)	19	

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Result Achieved
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	19 (poor)
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)	

P1

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type			
Site name and location	Lytham Green Drive Golf Club	**On-site or off-site**	On site
Limitations (if applicable)	None	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Refer to PEA Appendix A, Figure 1
Grid reference		**Habitat parcel reference**	p1

	Condition Assessment Criteria	**Criterion passed (Yes or No)**	**Notes (such as justification)**
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland[1] and non-woodland):			
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	Yes	Reasonable levels of turbidity however there is likely to be some pollutant / nutrient influx from golf course activities and management
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	No	Artificially built pond which is surrounded by common reed immediately (1m - 5m) but then surrounded by closely mown grassland.
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed *Lemna* spp. or filamentous algae.	Yes	
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, e.g. agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	No	Ditch network that provides drainage to the golf course connects the pond to other ponds within the golf course
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams[2], pumps or pipework.	Yes	
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species[3].	Yes	
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Yes	
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:			
H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed)[4] cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	Yes	
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	Yes	
	Number of criteria passed	7	

Condition Assessment Result	**Condition Assessment Score**	**Score Achieved ×/□**
Results for woodland ponds which require assessment of 7 core criteria		
Passes 7 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria		
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)	x
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	