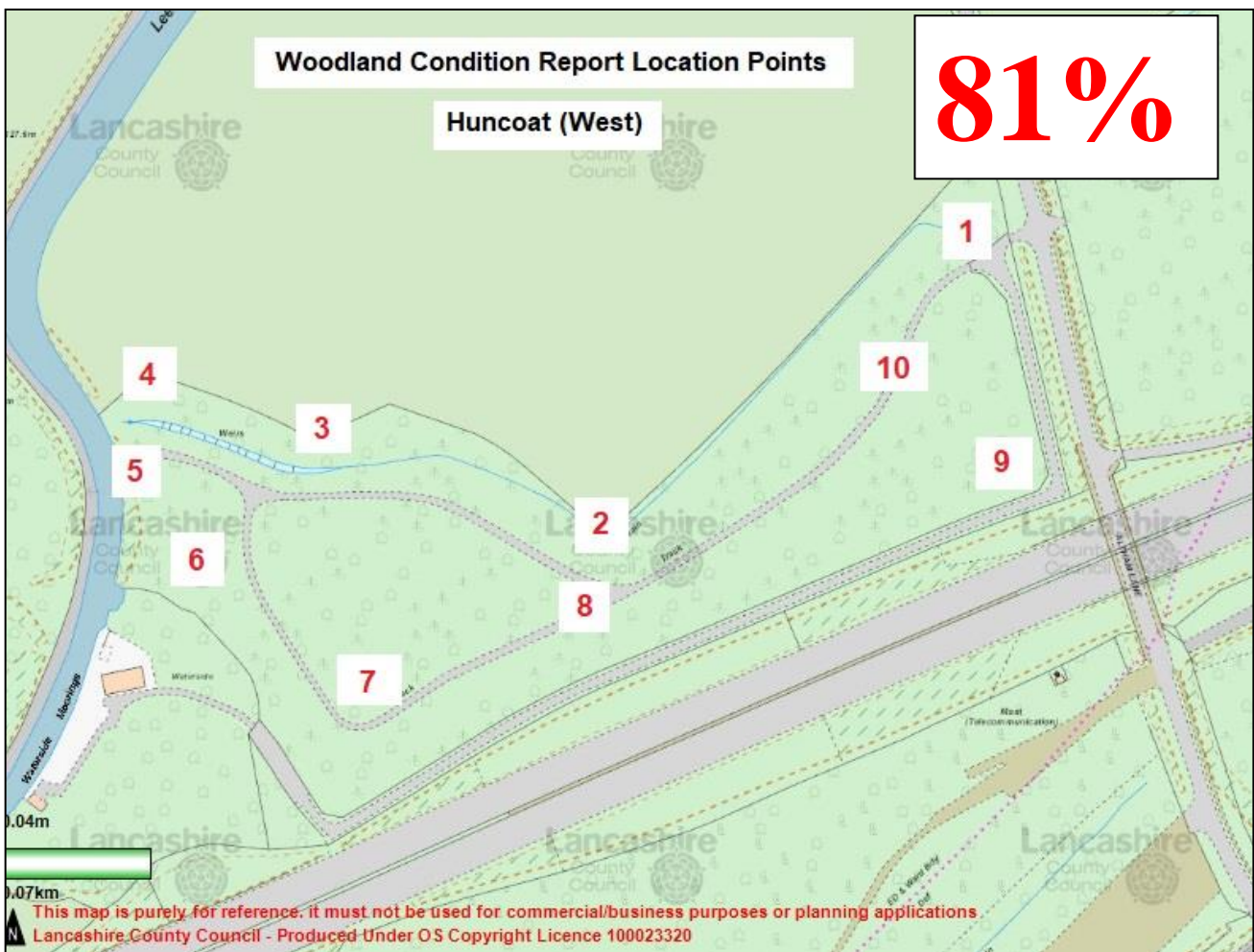


# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

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	7	8	9	10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

## Structure –

2. Can you see mature trees? (W = willow)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Y (W)	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N

**Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by  
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**3. Can you see at least five individual native shrubs or coppice stools?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Y	Y	Y	Y	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	7	8	9	10
Y	Y	N (bg)	Y just	Y	Y	Y just	Y	Y	Y

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Regeneration –**

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

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

**8. Is your field of vision free of non-native shrubs (eg Rhododendron, laurel etc)?**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**9. Is your field of vision free of non-native trees? (Grey Alder: GA, Sycamore: S, Swedish Whitebeam: SW)? \* a Sycamore tree at Stop 4 appeared to be dead.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
N(SW) <sup>1</sup>	Y	N(S)	N(SW)*	N(GA,S)	N(S)	N(S)	Y	Y	Y

**10. Is your field of vision free of other non-natives? (name any seen)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<sup>1</sup> For question 9 at Stop 1, conifers were present as well as Swedish Whitebeam.

**Of the 100 possible points, the woodland area at Huncoat No 1 (West) scored 81 Yes's and 19 No's, i.e. 81% in May 2019.**

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

- Whinney Hill No. 2 (West – Pond End) scored 88%,
- Whinney Hill No. 1 (East – Cricket Club End) scored 80%,
- Martholme Greenway scored 77%,
- Huncoat No. 2 (East) scored 70%,
- Abbott Cough scored 66%,

## **Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019**

- 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 81%, Huncoat No. 1 (West) scored significantly more 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 81%, Huncoat No. 1 (West) scored significantly more than the average in Hyndburn, and is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest (15<sup>th</sup> lowest) scoring woodland assessed in Hyndburn to date.

### **The negative points at Huncoat No. 1 (West) 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 (8 points in the long-term).
4. Thin canopy to let more light in (1 point in the short to medium-term).
7. The canopy can be thinned to let more light in, natural regeneration protected and/or young trees planted, to address item 7 (4 points in the short to medium-term).
9. The non-native tree species (conifers, Grey Alder, Swedish Whitebeam 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 (6 points in the short to medium-term).
10. Note: Himalayan Balsam is also present on the site, but was not seen at the stops recorded.

In the short to medium-term, the score for the woodland at Huncoat No 1 (West) could be increased by up to 11 points, which would bring the score up to 92, leaving just the eight points from trees becoming mature in the long-term (item 2). Hence a target of an eight point increase to 90% could be applied to the woodland at Huncoat No 1 (West) in the short to medium-term.

# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

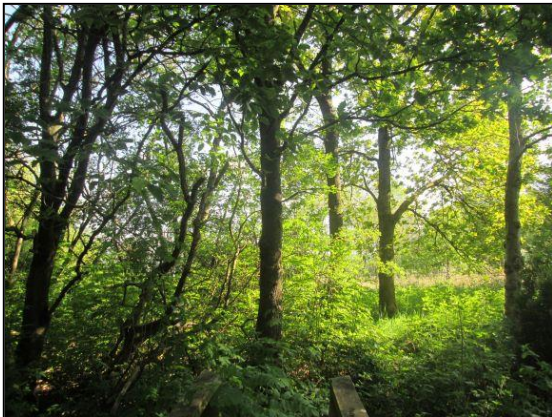
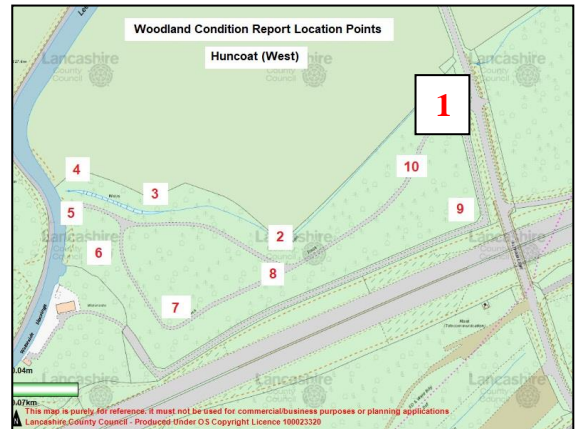
## 1. GPS: SD (77605 31625, 151m asl).

Two photos taken stood on a footbridge along the public footpath over a ditch (dry at the time of survey) looking either side of the footbridge (ends included in the photos).

**Canopy** dominated by: Ash, Alder, oak and Goat Willow.

**Understorey:** Willow, Hawthorn, Hazel and Swedish Whitebeam.

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Bramble and grasses (Reed Canary-grass, Rough Meadow-grass and Yorkshire-fog). Other flora included Tufted Hair-grass and Broad Buckler-fern.



Left: Stop 1, looking northeast from the footbridge.



Right: Stop 1, looking southwest from the footbridge

# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

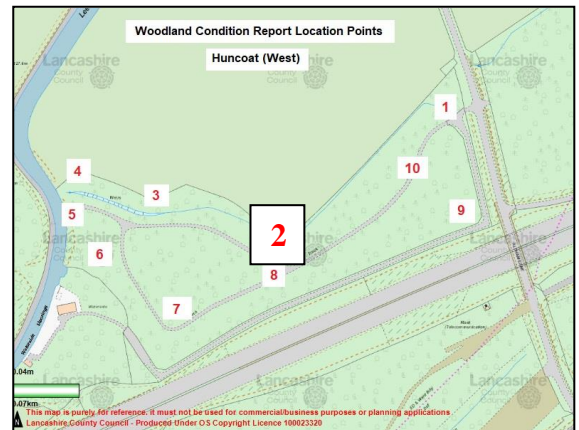
## 2. GPS: SD (77420 31530, 213m asl).

Two photos taken stood near edge of wood on the northern boundary where the fence-line turns outwards around 90 degrees, looking approx. east and west.

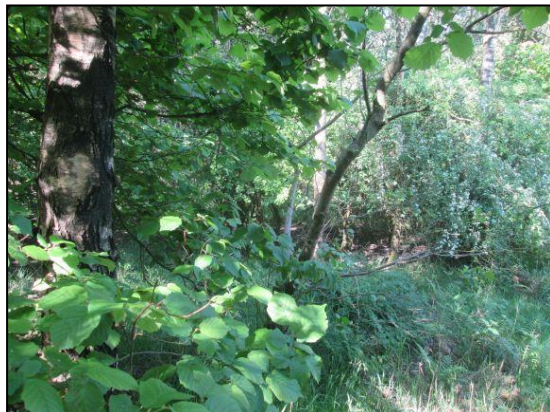
**Canopy** dominated by: Alder and birch.

**Understorey:** Hazel, Hawthorn and willow.

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Tufted Hair-grass and Yorkshire-fog with locally abundant ferns (Male-fern and Broad Buckler-fern). Other flora included Bramble, Nettle and broad-leaved Willowherb.



Left: Stop 2, looking approx. east.



Right: Stop 2, looking approx. west.

# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

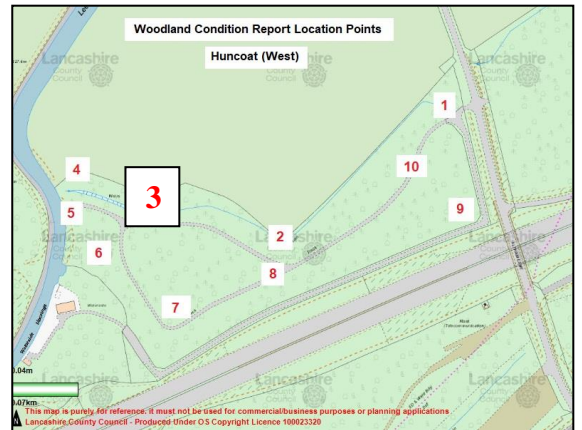
## 3. GPS: SD (77296 31560, 189m asl).

Two photos taken stood where the fence-line turns outwards by around 120 degrees on the north-western boundary, looking approx. east and west.

**Canopy** dominated by: Birch and Alder.

**Understorey:** Willow, Hazel, Swedish Whitebeam, Hawthorn and Elder.

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Bare ground and grasses (Rough Meadow-grass, Tufted Hair-grass and Yorkshire-fog). Other flora included Bramble, Nettle and Bluebell.



Left: Stop 3, looking approx. east.



Right: Stop 3, looking approx. west.

# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

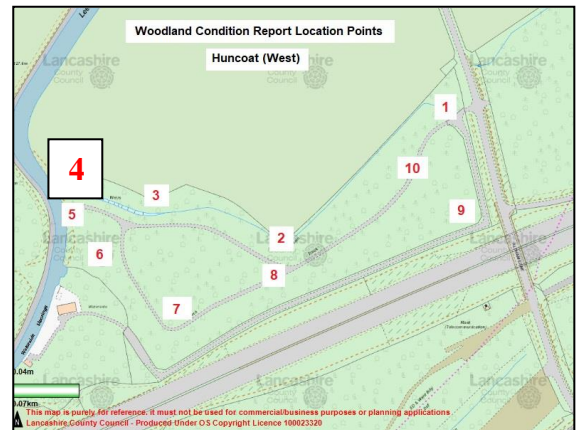
## 4. GPS: SD (77229 31559, 162m asl).

Two photos taken stood in a depression (former quarry or borrow pit?) close to the north-western edge of the wood with a multi-stemmed Sycamore tree to the north, which appeared to be dead.

**Canopy** dominated by: Alder and birch.

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

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Rough Meadow-grass and bare ground. Other flora included Male-fern, Bramble and Tufted Hair-grass.



Left: Stop 4, looking back at the (dead) Sycamore.



Right: Stop 4, looking away from the Sycamore.

# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

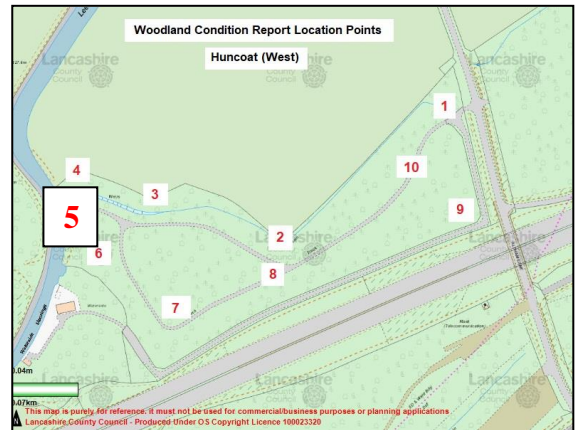
## 5. GPS: SD (77220 31525, 136m asl).

Two photos taken stood on a banking above the Leeds-Liverpool Canal looking approx. south and north (boats visible to the south).

**Canopy** dominated by: Ash, Alder, birch and Sycamore.

**Understorey:** Hawthorn, Ash, Hazel and Sycamore.

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Rough Meadow-grass and bryophytes. Other flora included Bramble, Grey Alder suckers, Lords-and-Ladies, Dandelion and Male-fern.



Left: Stop 5, looking approx. south.



Right: Stop 5, looking approx. north.



# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

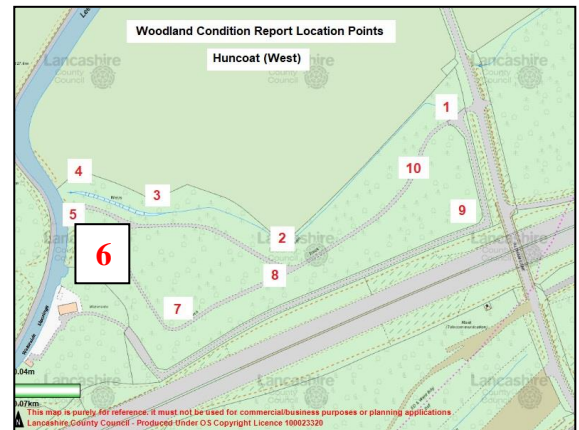
## 6. GPS: SD (77248 31480m asl).

Two photos taken stood on the east side of a ditch (dry at the time of survey) close to the western edge of the county council ownership, which was a post and rail fence, south-west of which is privately-owned woodland.

**Canopy** dominated by: Ash, Alder and birch.

**Understorey:** Hazel, Hawthorn and Elder.

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Rough Meadow-grass, Ash regeneration and Bramble. Other flora included Ragwort, Guelder-rose, Thyme-leaved Speedwell, Reed Canary-grass and Soft-rush.



Left: Stop 6, looking south along the dry ditch.



Right: Stop 6, looking north along the dry ditch.

# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

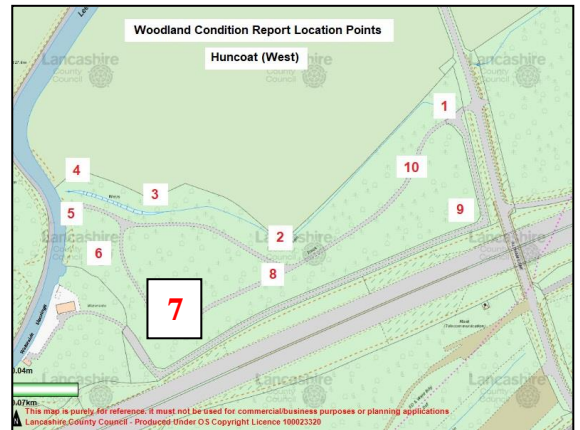
## 7. GPS: SD (77331 31385, 157m asl).

Three photos taken in the south-western corner but north-east of the road, stood in between three young oak trees (two in the canopy, one understory), looking approx. south, north and east with an oak on the left side of each photo.

**Canopy** dominated by: Oak, Alder, birch and Ash.

**Understorey:** Hazel and Hawthorn.

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Bracken, Bramble and bare ground. Other flora included Tufted Hair-grass and Male-fern.



Above left: Stop 7, looking approx. south (tbc).



Above right: Stop 7, looking approx. north (tbc).

Below: Stop 7, looking approx. east (tbc).



# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

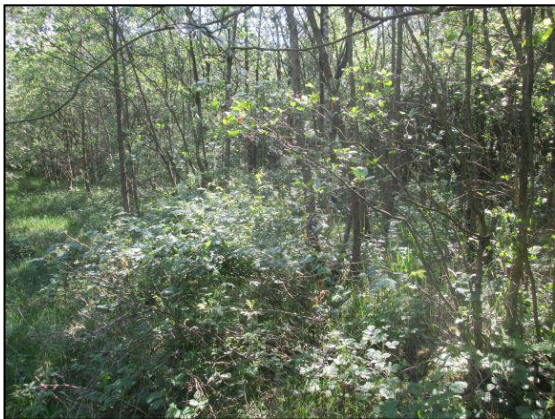
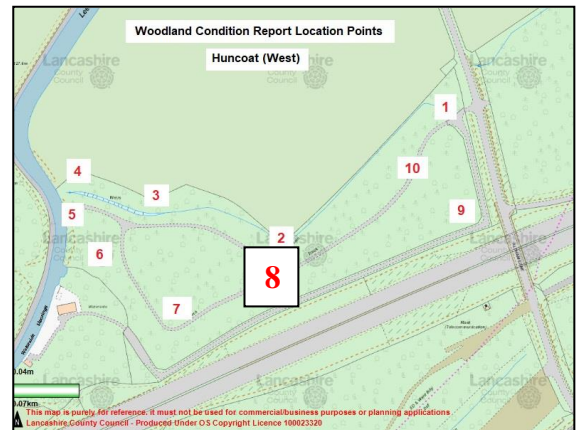
## 8. GPS: SD (77431 31464, 163m asl).

Three photos taken stood on the southern edge of an intersection of two rides – one looking east (ride on LHS), one looking ahead (south only – not backwards towards Stop 2) and one looking west (ride on RHS).

**Canopy** dominated by: Alder, birch and Ash.

**Understorey:** Hawthorn, rose and willow.

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Grasses (Rough Meadow-grass and Tufted Hair-grass) and Bramble. Other flora included Wood Avens, Broad Buckler-fern and Soft-rush.



Above left: Stop 8, looking approx. east (ride on LHS).



Above right: Stop 8, looking ahead (south?).

Below: Stop 8, looking approx. west (ride on RHS).



# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

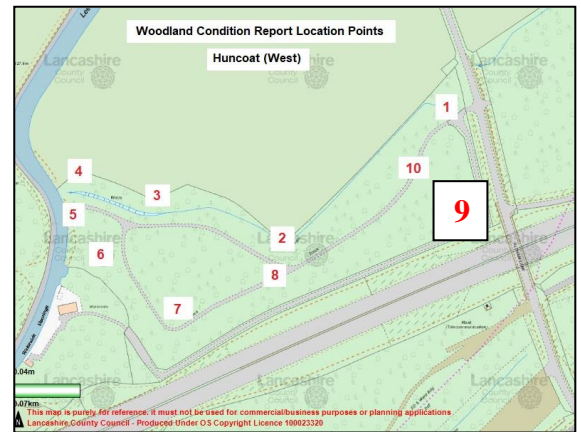
## 9. GPS: SD (77616 31514, 161m asl).

Three photos taken stood with back to the south-east corner of the wood looking approx. south-west, north-west and north.

**Canopy** dominated by: Alder, birch, Ash and oak.

**Understorey:** Hazel and Hawthorn.

**Field layer** locally dominated by: Tufted Hair-grass, rushes (Soft-rush and Hard Rush) and Bramble. Other flora included Male-fern, Ragwort, Selfheal, Marsh Horsetail and a willowherb.

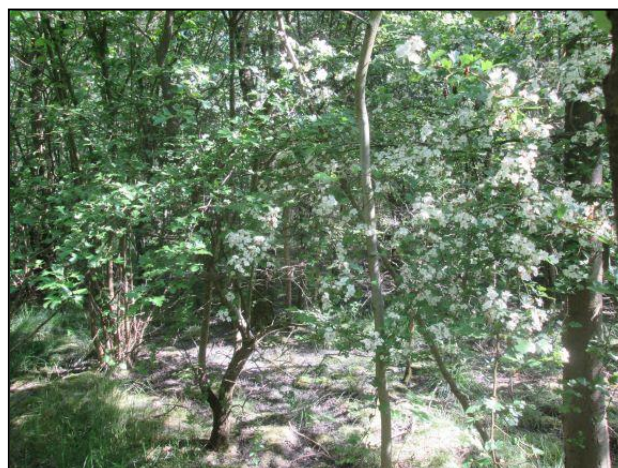


Left: Stop 9, looking approx. south-west (tbc)



Right: Stop 9, looking approx. north-west (tbc).

Below Stop 9, looking approx. north (tbc).



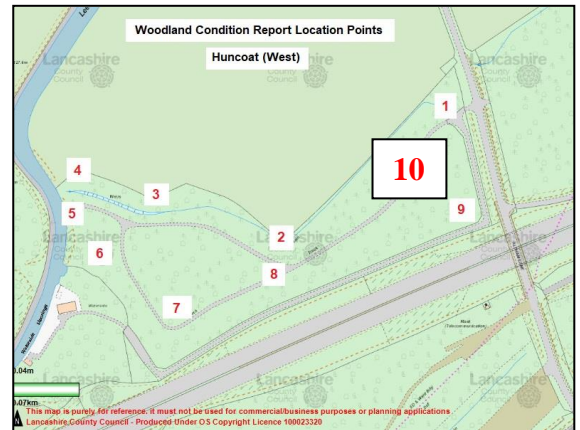
# Woodland Condition Assessment for Huncoat No 1 (West), Hyndburn by John Lamb, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, May 2019

## 10. GPS: SD (77576 31572, 152m asl).

Two photos taken stood on an almost indiscernible ride next to a three-stemmed Alder with a rose at its base, looking along the track approx. north-east and south-west.

**Canopy** dominated by: Alder and birch.

**Understorey:** Hazel, Hawthorn, Bird Cherry, rose and willow.



**Field layer** locally dominated by: Rough Meadow-grass, Tufted Hair-grass, Nettle, Enchanter's-nightshade, Bramble and Reed Canary-grass. Other flora included Creeping Buttercup and Broad Buckler-fern.



Left: Stop 10, looking approx. north-east.



Right: Stop 10, looking approx. south-west.

### **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.