Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type			
Grassland - Modified grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	April 29th 2026 Aisling Wallace
Limitations (if applicable)	The field survey was undertaken early within the botanical survey season (April–September inclusive); therefore, a reduced botanical species list may have been recorded.	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, inclusive of Habitat Condition Assessment
Grid reference	(NGR) SJ 84375 98275	**Habitat parcel reference**	1
Habitat Description			
The central area of Piccadilly Gardens is characterised by amenity grassland classified as modified grassland under UKHab classification. At the time of survey, the sward was closely mown and of uniformly short height, reflecting intensive mowing management and high levels of pedestrian use. Localised areas of bare ground were also present within the grassed areas because of trampling.			
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 (these 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	
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	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present). 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.	No	
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		4

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
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)	✓	

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

The entirety of amenity grassland on site will be removed to facilitate the development.

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* , spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* , curled dock *Rumex crispus* , broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* , common nettle *Urtica dioica* , creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens* , greater plantain *Plantago major* , white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* .

Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.

Footnote 3 – 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, using professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type

Habitat Types

Individual trees – Urban trees
Individual trees – Rural trees
Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.

Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of rural trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in rural locations.

Habitat Description

Within the Site boundary, there are thirty-six, young-mature urban trees inclusive of eight ornamental trees within raised planters.
Adjacent to the street food vendors, were eight London plane (Platanus x hispanica (acerifolia). A further nine young-mature London plane trees were identified at the along the northern boundary of the Site.
To the west of the street food vendors, were eight, young-mature Honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos).
Three young-mature trees were also identified within the modified grassland habitat.

Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment):
Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching.

Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only):
Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	April 29th 2026 Aisling Wallace
Limitations (if applicable)	Not applicable	**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, inclusive of Habitat Condition Assessment
Grid reference	(NGR) SJ 84375 98275	**Habitat parcel reference**	3

	Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	No	
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).	No	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	Yes	
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.	No	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	No	
	Number of criteria passed	1	

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]

Sixteen of the trees will be removed to facilitate the development. Eight honey locust will be retained and enhanced in situ by removing pavement grills and replacing with permeable suface and supporting the establishment of understorey vegetation. Two Magnolia trees will be relocated wihtin the site, to a location better suited to support viable growth.