

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric -Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology

July 2024 (v1.0.2)

Instructions

The method for assessing habitat condition is split into three main steps, all of which are outlined in detail below:

STEP 1: Considerations before assessing condition

STEP 2: Choosing the right condition sheet

STEP 3: Using condition sheets

Step 1: Considerations before assessing condition

The following points must be considered **before** undertaking a condition assessment:

- Condition assessments must be undertaken by a competent person (hereafter referred to as assessors), as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. They should be undertaken at the optimum time of year for the assessed habitat(s).
- Assessors must have access to condition sheets (see **Tabs 1-25**) and the survey cover sheet during the survey (see **SURVEY COVER SHEET** tab). These may be either digital or hard copies.
- The habitat type of the parcel(s) to be assessed must be determined before consideration can be given to its condition as this enables the assessor to select the correct condition sheet (see **HABITAT DEFINITIONS** tab). Most (but not all) biodiversity metric terrestrial habitat types are equivalent to Level 4 in UKHab, therefore some metric habitats encompass UKHab Level 5 sub-divisions. When classifying a habitat, the assessor should classify and record it to the most accurate and appropriate level. Although a Level 5, or equivalent habitat may need converting to a metric habitat type when using the metric, when assessing its condition the most accurate description should be used. Using professional judgement, this may include the Level 5 UKHab description as well as the Level 4 description, depending on the habitat type.
- The location and extent of the habitat parcel(s) to be assessed must be mapped, either on digital or paper maps. Following condition assessment, mapped habitat parcels should be split according to their condition.
- Each habitat parcel to be assessed must be assigned a unique reference ID.

Step 2: Choosing the right condition sheet

See **SELECTING CONDITION SHEET** tab which lists the habitat types found in the biodiversity metric and indicates which condition sheet should be used for each habitat type. Some condition sheets are unique to a single habitat type; others cover a range of habitat types within the same broad habitat category.

How to use: locate the relevant habitat type in the first column (Habitat type), then refer to the second column (Condition sheet) to determine which habitat condition sheet should be used to assess that particular habitat type. The third and fourth columns (Link to sheet) contain links which can be clicked on to navigate directly to the required condition sheet, for ease of navigation. Please note the following important points:

- Some habitats are allocated a fixed condition score in the biodiversity metric and do not require a condition assessment for the metric to be completed. For certain low and medium distinctiveness habitats there is a fixed option in the metric - *Condition Assessment N/A*; for very low distinctiveness habitats the fixed option is *N/A - Other*.
- Habitat descriptions in **bold** are Priority Habitats.

Step 3: Using condition sheets (Tabs 1-25)

The following instructions and points of clarification apply to most condition assessment sheets:

- Only choose one condition sheet per habitat type. Once the condition sheet has been chosen, the condition assessment can be carried out on relevant sheets A or B, which are the same except that for A - information for one habitat parcel can be recorded, whereas for B - information for up to 10 habitat parcels can be recorded. Each condition sheet is set to print at A4 and can be used as a paper form.
- Assess the habitat parcel against each condition assessment criterion, recording a 'pass' or 'fail' for each criterion assessed, unless otherwise directed by categories available on the sheet.
- If a habitat parcel is failing all criteria, it may be that the habitat type has been recorded incorrectly and the wrong condition sheet is being used. Assessors should refer to the habitat description links at the top of the condition sheet to ensure that the habitat type is correctly identified.
- If condition varies within a parcel during the assessment then start a new condition assessment. Split the original parcel to ensure that each individual parcel comprises an area of habitat of a consistent type and condition.
- Some condition assessment sheets have 'essential' criteria. Essential criteria must be passed to achieve a particular condition state.
- Some condition assessment sheets list species that are indicative of suboptimal condition status. These lists are not exhaustive. An assessor may exercise professional judgement and consider additional species within this category, such as those of geographical relevance. Report any high-risk non-native invasive species to the: [GB non-native species secretariat](#)
- Any relevant evidence for passing or failing criteria, or for a particular score, should be captured within the habitat survey notes and or by taking photographs. Photographs and notes should be referenced on the condition sheet.
- Record any survey limitations on the condition sheet, such as access restrictions or timing restrictions. If survey limitations prevent any criteria from being confidently and accurately assessed, adopt a precautionary approach when passing or failing criteria. Ensure any constraints are made clear in the 'Assessor's comments' box in the metric and associated reporting:
 - If a definitive pass or fail cannot be assigned through baseline survey, assume the criterion is passed.
 - When monitoring post-intervention habitat, fail criteria which cannot be assessed due to survey limitations.
- Once all applicable condition criteria have been assessed, assign a result of Good, Moderate or Poor condition following instructions provided within the relevant condition sheet.
 - The 'Fairly Good' or 'Fairly Poor' condition categories are intermediate categories for site-specific features of condition not captured in the standard condition assessment. They should only be applied through application of professional judgement, and sound ecological evidence must be provided to justify the use of these categories. If used, these categories can only be used to adjust the results of a standard metric condition assessment one condition category above or below its result. For example, you cannot go from a standard outcome of 'Poor' to an adjustment to 'Fairly Good' (nor from 'Good' to 'Fairly Poor').

The condition assessment survey is a good opportunity to identify any potential opportunities for habitat restoration or enhancement. Note potential opportunities for these within the condition sheet.

The **CA SUMMARY SHEET** can be filled out after the survey to summarise information about the condition assessments, including:

- The site or location of the condition assessment survey
- The number of condition sheets used
- The number and type of habitat parcels surveyed and the condition they achieved

Notes on Using Condition Sheets

Additional habitat-specific instructions for non-standard condition assessment sheets are provided below:

Using the 'Woodland' condition sheet

The Woodland condition sheet has been adapted from the 'Woodland Condition Survey' developed by the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG). All supplementary information needed to complete a Woodland condition assessment for the purpose of the biodiversity metric is provided or referenced within the Woodland condition sheet.

Instead of allocating a pass or fail to each criterion, each of the criteria within the woodland condition sheets are allocated a score. These scores are summed, and the total sum is used to assign a final condition score.

Using the 'Lakes' condition sheet

The Freshwater Biological Association's 'Habitat Naturalness Assessment' (HNA) is used to assess the condition of a lake. All supplementary information needed to complete a HNA is provided within the Lake condition sheet.

The average of the HNA scores is used to assign a final condition score.

Using the 'Coastal' and 'Intertidal' habitat condition sheets

For most coastal and intertidal habitats, instead of allocating a 'pass' or 'fail' to each criterion, each of the criteria within the condition sheets are allocated a score. These scores are summed, and the total sum is used to assign a final condition score.

Using the 'Hedgerow' condition sheet

The condition sheet for hedgerows has been adapted from the Defra Hedgerow Survey Handbook. All supplementary information needed to complete a hedgerow condition assessment is provided within the Hedgerow condition sheet.

Each condition criterion is assigned to one of five functional groups. The condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of criteria passed within these functional groups.

Habitat Definitions

Links to habitat classification systems used by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric are below:

[UK Habitat Classification System definitions](#)

[EUNIS habitat definitions](#)

[Water Framework Directive Lakes Typologies](#)

[Annex I habitats](#)

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
Cropland	Arable field margins cultivated annually	UKHab	Arable field margins cultivated annually	None
	<i>Arable field margins game bird mix</i>	UKHab	Arable field margins wild bird mix	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Arable field margins pollen and nectar	UKHab	Arable field margins pollen and nectar	None
	Arable field margins tussocky	UKHab	Arable field margins tussocky	None
	Cereal crops	UKHab	Cereal crops	None
	Winter stubble	UKHab	Winter stubble	None
	Horticulture	UKHab	Horticulture	None
	Intensive orchards	UKHab	Intensive orchards	None
	Non-cereal crops	UKHab	Non-cereal crops	None
	Temporary grass and clover leys	UKHab	Temporary grass and clover leys	None
Grassland	Traditional orchards	UKHab	Traditional orchards	None
	Bracken	UKHab	Bracken	None
	Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	UKHab	Floodplain wetland mosaic	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide
	Lowland calcareous grassland	UKHab	Lowland calcareous grassland	None
	Lowland dry acid grassland	UKHab	Lowland dry acid grassland	None
	Lowland meadows	UKHab	Lowland meadows	None
	Modified grassland	UKHab	Modified grassland	None
	Other lowland acid grassland	UKHab	Other lowland acid grassland	None

	Other neutral grassland	UKHab	Other neutral grassland	None
	Tall herb communities (H6430)	Use Habitats Directive Annex 1 definition	Tall herb communities (H6430)	None
	Upland acid grassland	UKHab	Upland acid grassland	None
	Upland calcareous grassland	UKHab	Upland calcareous grassland	None
	Upland hay meadows	UKHab	Upland hay meadows	None
Heathland and shrub	Blackthorn scrub	UKHab	Blackthorn scrub	None
	Bramble scrub	UKHab	Bramble scrub	None
	Gorse scrub	UKHab	Gorse scrub	None
	Hawthorn scrub	UKHab	Hawthorn scrub	None
	Hazel scrub	UKHab	Hazel scrub	None
	Lowland heathland	UKHab	Lowland heathland	None
	Mixed scrub	UKHab	Mixed scrub	None
	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	UKHab	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	None
	Rhododendron scrub	UKHab	Rhododendron scrub	None
	Willow scrub	UKHab	Willow scrub	None
	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	Habitats Directive Annex 1	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	All other sea buckthorn scrub should be recorded as 'Other sea buckthorn scrub'
	Other sea buckthorn scrub	UKHab	Other sea buckthorn scrub	None
Individual tree	Upland heathland	UKHab	Upland heathland	None
	Rural tree	Metric-specific	N/A	None
	Urban tree	Metric-specific	N/A	None
Lakes	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	UKHab	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	None
	Ornamental lake or pond	UKHab	Ornamental lakes or ponds	None
	High alkalinity lakes	Water Framework Directive (WFD) Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha

	Low alkalinity lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Marl lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Moderate alkalinity lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Peat lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Ponds (priority habitat)	UKHab	Ponds (priority habitat)	< 2ha
	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	UKHab	Pond (non-priority)	< 2ha
	Reservoirs	UKHab/WFD Lakes typology*	Reservoir	*Some larger reservoirs are covered by the WFD Lakes typology.
	<i>Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)</i>	UKHab*	Mediterranean temporary ponds (H3170)	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. *All temporary water bodies not meeting this definition should be recorded as the appropriate pond or lake habitat type.
Sparsely vegetated land	Calaminarian grasslands	UKHab	Calaminarian grasslands	None
	<i>Coastal sand dunes</i>	UKHab	Sand dunes	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Coastal vegetated shingle	UKHab	Coastal vegetated shingle	None
	<i>Ruderal/Ephemeral</i>	UKHab	Ruderal or ephemeral	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
	Tall forbs	UKHab	Tall forbs	None
	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	UKHab	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	None
	Limestone pavement	UKHab	Limestone pavement	None
	Maritime cliff and slopes	UKHab	Maritime cliff and slopes	None
	<i>Other inland rock and scree</i>	UKHab	Other inland rock	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
Urban	Allotments	UKHab	Allotments	None
	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	UKHab	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	None
	Bioswale	UKHab	Bioswale	None

	Biodiverse green roof	UKHab	Biodiverse green roof	None
	Built linear features	UKHab	Built linear features	None
	Cemeteries and churchyards	UKHab	Cemeteries and churchyards	None
	Developed land; sealed surface	UKHab	Developed land; sealed surface	None
	Biodiverse green roof	UKHab	Biodiverse green roof	None
	Facade-bound green wall	UKHab	Facade-bound green wall	None
	<i>Ground based green wall</i>	UKHab	Ground-based green wall	None
	Ground level planters	UKHab	Ground level planters	None
	Intensive green roof	UKHab	Intensive green roof	None
	Introduced shrub	UKHab	Introduced shrub	None
	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	UKHab	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	None
	Other green roof	UKHab	Other green roof	None
	Rain garden	UKHab	Rain garden	None
	<i>Actively worked sand pit quarry or open cast mine</i>	UKHab	Active sand pit or quarry or open cast mine	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. This classification relates to non-vegetated working areas only.
	Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)	UKHab	Sustainable drainage system	None
	Unvegetated garden	UKHab	Unvegetated garden	None
	Vacant or derelict land	UKHab	Vacant or derelict land	None
	Bare ground	UKHab	Bare ground	None
	Vegetated garden	UKHab	Vegetated garden	None
Wetland	Blanket bog	UKHab	Blanket bog	None
	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)	UKHab	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)	None
	<i>Fens (upland and lowland)</i>	UKHab	Lowland fens; Upland flushes fens and swamps; Other wetlands	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
	Lowland raised bog	UKHab	Lowland raised bog	None

	<i>Wetland – Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)</i>	EUNIS	Oceanic valley bog	None
	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	UKHab	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	None
	Reedbeds	UKHab	Reedbeds	None
	<i>Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)</i>	UKHab	Transition mires and quaking bogs - lowland (H7140) Transition mires and quaking bogs - upland (H7140)	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
Woodland and forest	Felled	UKHab	Felled	None
	Lowland beech and yew woodland	UKHab	Lowland beech and yew woodland	None
	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	UKHab	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	None
	Native pine woodlands	UKHab	Native pine woodlands	None
	Other coniferous woodland	UKHab	Other coniferous woodland	None
	Other Scot's pine woodland	UKHab	Other Scot's pine woodland	None
	<i>Other woodland; broadleaved</i>	UKHab	Other broadleaved woodland	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
	Other woodland; mixed	UKHab	Other woodland; mixed	None
	Upland birchwoods	UKHab	Upland birchwoods	None
	Upland mixed ashwoods	UKHab	Upland mixed ashwoods	None
	Upland oakwood	UKHab	Upland oakwood	None
	Wet woodland	UKHab	Wet woodland	None
	Wood-pasture and parkland	UKHab	Wood-pasture and parkland	None
Coastal lagoons	<i>Coastal lagoons</i>	EUNIS	Saline coastal lagoons	None
Coastal saltmarsh	<i>Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</i>	EUNIS	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	None
	<i>Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
Rocky shore	High energy littoral rock	EUNIS	High energy littoral rock	None
	<i>High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	High energy littoral rock	None
	Moderate energy littoral rock	EUNIS	Moderate energy littoral rock	None
	<i>Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Moderate energy littoral rock	None

	Low energy littoral rock	EUNIS	Low energy littoral rock	None
	<i>Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Low energy littoral rock	None
	Features of littoral rock	EUNIS	Features of littoral rock	None
	<i>Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Features of littoral rock	None
Intertidal sediment	Littoral coarse sediment	EUNIS	Littoral coarse sediment	None
	<i>Littoral sand</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sand and muddy sand	None
	<i>Littoral muddy sand</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sand and muddy sand	None
	Littoral mud	EUNIS	Littoral mud	None
	Littoral mixed sediments	EUNIS	Littoral mixed sediments	None
	<i>Littoral seagrass</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms	None
	<i>Littoral seagrass on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms	None
	<i>Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species	Littoral biogenic reefs	None
	<i>Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species	Littoral biogenic reefs	None
	Features of littoral sediment	EUNIS	Features of littoral sediment	None
	<i>Artificial littoral coarse sediment</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral muddy sand</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral mud</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral sand</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None

	<i>Artificial littoral mixed sediments</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral seagrass</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral biogenic reefs</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
Intertidal hard structures	<i>Artificial hard structures</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial features of hard structures</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
Hedgerows and Lines of trees	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a5 70 h2a5 191 h2a5 70 191
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow with trees</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a5 190
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a5 190 70 h2a5 190 191 h2a5 190 70 191
	<i>Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a 190 70 h2a 190 191 h2a 190 70 191
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	UKHab code: h2a5
	<i>Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a 70 h2a 191 h2a 70 191
	<i>Native hedgerow with trees</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a 190
	<i>Ecologically valuable line of trees</i>	UKHab	Ecologically valuable line of trees	Combined UKHab codes: w~ 1175

	<i>Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Ecologically valuable line of trees	Combined UKHab codes: w~ 1175 70 w~ 1175 191 w~ 1175 70 191
	Native hedgerow	UKHab	Native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a h2a6
	Line of trees	UKHab	Line of trees	UKHab code: w~ 1174
	<i>Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Line of trees	Combined UKHab codes: w~ 1174 70 w~ 1174 191 w~ 1174 70191
	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	UKHab	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	UKHab code: h2b
Watercourse	Priority habitat	UKHab	Rivers (priority habitat)	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
	Other rivers and streams	UKHab	Other rivers and streams	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
	Ditches	Metric-specific	Ditch	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
	Canals	UKHab	Canals	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
	Culvert	N/A	N/A	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
	Watercourse footprint	Metric-specific	N/A	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Tips on using the table below:

Italics - habitat name in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric does not correspond exactly to that used in s

Bold - definition is specific to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

Survey Cover Sheet			
Survey date/s	07/11/2024	Site name or location	Rogers Lane, Findon
Weather conditions	Dry and bright	Project or development name	Unit 19,
Surveyor name	Jack Kellett	On-site or off-site	Offsite
Survey reference	Baseline	Reason for assessment (if not baseline condition survey)	
Notes			
Offsite baseline to Unit 19, Bolney			

Condition Sheet: DITCH Habitat Type			
Habitat Type			
Watercourses - Ditches			
Habitat Description			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name	
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.		
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a guide >10 species of emergent, floating or submerged plants present in a 20 m ditch length.		
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. (these are signs of eutrophication).		
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than 75% of the ditch.		
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with examples of damage including: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, or any other damaging management activities.		
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum summer depth of approximately 50 cm in minor ditches and 1 m in main drains.		
G	Less than 10% of the ditch is heavily shaded.		
H	There is an absence of non-native plant and animal species ¹ .		
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
Passes 8 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – This includes any species listed on the Water Framework Directive UKTAG GB High Impact Species List: Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG (2021) *Classification of aquatic alien species according to their level of impact* [online]. Available from:

[UKTAG classification of alien species working paper v8.pdf \(wfduk.org\)](#)

- Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern *Azolla filiculoides*, Australian swamp stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*, parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica* and giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* (on the bank).
- Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*, killer shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*, demon shrimp *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes*, and carp *Cyprinus carpio*.

[Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab](#)

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types			
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland Grassland - Lowland meadows Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland Grassland - Other neutral grassland Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.] Grassland - Upland acid grassland Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland Grassland - Upland hay meadows Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite: Unit 19, Bolney Grange Business Park, Bolney, Haywards Heath, RH17 5PB. Offsite: Field to the east of Roger's Lane, Findon, BN14 0RF	Survey date and Surveyor name	07/11/2024 Jack Kellett
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	TQ120079	Habitat parcel reference	OF1
Habitat Description			
Other neutral grassland field.			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description).¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	
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	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	Yes	
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	Yes	
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition³ 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 species⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	

Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count).	No	
Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.			
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		3	
Condition Assessment Result	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)	x	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Notes			
Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description. Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover. Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i>, broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>, common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>, creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i>, white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site. Footnote 4 – 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, by applying professional judgement. Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

[Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab](#)

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub			
Habitat Description			
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		
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name	
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).		
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.		
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.		
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.		
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.		
		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)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnotes			
Footnote 1 – Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description.			
Footnote 2 – Native woody species as defined and listed in the Hedgerow Survey Handbook: DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK</i> . 2nd ed. [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).			
Footnote 3 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran species. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk) and Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)			
Footnote 4 – 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 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			
Footnote 6 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type may include: non-native conifers, tree-of-heaven <i>Alianthus altissima</i> , holm oak <i>Quercus ilex</i> , European turkey oak <i>Quercus cerris</i> , cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> , snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp., shallon <i>Gaultheria shallon</i> , American skunk cabbage <i>Lysichiton americanus</i> , buddleia <i>Buddleja</i> spp., cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp., Spanish bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> and hybrid bluebells <i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.			

[Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab](#)

Version
Version 1.0.0
Version 1.0.1

Changes made

Initial draft statutory version

Individual trees tab – added wording to say *‘Please see the separate Line of Trees condition sheet for rural trees. You should on assessment and record that habitat type in rural locations.’*

Individual trees tab – Changed *‘Canopies must overlap continuously’* to *‘Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously’*

Coastal tab – wording added to the list of ‘General coastal species indicative of suboptimal condition’ to say *‘sea buckthorn (or*

Scrub tab – wording added to Criterion A to say sea buckthorn can be 100% cover *‘(only in its restricted native range)’*

Instructions tab – changed date at top of sheet from ‘November 2023’ to ‘February 2024’

Habitat definitions tab – removed reference to ‘see Technical Annex 2’ from the table. Cells C11, C131 – C140.

Hedgerow tab – ‘See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 and UK Habitat Classification’ removed, leaving just tl

Intertidal biogenic reefs tab – changed ‘see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2’ to say ‘see tab G1 of the Statu

Intertidal hard structures tab – changed ‘see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2’ to say ‘see tab G1 of the Stat

Intertidal seagrass tab– changed ‘see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2’ to say ‘see tab G1 of the Statutory B

Intertidal sediment tab– changed ‘see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2’ to say ‘see tab G1 of the Statutory E

Pond tab– removed ‘For ponds (non-priority) – see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2.’

Habitat Definitions tab – cell E48 – removed reference to ‘<2ha’ for Ornamental lake or pond.

Habitat Definitions tab – cell E54, E55 – changed ‘<=2ha’, from Ponds (priority) and Ponds (non-priority) to ‘<2ha’.

Habitat Definitions tab - row 55 – removed references to Ponds (non-priority) having a definition different to that in UKHab.

Date released
29th November 2023
12th February 2024