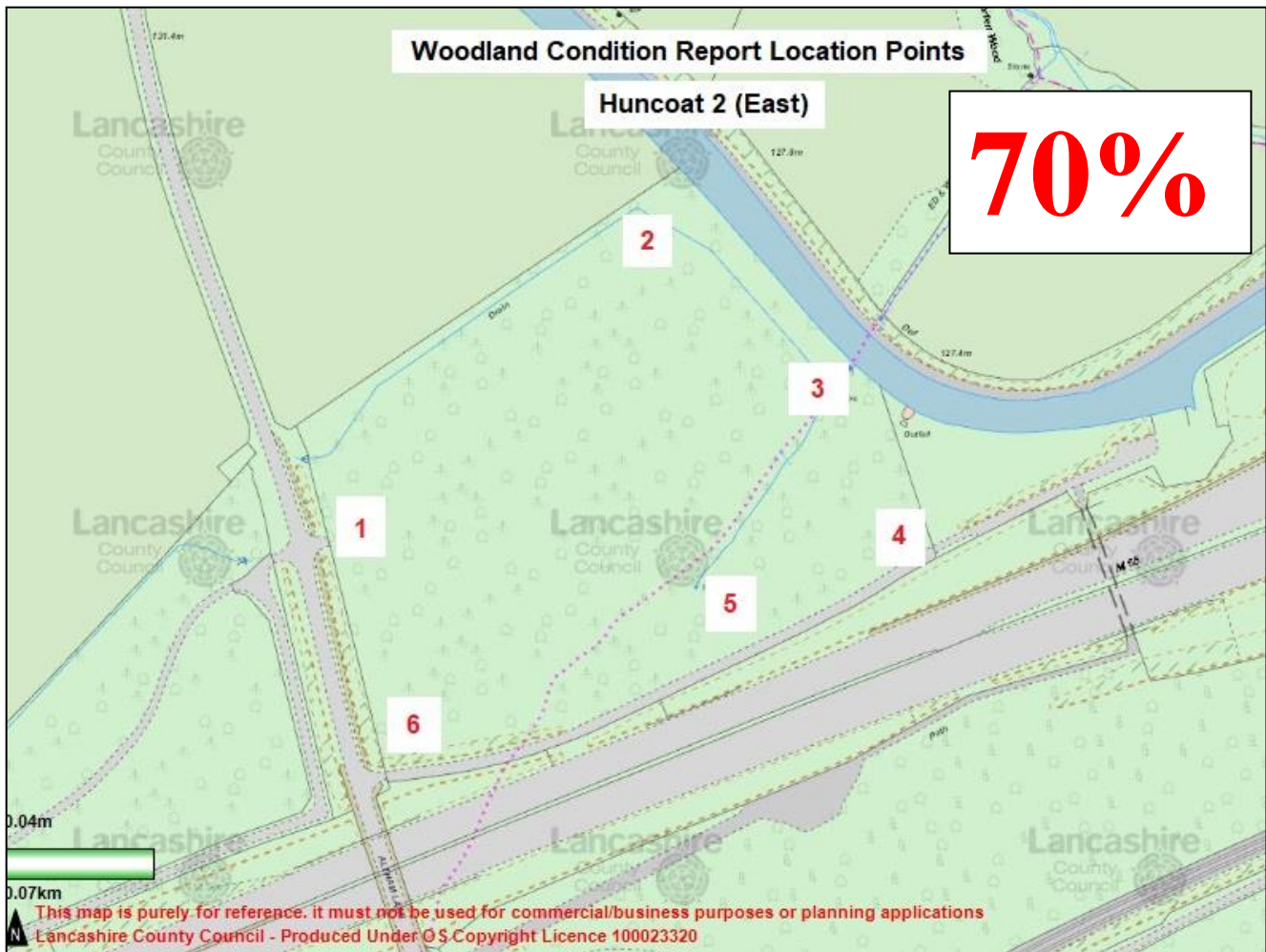


Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 2 (East), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

It is important to ascertain the condition that habitats are in and whether management targets are being met. The following condition assessment should be carried out for woodland areas every five years. The area of assessment is that which can be seen in front of, and to the sides of, the assessor. Using a good scale map walk the site stopping ten times to make assessments, ideally taking a GPS, so that the stops can be re-found and the assessments repeated. The stops should be evenly spaced throughout the woodland, but can be positioned anywhere.

At each stop record the answers to the following ten questions (see overleaf for stop descriptions and map for their locations):



Extent –

1. Is the area or boundary of the woodland as it should be?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Structure –

2. Can you see mature trees?

1	2	3	4	5	6
N	N	N	N	N	N

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3. Can you see at least five individual native shrubs or coppice stools?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

4. Can you see at least a 50% coverage of native ground flora (not including bare ground – bg – and/or non-native flora e.g. Himalayan Balsam - B)?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	Y	Y	N (bg)	Y	Y

5. Can you see any standing or hung-up deadwood?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

6. Can you see any laying deadwood over 2m long?

1	2	3	4	5	6
N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Regeneration –

7. Can you see at least five native tree seedlings over 2m tall? Asp = Aspen.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	N	N	N	Y(Asp)	N

Undesirable species - name any seen (different species can be substituted)

8. Is your field of vision free of non-native shrubs (e.g. Rhododendron etc)?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

9. Is your field of vision free of non-native trees (e.g Grey Alder – GA, Sycamore – S etc)

1	2	3	4	5	6
N(GA)	N(S)	Y	N(GA)	N(GA)	Y

10. Is your field of vision free of other non-natives?

1	2	3	4	5	6
Y	N (B)	N (B)	Y	Y	Y

Of the 60 available points in May 2019, the woodland area at Huncoat No 2 (East) scored 42 Yes's and 18 No's, i.e. 42/60 = 70%.

For comparison, the other sites assessed in Hyndburn in May 2019 are as follows:

- Whinney Hill No. 2 (West – Pond End) scored 88%,
- Huncoat No. 1 (West) scored 81%,
- Whinney Hill No. 1 (East – Cricket Club End) scored 80%,
- Martholme Greenway scored 77%,
- Abbott Clough scored 66%,

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- Warcocks Green scored 66%, and
- Rushton Green Farm scored 63%.

The average for the sites assessed in Hyndburn in May 2019 is 73.9%, hence with 70%, Huncoat No 2 (East) scored less than the Hyndburn average.

For an additional comparison, other woodland condition assessments in Hyndburn have been as follows:

- Oak-birch woodland above Arden Hall scored 86% in 2018,
- Ash Plantation below The Coppice scored 86% in 2018,
- Arden Hall Plantation scored 80% in 2018,
- Hollins Wood scored 80% in 2018,
- Priestley Clough scored 75% in 2018,
- Foxhill Bank in Oswaldtwistle scored 74% in 2008,
- Rothwell Heights scored 74% in 2018,
- Plantation House scored 67.5% in 2018,
- Ooze Castle & Rock Haugh Clough Ancient Woodland scored 67% in 2009, and
- Park View Forest School woodland scored 60% in 2018.

The average score for the 18 woodlands assessed in Hyndburn to date is just under 75.5%, hence with 70%, Huncoat No 2 (East) scored significantly less than the average in Hyndburn, and is the 12th highest (7th lowest) scoring woodland assessed in Hyndburn to date.

The negative points at Huncoat No 2 (East) can be addressed through management by, for example;

2. It will take time (decades) for trees to become mature and over-mature so progress cannot be made quickly to address item 2 (6 points).
4. Thin canopy to let more light in (1 point in the short to medium-term).
6. Create dead wood through management, or bring in from elsewhere (1 point in the short-term).
7. The canopy can be thinned to let more light in, and/or young trees planted, to address item 7 (4 points in the short to medium-term).
9. The non-native tree species (Grey Alder and Sycamore in this case) can be selectively felled, either as part of canopy thinning, or a separate operation, to address item 9. Any natural regeneration of these species will need to be controlled/removed in the future (4 points in the short to medium-term).
10. Non-native plants (Himalayan Balsam in this case) can be controlled to address item 10. This will be an ongoing process if the species isn't controlled on adjacent landholdings (2 points in the short-term).

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In the short to medium-term, the score for the woodland at Huncoat No 2 (East) could be increased by up to 12 points, which would bring the score up to $54/60 = 90\%$, leaving just the 6 points (10%) from trees becoming mature in the long-term (question 2). Hence a target of a 12 point increase to 90% could be applied to the woodland at Huncoat No 2 (East) in the short to medium-term.

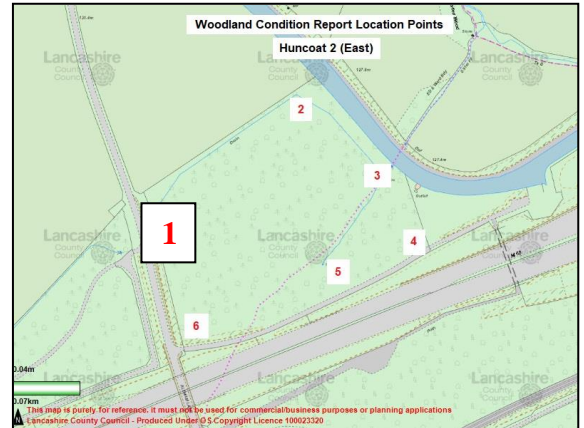
1. GPS: SD 77660 31640, 168m asl

Four photos taken stood approx. 10m into the wood from parking spot off Altham Lane, looking in four directions.

Canopy dominated by: Grey Alder, Aspen, Goat Willow and oak.

Understorey: Hawthorn, Hazel, rose and Aspen.

Field layer locally dominated by: Rough Meadow-grass, Creeping Buttercup, Nettle, Hogweed and Grey Alder suckers.



Left: Stop 1, looking west towards the boundary fence.



Right: Stop 1, looking north.



Left: Stop 1, looking east.



Right: Stop 1, south.

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2. GPS: SD 77791 31778, 141m asl

Two photos taken stood approx. 10m in from a turn in the boundary ditch that runs parallel to the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, looking south-east and south.

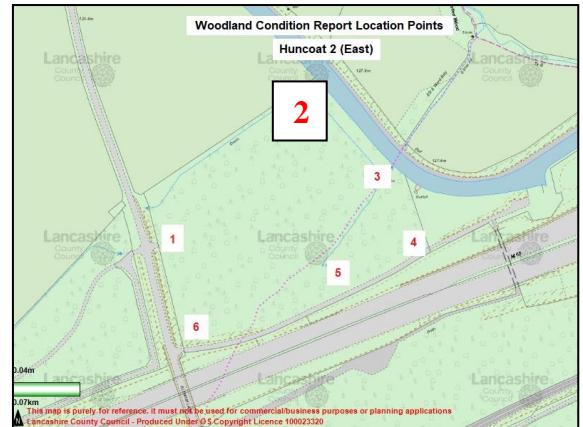
Canopy dominated by: Alder and Goat Willow.

Understorey: Hazel, Hawthorn, rose, Guelder-rose and Sycamore.

Field layer locally dominated by:

Grasses (Rough Meadow-grass, Reed Canary-grass, Tufted Hair-grass and Yorkshire-fog) and Bramble.

Other flora included Male-fern, Broad Buckler-fern, Lady-fern, Broad-leaved Willowherb, Hogweed, Wild Angelica, Selfheal, Cleavers, Common Sorrel, Creeping Buttercup, Marsh Thistle and Water Horsetail.



Left: Stop 2, looking south-east.



Right: Stop 2, looking south.

Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 2 (East), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

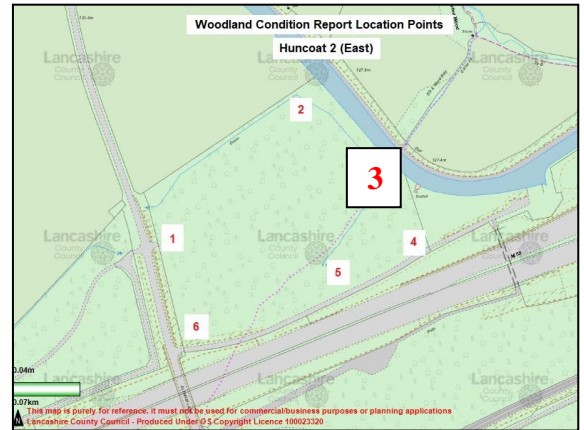
3. GPS: SD 77886 31702, 141m asl

Two photos taken (one of the culvert) stood on the side of a ditch flowing from the woodland to a culvert.

Canopy dominated by: Alder and Aspen.

Understorey: Hawthorn and Holly.

Field layer locally dominated by: Yorkshire-fog, Bracken, Nettle with locally abundant Soft-rush. Other flora included Wood Dock, Himalayan Balsam, Cleavers, Marsh Thistle, Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage, Hedge Woundwort and Creeping Buttercup.



Left: Stop 3, looking north-east to the culvert.



Right: Stop 3, looking south-west up the ditch.

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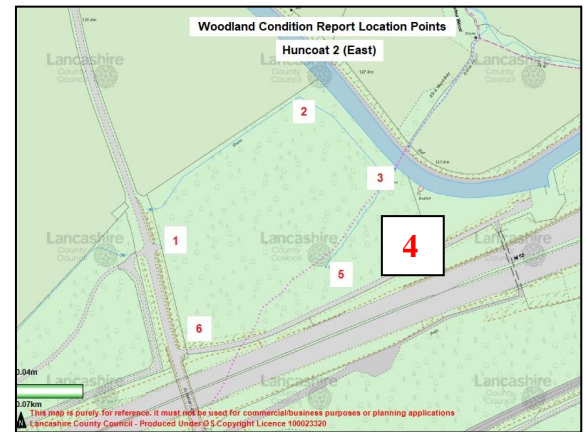
4. GPS: SD 77922 31634, 156m asl

Three photos taken stood with back to a sizeable birch tree looking south-east (towards a path/cycleway/M65), south-west and west.

Canopy dominated by: Alder, Aspen and birch.

Understorey: Hawthorn, Bird Cherry and oak.

Field layer locally dominated by: Bare ground/bryophytes with patches of Rough Meadow-grass and Bramble. Other flora included Broad Buckler-fern and Grey Alder suckers.



Above left: Stop 4, looking south-east (towards a path/cycleway/M65)



Above right: Stop 4, looking south-west.

Below: Stop 4, looking west.



Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 2 (East), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

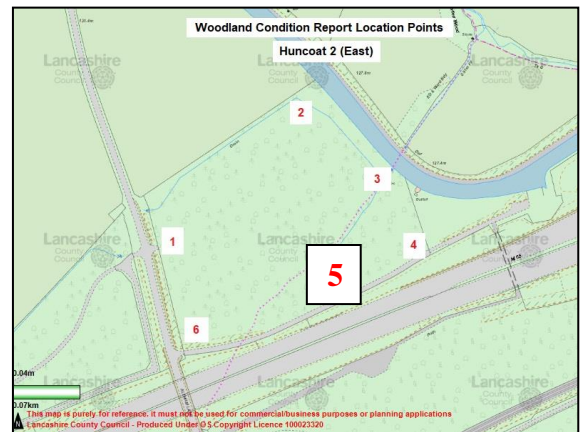
5. GPS: SD 77832 31602, 179m asl

Three photos taken in the wood having entered from a small desire line (close to a flight of steps down from the M65) that leads to a glade, stood at the base of a sizeable Downy Birch to the RHS of the glade, looking to the glade, north and east.

Canopy dominated by: Birch, oak, Grey Alder and willow.

Understorey: Bird Cherry, willow, oak and Aspen.

Field layer locally dominated by: Rough Meadow-grass and Bramble. Other flora included ferns (Lady-fern, male-fern and Broad Buckler-fern) and Soft-rush.



Above left: Stop 5, looking west to the glade.



Above right: Stop 5, looking north.

Below: Stop 5, looking east.



Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 2 (East), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

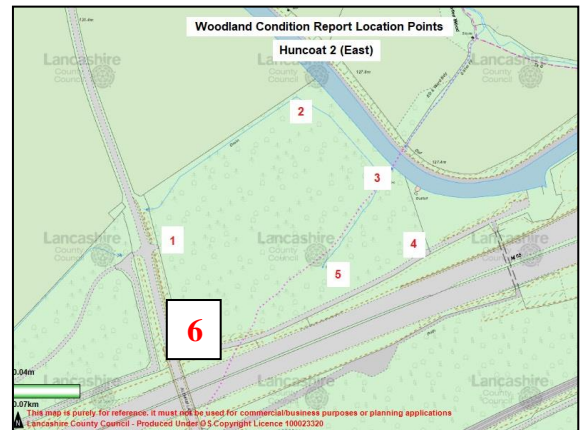
6. GPS: SD 77675 31533, 172m asl

Two photos taken stood at the base of the slope in the south-western corner with back to a post and rail fence at the change in slope, looking east and north.

Canopy dominated by: Willow, birch and Alder

Understorey: Hazel and Hawthorn.

Field layer locally dominated by: Rough Meadow-grass and bare ground. Other flora included Dandelion, Bramble, Lesser Celandine, Ash seedlings and Wood Avens.



Left: Stop 6, looking east.



Right: Stop 6, looking north along the boundary fence down from Altham Lane.

Risk assessment:

Steep &/or slippery slopes, trip hazards, watercourses/waterbodies (specify), culverts, mine shafts/adits, wet/boggy areas, hung-up trees, thorny bushes (Blackthorn, Dog-rose, Hawthorn, Holly etc.), rocks, scree, quarry faces, internal fencing/barbed wire etc.