

Instructions

The method for assessing habitat condition is split into three main steps, all of which are outli

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 ass
- Assessors must have access to condition sheets (see **Tabs 1-25**) and the survey cover sheet du
- The habitat type of the parcel(s) to be assessed must be determined before consideration can be **HABITAT DEFINITIONS** tab). Most (but not all) biodiversity metric terrestrial habitat types are equival
When classifying a habitat, the assessor should classify and record it to the most accurate and appro
when using the metric, when assessing its condition the most accurate description should be used. U
description, depending on the habitat type.
- The location and extent of the habitat parcel(s) to be assessed must be mapped, either on digital
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 metri
are unique to a single habitat type; others cover a range of habitat types within the same broad habita

How to use: locate the relevant habitat type in the first column (Habitat type), then refer to the second

- Some habitats are allocated a fixed condition score in the biodiversity metric and do not require a c
- 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
A - information for one habitat parcel can be recorded, whereas for B - information for up to 10 habitat
- Assess the habitat parcel against each condition assessment criterion, recording a 'pass' or 'fail' fo
- If a habitat parcel is failing all criteria, it may be that the habitat type has been recorded incorrectly
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. Sp
type and condition.
- Some condition assessment sheets have 'essential' criteria. Essential criteria must be passed to ac

f) Some condition assessment sheets list species that are indicative of suboptimal condition status. The additional species within this category, such as those of geographical relevance. Report any high-risk [GB non-native species secretariat](#)

g) Any relevant evidence for passing or failing criteria, or for a particular score, should be captured and referenced on the condition sheet.

h) Record any survey limitations on the condition sheet, such as access restrictions or timing restrictions. Take a precautionary approach when passing or failing criteria. Ensure any constraints are made clear in the

i. If a definitive pass or fail cannot be assigned through baseline survey, assume the criterion is pass

ii. When monitoring post-intervention habitat, fail criteria which cannot be assessed due to survey

i) Once all applicable condition criteria have been assessed, assign a result of Good, Moderate or Poor

i. The 'Fairly Good' or 'Fairly Poor' condition categories are intermediate categories for site-specific assessment applied through application of professional judgement, and sound ecological evidence must be provided. For results of a standard metric condition assessment one condition category above or below its result. For example, from 'Good' to 'Fairly Poor').

The condition assessment survey is a good opportunity to identify any potential opportunities for habitat

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

- 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 Forestry Commission. To complete a Woodland condition assessment for the purpose of the biodiversity metric is provided or recorded

Instead of allocating a pass or fail to each criterion, each of the criteria within the woodland condition sheet is used to calculate a condition score.

Using the 'Lakes' condition sheet

The Freshwater Biological Association's 'Habitat Naturalness Assessment' (HNA) is used to assess the condition of 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 is used to calculate a condition score. The average of the condition scores 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 the Hedgerow condition sheet.

Each condition criterion is assigned to one of five functional groups. The condition of a hedgerow is a:

Habitat Definitions

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

[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
Cropland	Arable field margins cultivated annually	UKHab	Arable field margins cultivated annually
	<i>Arable field margins game bird mix</i>	UKHab	Arable field margins wild bird mix
	Arable field margins pollen and nectar	UKHab	Arable field margins pollen and nectar
	Arable field margins tussocky	UKHab	Arable field margins tussocky
	Cereal crops	UKHab	Cereal crops
	Winter stubble	UKHab	Winter stubble
	Horticulture	UKHab	Horticulture
	Intensive orchards	UKHab	Intensive orchards
	Non-cereal crops	UKHab	Non-cereal crops
	Temporary grass and clover leys	UKHab	Temporary grass and clover leys
Grassland	Traditional orchards	UKHab	Traditional orchards
	Bracken	UKHab	Bracken
	Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	UKHab	Floodplain wetland mosaic
	Lowland calcareous grassland	UKHab	Lowland calcareous grassland
	Lowland dry acid grassland	UKHab	Lowland dry acid grassland
	Lowland meadows	UKHab	Lowland meadows
	Modified grassland	UKHab	Modified grassland
	Other lowland acid grassland	UKHab	Other lowland acid grassland

	Other neutral grassland	UKHab	Other neutral grassland
	Tall herb communities (H6430)	Use Habitats Directive Annex 1 definition	Tall herb communities (H6430)
	Upland acid grassland	UKHab	Upland acid grassland
	Upland calcareous grassland	UKHab	Upland calcareous grassland
	Upland hay meadows	UKHab	Upland hay meadows
Heathland and shrub	Blackthorn scrub	UKHab	Blackthorn scrub
	Bramble scrub	UKHab	Bramble scrub
	Gorse scrub	UKHab	Gorse scrub
	Hawthorn scrub	UKHab	Hawthorn scrub
	Hazel scrub	UKHab	Hazel scrub
	Lowland heathland	UKHab	Lowland heathland
	Mixed scrub	UKHab	Mixed scrub
	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	UKHab	Mountain heaths and willow scrub
	Rhododendron scrub	UKHab	Rhododendron scrub
	Willow scrub	UKHab	Willow scrub
	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	Habitats Directive Annex 1	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)
	Other sea buckthorn scrub	UKHab	Other sea buckthorn scrub
Individual tree	Rural tree	Metric-specific	N/A
	Urban tree	Metric-specific	N/A
Lakes	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	UKHab	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies
	Ornamental lake or pond	UKHab	Ornamental lakes or ponds
	High alkalinity lakes	Water Framework Directive (WFD) Lakes typology	N/A

	Low alkalinity lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A
	Marl lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A
	Moderate alkalinity lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A
	Peat lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A
	Ponds (priority habitat)	UKHab	Ponds (priority habitat)
	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	UKHab	Pond (non-priority)
	Reservoirs	UKHab/WFD Lakes typology*	Reservoir
	<i>Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)</i>	UKHab*	Mediterranean temporary ponds (H3170)
Sparsely vegetated land	Calaminarian grasslands	UKHab	Calaminarian grasslands
	<i>Coastal sand dunes</i>	UKHab	Sand dunes
	Coastal vegetated shingle	UKHab	Coastal vegetated shingle
	<i>Ruderal/Ephemeral</i>	UKHab	Ruderal or ephemeral
	Tall forbs	UKHab	Tall forbs
	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	UKHab	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
	Limestone pavement	UKHab	Limestone pavement
	Maritime cliff and slopes	UKHab	Maritime cliff and slopes
	<i>Other inland rock and scree</i>	UKHab	Other inland rock
Urban	Allotments	UKHab	Allotments
	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	UKHab	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
	Bioswale	UKHab	Bioswale
	Biodiverse green roof	UKHab	Biodiverse green roof

	Built linear features	UKHab	Built linear features
	Cemeteries and churchyards	UKHab	Cemeteries and churchyards
	Developed land; sealed surface	UKHab	Developed land; sealed surface
	Biodiverse green roof	UKHab	Biodiverse green roof
	Facade-bound green wall	UKHab	Facade-bound green wall
	<i>Ground based green wall</i>	UKHab	Ground-based green wall
	Ground level planters	UKHab	Ground level planters
	Intensive green roof	UKHab	Intensive green roof
	Introduced shrub	UKHab	Introduced shrub
	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	UKHab	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
	Other green roof	UKHab	Other green roof
	Rain garden	UKHab	Rain garden
	<i>Actively worked sand pit quarry or open cast mine</i>	UKHab	Active sand pit or quarry or open cast mine
	Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)	UKHab	Sustainable drainage system
	Unvegetated garden	UKHab	Unvegetated garden
	Vacant or derelict land	UKHab	Vacant or derelict land
	Bare ground	UKHab	Bare ground
	Vegetated garden	UKHab	Vegetated garden
Wetland	Blanket bog	UKHab	Blanket bog
	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)	UKHab	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)
	<i>Fens (upland and lowland)</i>	UKHab	Lowland fens; Upland flushes fens and swamps; Other wetlands
	Lowland raised bog	UKHab	Lowland raised bog
	<i>Wetland – Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)</i>	EUNIS	Oceanic valley bog

	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	UKHab	Purple moor grass and rush pastures
	Reedbeds	UKHab	Reedbeds
	<i>Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)</i>	UKHab	Transition mires and quaking bogs - lowland (H7140) Transition mires and quaking bogs - upland (H7140)
Woodland and forest	Felled	UKHab	Felled
	Lowland beech and yew woodland	UKHab	Lowland beech and yew woodland
	Lowland mixed	UKHab	Lowland mixed
	Native pine woodlands	UKHab	Native pine woodlands
	Other coniferous	UKHab	Other coniferous
	Other Scot's pine	UKHab	Other Scot's pine
	<i>Other woodland;</i>	UKHab	Other broadleaved
	Other woodland; mixed	UKHab	Other woodland;
	Upland birchwoods	UKHab	Upland birchwoods
	Upland mixed	UKHab	Upland mixed
	Upland oakwood	UKHab	Upland oakwood
	Wet woodland	UKHab	Wet woodland
	Wood-pasture and	UKHab	Wood-pasture and
Coastal lagoons	<i>Coastal lagoons</i>	EUNIS	Saline coastal lagoons
Coastal saltmarsh	<i>Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</i>	EUNIS	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
	<i>Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
Rocky shore	High energy littoral rock	EUNIS	High energy littoral
	<i>High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	High energy littoral rock
	Moderate energy littoral	EUNIS	Moderate energy
	<i>Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Moderate energy littoral rock
	Low energy littoral rock	EUNIS	Low energy littoral
	<i>Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Low energy littoral rock
	Features of littoral rock	EUNIS	Features of littoral rock
	<i>Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Features of littoral rock
Intertidal sediment	Littoral coarse sediment	EUNIS	Littoral coarse
	<i>Littoral sand</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sand and
	<i>Littoral muddy sand</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sand and

	Littoral mud	EUNIS	Littoral mud
	Littoral mixed sediments	EUNIS	Littoral mixed
	<i>Littoral seagrass</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms
	<i>Littoral seagrass on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms
	<i>Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species	Littoral biogenic reefs
	<i>Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species	Littoral biogenic reefs
	Features of littoral	EUNIS	Features of littoral
	<i>Artificial littoral coarse sediment</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
	<i>Artificial littoral muddy sand</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
	<i>Artificial littoral mud</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
	<i>Artificial littoral sand</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
	<i>Artificial littoral mixed sediments</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
	<i>Artificial littoral seagrass</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
	<i>Artificial littoral biogenic reefs</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
Intertidal hard structures	<i>Artificial hard structures</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	

	<i>Artificial features of hard structures</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
	<i>Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric	
Hedgerows and Lines of trees	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow
	<i>Species-rich native</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native
	<i>Species-rich native</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native
	<i>Native hedgerow with</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow
	<i>Species-rich native</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native
	<i>Native hedgerow -</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow
	<i>Native hedgerow with</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow
	<i>Ecologically valuable</i>	UKHab	Ecologically valuable
	<i>Ecologically valuable</i>	UKHab	Ecologically valuable
	<i>Native hedgerow</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow
	<i>Line of trees</i>	UKHab	Line of trees
	<i>Line of trees -</i>	UKHab	Line of trees
	<i>Non-native and ornamental hedgerow</i>	UKHab	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
Watercourse	Priority habitat	UKHab	Rivers (priority habitat)
	Other rivers and	UKHab	Other rivers and
	Ditches	Metric-specific	Ditch
	Canals	UKHab	Canals
	Culvert	N/A	N/A
	Watercourse footprint	Metric-specific	N/A

are below:

Other definition or notes
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide
None
None
None
None
None

[illegible]

≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
< 2ha
< 2ha
*Some larger reservoirs are covered by the WFD Lakes typology.
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.
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
None
The metric habitat type
None
None
None
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
None
None
None
None

None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
This classification relates to non-vegetated working areas only.
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
None
None

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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.

The table below sets out which condition sheet to use for each habitat

Habitat type (Habitats in bold are Priority Habitats)
Cropland - Arable field margins cultivated annually
Cropland - Arable field margins game bird mix
Cropland - Arable field margins pollen and nectar
Cropland - Arable field margins tussocky
Cropland - Cereal crops
Cropland - Winter stubble
Cropland – Horticulture
Cropland - Intensive orchards
Cropland - Non-cereal crops
Cropland - Temporary grass and clover leys
Grassland - Bracken
Grassland - Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland
Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland
Grassland - Lowland meadows
Grassland - Modified grassland
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland
Grassland - Other neutral grassland
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430)
Grassland - Traditional orchards
Grassland - Upland acid grassland
Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland
Grassland - Upland hay meadows
B
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub
Heathland and shrub - Bramble scrub
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub
Heathland and shrub - Lowland heathland
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub
Heathland and shrub - Mountain heaths and willow scrub
Heathland and shrub - Rhododendron scrub
Heathland and shrub – Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)
Heathland and shrub – Other sea buckthorn scrub
Heathland and shrub - Upland heathland
Heathland and shrub – Willow scrub

Lakes - Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies
Lakes - High alkalinity lakes
Lakes - Low alkalinity lakes
Lakes - Marl lakes
Lakes - Moderate alkalinity lakes
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond
Lakes - Peat lakes
Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)
Lakes - Reservoirs
Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)
Bro
Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grasslands
Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal sand dunes
Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal vegetated shingle
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral
Sparsely vegetated land – Tall forbs
Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree
Sparsely vegetated land - Limestone pavement
Sparsely vegetated land - Maritime cliff and slopes
Sparsely vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree
Urban - Allotments
Urban - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
Urban - Bioswale
Urban - Biodiverse green roof
Urban - Built linear features
Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards
Urban - Developed land; sealed surface
Urban - Facade-bound green wall
Urban - Ground based green wall
Urban - Ground level planters
Urban - Intensive green roof
Urban - Introduced shrub
Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Urban - Other green roof
Urban - Rain garden
Urban - Actively worked sand pit, quarry or open cast mine
Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)
Urban - Unvegetated garden
Urban – Vacant or derelict land
Urban – Bare ground
Urban - Vegetated garden
Wetland - Blanket bog
Wetland - Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)
Wetland - Fens (upland and lowland)
Wetland - Lowland raised bog
Wetland – Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)

Wetland - Purple moor grass and rush pastures
Wetland – Reedbeds
Wetland - Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)
Woodland and forest - Felled
Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland
Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands
Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland
Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed
Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods
Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods
Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood
Woodland and forest - Wet woodland
Woodland and forest - Wood-pasture and parkland
Coastal lagoons - Coastal lagoons
Coastal saltmarsh - Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
Coastal saltmarsh - Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial features of hard structures
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures with
Intertidal sediment - Littoral coarse sediment
Intertidal sediment - Littoral sand
Intertidal sediment - Littoral muddy sand
Intertidal sediment - Littoral mud
Intertidal sediment - Littoral mixed sediments
Intertidal sediment - Features of littoral sediment
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral coarse sediment
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral mixed sediments
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral mud
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral muddy sand
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral sand
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass - on peat, clay or chalk
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral seagrass
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs – Sabellaria
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral biogenic reefs
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock
Rocky shore - Moderate energy littoral rock
Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock
Rocky shore - Features of littoral rock

Rocky Shore - Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
Rocky shore - Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or
Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
Individual trees – Rural tree
Individual trees – Urban tree
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Line of trees
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Line of trees - associated with bank
Hedgerows and lines of trees – Ecologically valuable line of trees
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Ecologically valuable line of trees -
Hedgerows and lines of trees – Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow - associated
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow with trees
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow -
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow
Watercourse – Ditches
Watercourse – Culvert
Watercourse – Priority habitat, Other rivers and streams, Canals

Instructions:

at type. Priority Habitats (as defined in NERC Section 41) are indicated in bold text

Condition sheet	Link to sheet (1 habitat parcel)
Area habitats	
Broad habitat type: Cropland	
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Broad habitat type: Grassland	
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for details	Tab 23A
Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness	Tab 6A
Grassland Low distinctiveness	Tab 5A
Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness	Tab 6A
Orchard	Tab 17A
Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness	Tab 6A
Broad habitat type: Heathland and scrub	
Scrub	Tab 20A
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Scrub	Tab 20A
Heathland	Tab 7A
Scrub	Tab 20A
Use Heathland condition sheet for Mountain heaths OR	Tab 7A
Scrub condition sheet for Willow scrub	Tab 20A
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Scrub	Tab 20A
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Heathland	Tab 7A
Scrub	Tab 20A

Broad habitat type: Lakes	
Lakes	Tab 14A
Lakes OR	Tab 14A
Ponds	Tab 18A
Lakes	Tab 14A
Ponds	Tab 18A
Lakes	Tab 14A
Use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes OR	Tab 14A
Pond condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools	Tab 18A
Broad habitat type: Sparsely vegetated land	
Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness	Tab 6A
Coastal	Tab 1A
Urban	Tab 22A
Sparsely vegetated land	Tab 21A
Limestone pavement	Tab 15A
Coastal	Tab 1A
Sparsely vegetated land	Tab 21A
Broad habitat type: Urban	
Urban	Tab 22A
N/A - Other	N/A
Urban	Tab 22A
N/A - Other	N/A
Use Urban condition sheet as default.	Tab 22A
N/A - Other	N/A
Urban	Tab 22A
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban	Tab 22A
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban	Tab 22A
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban	Tab 22A
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban	Tab 22A
N/A - Other	N/A
Urban	Tab 22A
Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Broad habitat type: Wetland	
Wetland	Tab 23A

Broad habitat type: Woodland	
No assessment required - condition fixed at Good	N/A
Woodland	Tab 24A
Wood-pasture and parkland	Tab 25A
Broad habitat type: Coastal lagoons	
Coastal lagoons	Tab 2A
Broad habitat type: Coastal saltmarsh	
Coastal saltmarsh	Tab 3A
Broad habitat type: Intertidal hard structures	
Intertidal hard structures	Tab 11A
Broad habitat type: Intertidal sediment	
Intertidal sediment	Tab 13A
Intertidal seagrass	Tab 12A
Intertidal biogenic reefs	Tab 10A
Broad habitat type: Rocky shore	
Rocky shore	Tab 10A

Rocky shore	Tab 19A
Broad habitat type: Individual trees	
Individual trees	Tab 9A
Hedgerows and Lines of trees habitats	
Broad habitat type: Hedgerows and lines of trees	
Line of trees	Tab 16A
No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor	N/A
Hedgerow	Tab 8A
Watercourse habitats	
Broad habitat type: Watercourse	
Ditches	Tab 4A
No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor	N/A
River Condition Assessment required - not included within	N/A

Link to sheet (up to 10 habitat parcels)
N/A
N/A
Tab 23B
Tab 6B
Tab 5B
Tab 6B
Tab 17B
Tab 6B
Tab 20B
N/A
Tab 20B
Tab 7B
Tab 20B
Tab 7B
Tab 20B
N/A
Tab 20B
N/A
Tab 7B
Tab 20B

Tab 14B
Tab 14B
Tab 18B
Tab 14B
Tab 18B
Tab 14B
Tab 18B
Tab 6B
Tab 1B
Tab 22B
Tab 21B
Tab 15B
Tab 1B
Tab 21B
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 23B

N/A
Tab 24B
Tab 25B
Tab 2B
Tab 3B
Tab 11B
Tab 13B
Tab 12B
Tab 10B
Tab 10B

Tab 19B
Tab 9B
Tab 16B
N/A
Tab 8B
Tab 4B
N/A
N/A

Survey Cover Sheet			
Survey date/s	17.10.2025	Site name or location	F158 The Coach House, Knowsley View, Knowsley Road, Ainsworth, Bolton, BL2 5PT
Weather conditions		Project or development name	F158 The Coach House
Surveyor name	Julie Wickington	On-site or off-site	On-site
Survey reference		Reason for assessment (if not baseline condition survey)	
Notes			

Site or location	Condition sheets	Total number of condition sheets used, or habitat parcels	Number of parcels of each condition achieved					Notes
			Good	Fairly Good	Moderate	Fairly Poor	Poor	
	Coastal							
	Coastal lagoons							
	Coastal saltmarsh							
	Ditches							
	Grassland low distinctiveness							
	Grassland medium, high, very high distinctiveness							
	Heathland							

	Hedgerow							
	Individual trees							
	Intertidal biogenic reefs							
	Intertidal hard structures							
	Intertidal seagrass							
	Intertidal sediment							
	Lakes							

	Limestone pavement							
	Line of trees							
	Orchard							
	Ponds							
	Rocky shore							
	Scrub							
	Sparsely vegetated land							

	Urban							
	Wetland							
	Woodland							
	Wood-pasture and parkland							

Condition Sheet: COASTAL Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types****Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal sand dunes****Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal vegetated shingle****Sparsely vegetated land - Maritime cliff and slopes****Habitat Description**[See UKHab](#)

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)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its specific habitat type, with characteristic indicator species present in the typical successional stages, transitions and or mosaics, at sufficient cover and frequency to be a good example. ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.	
B	Vegetation structure (sward height variation, zonation) is varied and not	
C	Naturally open ground or bare surfaces are present as part of a	
D	Coastal processes needed to support the habitat are functional and are	
E	The landform reflects the interaction of coastal processes and geology,	

F	There is an absence of invasive non-native species² (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA³). Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition⁴ 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.	
G	Any scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) present accounts for less than 10% of the area within the habitat or bare substrate matrix. Blocks of scrub or woodland, which might be desirable in their own right should be classified and mapped separately.	
H	Water quality and quantity (for example, seasonal fluctuations in dune	
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		
Number of criteria passed		
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/√
Passes 7 or 8 criteria including essential criterion A	Good (3)	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria; OR Passes 7 criteria excluding essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	
Passes 4 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 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the site, assess accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into the surrounding habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 - General coastal species indicative of suboptimal condition: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium pinnatifidum*, *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, bramble, white willow *Salix alba* hybrid *Salix rhamnoides* (only outside its restricted native range) and non-native garden plants.

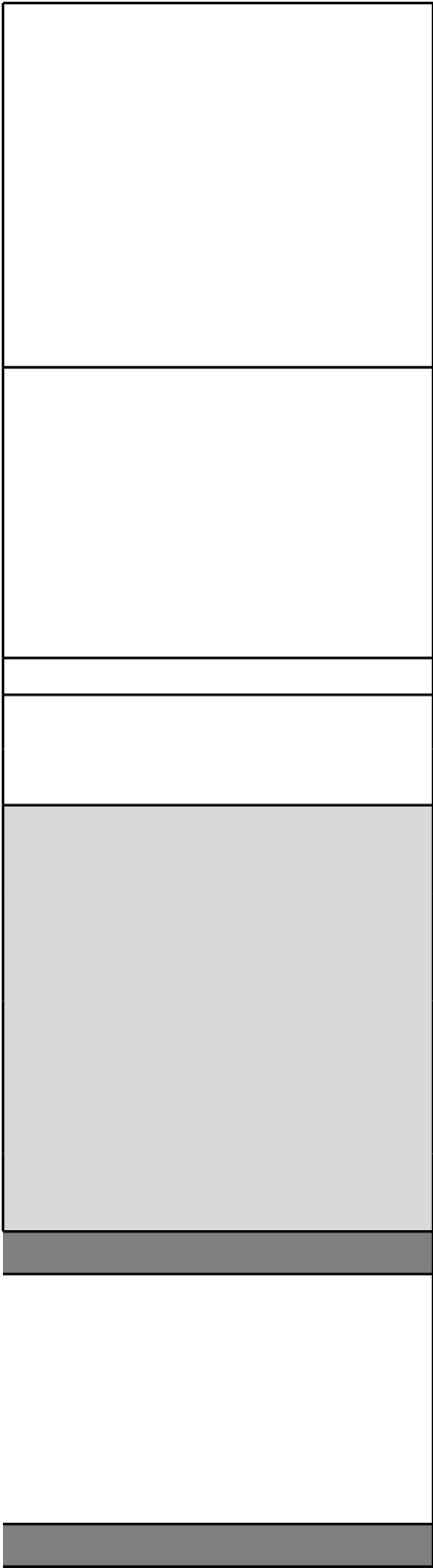
Grassland species indicative of suboptimal condition: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curly-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

Heathland species indicative of suboptimal condition: bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

There may be additional relevant species local to the region and/or site.

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

[illegible]



the habitat, split into parcels
adjacent habitat, using

Cirsium vulgare, curled dock
hybrids, sea buckthorn *Hippophae*

curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-
Plantago major and cow parsley

Condition Sheet: COASTAL Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types**

Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal sand dunes

Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal vegetated shingle

Sparsely vegetated land - Maritime cliff and slopes

Habitat Description[See UKHab](#)

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)		
		Habitat parcel reference		
		Grid reference		
Condition Assessment Criteria				
		Criterion passed (Yes or N		
A	The parcel represents a good example of its specific habitat type, with			
B	Vegetation structure (sward height variation, zonation) is varied and not			
C	Naturally open ground or bare surfaces are present as part of a sequence of colonisation and succession.			
D	Coastal processes needed to support the habitat are functional and are not modified by hard engineering or other forms of negative intervention.			
E	The landform reflects the interaction of coastal processes and geology, and there is a varied topography present supporting the relevant range of habitat types.			
F	There is an absence of invasive non-native species ² (as listed on Schedule			

G	Any scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) present accounts for less than 10% of the area within the habitat or bare substrate matrix. Blocks of scrub or woodland, which might be desirable in their own right should be classified and mapped separately.			
H	Water quality and quantity (for example, seasonal fluctuations in dune			
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)				
Number of criteria passed				
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/ ✓		
Passes 7 or 8 criteria including essential criterion	Good (3)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria;	Moderate (2)			
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)			
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score				

Notes

Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description.

Footnote 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the site, assess the risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 - General coastal species indicative of suboptimal condition: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, bramble, white willow *Salix alba* hybrids, sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* (only outside the habitat).

Grassland species indicative of suboptimal condition: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

Heathland species indicative of suboptimal condition: bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

There may be additional relevant species local to the region and/or site.



he habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the

irsium vulgare, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*,
side its restricted native range), and non-native garden plants.

led dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle
stris.

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

Condition Sheet: COASTAL LAGOONS Habitat Type**EUNIS Habitat Type****Coastal lagoons**

On-site or off-site, site name		Survey date and
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference

Habitat Description

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The coastal lagoons EUNIS habitat description is available here:

[EUNIS -Factsheet for Coastal lagoons \(europa.eu\)](https://eunis.europa.eu/en/habitat-type/coastal-lagoons)

Habitat Attributes to Record

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Extent of lagoon waterbody¹;
- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition²;
- Salinity in parts per thousand (ppt);
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Presence and density of non-natural structures and direct human impacts;
- Assessment of litter;
- Visual record of water clarity;
- Observations of the functioning and state of the isolating barrier; and
- Observations of the functioning and state of the lagoon banks.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)
A	Presence and	Not more than one invasive non-	No invasive non-native species are
B	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to
C	Non-natural structures	No evidence of impacts from direct	Evidence of impacts from direct
D	Litter (when examining	Following the Marine Conservation	Following the MCS beach litter
E	Salinity	Salinity is between 15 - 40 ppt.	Salinity values are close to (but
F	Isolating barrier	Fully functional and permitting tidal	Slightly damaged but some water
G	Physical damage of	No physical damage present ⁷ .	Only small, isolated patches of
H	Water clarity	Water is clear.	Water clarity is reduced.

Condition Assessment Result

TOTAL SCORE 18-24 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 12-17 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – The extent of the lagoon waterbody should be recorded at high tide. This should be recorded at high tide (September) and gives an indication of the amount of water that is present at all times of year. It

Footnote 2 - Examples of species adapted to lagoons can be found in Bamber (2010): *BAMBE Directive* [online]. Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 039. Available from: [Coastal saline lagoons and the Water Framework Directive - NECR039](#)

For assessment of species characteristic of anoxic environments, for example presence of *Cap* on the JNCC website at: JNCC (No date) *SACFOR abundance scale used for both littoral and s* [sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Footnote 3 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC (No d *taxa from 1990 onwards* [online]. Available from: [sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List (updated 2020)* [online]. Availal [Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

Footnote 4 - High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* - Trumpet tube worm
- *Styela clava* - Asian tunicate; leathery sea squirt, club tunicate
- *Corella eumyota* - Orange-tipped sea squirt
- *Grateloupia turuturu* - Devil's tongue weed, gracie, red menace and red tide
- *Undaria pinnatifida* - Asian kelp, wakame
- *Schizoporella japonica* - Orange ripple bryozoan
- *Sargassum muticum* - Wire weed
- *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* - Asian shore crab

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 5 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 6 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter $\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1}$ | Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories, and further classify them into 12 material (faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classifications. Following this, recor beach. Litter identification guides may be useful, please see Nelms et al (2017) for more details NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwi *Environment* [online], 579. Available from:

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al. (2020), which is based on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines*. European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(revised 2020\)](#)

Footnote 7 - Sources of physical damage include: excessive poaching, damage from machinery, etc.

Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab

Poor (1 point)	Score per criterion	Notes (such as justification)
One or more invasive non-native		
Visual evidence of high algal growth		
Evidence of impacts from direct		
Following the MCS beach litter		
Salinity values are either hypersaline		
Not functioning. No water exchange		
Evidence of significant physical		
Water is turbid and water clarity is		
Total Score (out of a possible 24)		
	Result Achieved	

be assessed at the end of the summer (late August – early
t should be noted that some lagoons are naturally very shallow.

ER, R.N. (2010) *Coastal saline lagoons and the Water Framework*

itellid worms, further information on the SACFOR scale can be found
sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards [online]. Available from:

late) *SACFOR abundance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral*

ble on:

person⁻¹, which is summarised below:

beach and the strandline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign
groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, sanitary,
d and sum all anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the
s on the method:

de assessment using citizen science data. *Science of the Total*

[citizen science data \(researchgate.net\)](#)

guidance developed within the Common Implementation Strategy for
ter.

ro Litter on Coastlines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the

searchgate.net)

ry use, damaging management or public access activities.

Condition Sheet: COASTAL LAGOONS Habitat Type**EUNIS Habitat Type****Coastal lagoons**

On-site or off-site, site name and location	
Limitations (if applicable)	

Habitat Description

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The coastal lagoons EUNIS habitat description is available here:

[EUNIS -Factsheet for Coastal lagoons \(europa.eu\)](https://eunis.europa.eu/en/coastal-lagoons)

Habitat Attributes to Record

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Extent of lagoon waterbody¹;
- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition²;
- Salinity in parts per thousand (ppt);
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Presence and density of non-natural structures and direct human impacts;
- Assessment of litter;
- Visual record of water clarity;
- Observations of the functioning and state of the isolating barrier; and
- Observations of the functioning and state of the lagoon banks.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A	Presence and	Not more than one invasive	No invasive non-native	One or more invasive non-native
B	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to	Visual evidence of high algal
C	Non-natural	No evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from direct
D	Litter (when	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach	Following the MCS beach litter
E	Salinity	Salinity is between 15 - 40 ppt.	Salinity values are close to	Salinity values are either
F	Isolating	Fully functional and permitting	Slightly damaged but some	Not functioning. No water
G	Physical	No physical damage present ⁷ .	Only small, isolated patches	Evidence of significant physical
H	Water clarity	Water is clear.	Water clarity is reduced.	Water is turbid and water clarity is

Total Score (out of a possible 24)

Condition Assessment Result

TOTAL SCORE 18-24 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 12-17 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – The extent of the lagoon waterbody should be recorded at high tide. This should be assessed at that time of year. It should be noted that some lagoons are naturally very shallow.

Footnote 2 - Examples of species adapted to lagoons can be found in Bamber (2010): BAMBER, R.N. (2010) Reports, Number 039. Available from:

[Coastal saline lagoons and the Water Framework Directive - NECR039 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

For assessment of species characteristic of anoxic environments, for example presence of Capitellid worms, use the *abundance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards* [online]. Available from:

[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Footnote 3 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC (No date) SACFOR [sacfor.pdf](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List (updated 2020)* [online]. Available on:

[Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

Footnote 4 - High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* - Trumpet tube worm
- *Styela clava* - Asian tunicate; leathery sea squirt, club tunicate
- *Corella eumyota* - Orange-tipped sea squirt
- *Grateloupia turuturu* - Devil's tongue weed, gracile, red menace and red tide
- *Undaria pinnatifida* - Asian kelp, wakame
- *Schizoporella japonica* - Orange ripple bryozoan
- *Sargassum muticum* - Wire weed
- *Hemigrapsus sanguineus* - Asian shore crab

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 5 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 6 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter $\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, which involves collecting litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and the water's edge, and further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, etc.). Record and sum all anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be found in NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science (PDF) [Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al. (2020), which is guidance developed by the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Co.* [\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines](#)

Footnote 7 - Sources of physical damage include: excessive poaching, damage from machinery use, damage

Result Achieved										

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at the end of the summer (late August – early September) and gives an indication of the amount of water

1) *Coastal saline lagoons and the Water Framework Directive* [online]. Natural England Commissioned

further information on the SACFOR scale can be found on the JNCC website at: JNCC (No date) *SACFOR*

abundance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards [online]. Available from:

h is summarised below:

e strandline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item
al, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classifications. Following this,
y be useful, please see Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

it using citizen science data. *Science of the Total Environment* [online], 579. Available from:

[data \(researchgate.net\)](#)

veloped within the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

astlines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

ing management or public access activities.

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

Condition Sheet: COASTAL SALTMARSH Habitat Type	
EUNIS Habitat Types	
Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
On-site or off-site, site name and location	
Limitations (if applicable)	
Grid reference	
Habitat Description	

[EUNIS -Factsheet for Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds \(europa.eu\)](https://eunis.europa.eu/en/habitat-type/coastal-saltmarshes-and-saline-reedbeds)

Habitat Attributes to Record

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- List of biological communities and species - including whether they are representative or characteristic
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Observations on zonation and transitions to other habitats, including variations in vegetation
- Observations of naturally open ground or bare surfaces such as creeks or pans being present
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Assessment of litter; and
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are functioning naturally. No evidence of human physical modifications which are clearly impacting the habitat.	Artificial structures present, for example groynes that are impeding the natural movement of sediments or water, affecting up to 25% of the habitat.
B	Presence and	Not more than one invasive	No invasive non-native species are
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to moderate
D	Non-natural	No evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from direct
E	Litter (when	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach litter survey
F	Zonation and	Zonation of vegetation or	Up to 2 of the expected zones are

Condition Assessment Result

TOTAL SCORE 14 - 18 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 9 - 13 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 6 - 8 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score
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Footnotes

Footnote 1 - Assessment of grazing levels:

- Light grazing - most of the standing crop is not removed
- Moderate grazing - standing crop almost completely removed
- Heavy grazing - height < 10 cm, all standing crop removed
- Abandoned grazing – tall, matted vegetation, no standing crop removed

Footnote 2 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JN sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards [online]. Available from:

[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online] [Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 3 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 4 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter on beaches. Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the beach and the water's edge. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories, and further classify them (e.g. medical, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery/ceramic) using the MCS classification. Remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be useful, please see Nelms et al. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment. *Environment International* [online], 579. Available from:

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), used in the Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the MSFD Technical Group.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coasts*. the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coasts](#)

Footnote 5 - Vegetation zones can be described differently but these are the most likely

1. Pioneer – open communities with one or more of the following – *Spartina* spp., *Salix* spp.
lowest neap tides. 290-c.600 submersions per year.

2. Low marsh – generally closed communities with at least *Puccinellia maritima* and *Atriplex* spp.
most tides. 350-400 submergences per year. Middle marsh – generally closed communities with
marsh species; zone covered only by spring tides. 150 to 220 submergences per year

4. High marsh – generally closed communities with one or more of the following – *Fes* spp.
species. Zone covered only by highest spring tides. Minimum 25 submergences, maximum 50

5. Transition zone – vegetation intermediate between the high marsh and adjoining non-marsh
storm events but can have salt spray influence from strong onshore winds.

CC (No date) *SACFOR abundance scale used for both littoral and*

e]. Available on:

)

$\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, which is summarised below:

ack of the beach and the strandline. The transect should be 100m long.

into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, ations. Following this, record and sum all anthropogenic litter items and elms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

n nationwide assessment using citizen science data. Science of the Total

[ent using citizen science data \(researchgate.net\)](#)

which is guidance developed within the Common Implementation l Group on Marine Litter.

d for Macro Litter on Coastlines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of

[stlines \(researchgate.net\)](#)

ely to be found (seaward to landward):

cornia spp. and / or *Aster tripolium*. Zone covered by all tides except the

triplex portulacoides as well as the previous species; zone covered by

unities with *Limonium* spp. and / or *Plantago maritima*, as well as low

7.

stuka rubra, *Armeria maritima*, *Elytrigia* spp., as well as the middle marsh

imum 150 submergences per year.

on-halophytic areas. Zone covered only occasionally during extreme

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

Condition Sheet: COASTAL SALTMARSH Habitat Type	
EUNIS Habitat Types	
Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
On-site or off-site, site name and location	
Limitations (if applicable)	
Habitat Description	

[EUNIS -Factsheet for Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

Habitat Attributes to Record
The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet: - List of biological communities and species - including whether they are representative or ch pollution; - Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present; - Observations on zonation and transitions to other habitats, including variations in vegetatio - Observations of naturally open ground or bare surfaces such as creeks or pans being presen - Presence and abundance of non-native species; - Assessment of litter; and - Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment.

Condition Assessment Criteria			
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)
A	Coastal	Coastal processes are	Artificial structures present, for
B	Presence and	Not more than one invasive	No invasive non-native species are
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to moderate
D	Non-natural	No evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from direct
E	Litter (when	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach litter survey
F	Zonation and	Zonation of vegetation or	Up to 2 of the expected zones are

Condition Assessment Result
TOTAL SCORE 14 - 18 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION TOTAL SCORE 9 - 13 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION TOTAL SCORE 6 - 8 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - Assessment of grazing levels:

- Light grazing - most of the standing crop is not removed
- Moderate grazing - standing crop almost completely removed
- Heavy grazing - height < 10 cm, all standing crop removed
- Abandoned grazing – tall, matted vegetation, no standing crop removed

Footnote 2 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JN

[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online] [Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 3 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 4 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter nr Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the be further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessme](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), \ MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method*

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coas](#)

Footnote 5 - Vegetation zones can be described differently but these are the most likely

1. Pioneer – open communities with one or more of the following – *Spartina* spp., *Salix*
 2. Low marsh – generally closed communities with at least *Puccinellia maritima* and *A*
 - generally closed communities with *Limonium* spp. and / or *Plantago maritima*, as well
 4. High marsh – generally closed communities with one or more of the following – *Fes*
 - submergences, maximum 150 submergences per year.
 5. Transition zone – vegetation intermediate between the high marsh and adjoining no
 - winds.
-

Survey date and

Survey reference (if relating to a wider

Characteristic of disturbance and or
;
on structure and sward height¹;
it in a mosaic with vegetated areas;

Habitat parcel reference

Grid reference

Poor (1 point)

Score per indicator

Artificial structures present, for

One or more invasive non-native

Visual evidence of high algal growth

Evidence of impacts from direct human

Following the MCS beach litter survey

Zonation of vegetation or communities

Total score (out of a possible 18)

Result Achieved

ICC (No date) *SACFOR abundance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards* [online

e]. Available on:

)

$\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, which is summarised below:

ack of the beach and the strandline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one
, medical, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classifications. Following this,
s may be useful, please see Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

n nationwide assessment using citizen science data. *Science of the Total Environment* [online], 579. Available

[ent using citizen science data \(researchgate.net\)](#)

which is guidance developed within the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework

d for Macro Litter on Coastlines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [or

[stlines \(researchgate.net\)](#)

ely to be found (seaward to landward):

cornia spp. and / or *Aster tripolium*. Zone covered by all tides except the lowest neap tides. 290-c.600 subme
triplex portulacoides as well as the previous species; zone covered by most tides. 350-400 submergences pe
as low marsh species; zone covered only by spring tides. 150 to 220 submergences per year.

stuka rubra, *Armeria maritima*, *Elytrigia* spp., as well as the middle marsh species. Zone covered only by high

on-halophytic areas. Zone covered only occasionally during extreme storm events but can have salt spray infl

[illegible]



]. Available from:

of 101 item categories, and
record and sum all

from:

k Directive (MSFD) by the

nline] Available from:

ersions per year.
er year. Middle marsh –
est spring tides. Minimum 25
luence from strong onshore

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		Survey date and Surveyor
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no	
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are present. As a	
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 (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 stonecress *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, and *Reynoutria mantegazzianum* (on the bank).
- Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*, and carp *Cyprinus carpio*.

[illegible]

Species List: Water Framework Directive (WFD)
1:

crop *Crassula helmsii*, parrot's feather
Lythrum salicaria and giant hogweed *Heracleum*

Palaemonetes pugio, killer shrimp

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)				
				Habitat parcel reference				
				Grid reference				
Condition Assessment Criteria								
				Criterion passed (Yes or No)				
A	The ditch is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity)							
B	A range of emergent, submerged and floating-leaved plants are							
C	There is less than 10% cover of filamentous algae and or duckweed							
D	A fringe of aquatic marginal vegetation is present along more than							
E	Physical damage is evident along less than 5% of the ditch, with							
F	Sufficient water levels are maintained - as a guide a minimum							
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 x/ ✓				
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 *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 *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica* and giant hogweed *H. elatior*.
- Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*, and carp *Cyprinus carpio*.

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

Species List: Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG (2021)

crop *Crassula helmsii*, parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*,
Cladophora *mantegazzianum* (on the bank).
Hydrilla *polymorpha*, killer shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*, demon

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	
Limitations (if applicable)	
Grid reference	

Habitat Description

--

[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

Condition Assessment Criteria	
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m² 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 m² (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.
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.
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.

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.
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).

Essential cr

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score
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

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Ajuga reptans*

Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of native species

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the landscape, create a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using the following criteria:

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

Survey date and Surveyor name	
Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Habitat parcel reference	

Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)

Criterion achieved (Yes or No)	
Number of criteria passed	
Score Achieved x/ √	

leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping
Anthriscus sylvestris.

few species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.

across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer
professional judgement.

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)		
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type		
Grassland - Modified grassland		
Habitat Description		
u1, 827 Built-up areas and gardens, garden THIS CONDITION SHEET IS FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY THIS IS FOR ONE SOUTH WITHIN THE RED-LINE BOUNDARY. The habitat has been assessed for Site context and characteristics.		
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site - The Coach House, Knowsley View, Knowsley Road, Ainsworth, Bolton, BL2 5PT	Survey date
		Surveyor name
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference relating to a survey
		Habitat parameters
		1
Condition Assessment Criteria		Grid reference
		SD 76476 10948
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those	N
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.	N
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y
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.	N

E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	N
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Y

Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)

N

Number of criteria passed

3

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

Reduce anthropogenic pressure, machinery operation and storage of building materials/soil where possible, to minimise sward height, thus creating microclimates and opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed. Such se scrub and invasive non-native plant species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) throughout.

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *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.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

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

HABITAT IS VEGETATED GSRDEN: This habitat type comprises two Habitat Parcels, one north and									
Interviewer name and date	Julie Wickington 21.03.25								
Reference (if any) or wider context									
Habitat reference									
2									
Habitat name									
SD 76470 10926									
Assessed (Yes or No)									Notes (such as justification)
N									THIS IS A
N									There is no variation in sward height, within either Habitat Parcel.
Y									At the time of survey, no scrub specimens were colonised.
N									Anthropogenic disturbance, via construction works, has promoted physical damage within

N									Exposure of bare ground is >10% within both Habitat Parcels due to ongoing
Y									At the time of survey, Bracken (Pteridium aquilinum) was not colonised within either
Y									At the time of survey, there was no colonisation of INN plant species (as
N									
3									

ved x/ ✓									
✓									

soil damage and exposure. Implement sensitive management (i.e. by periodic cutting) to allow variation in sensitive management would also promote increased species diversity. Continue to prevent colonisation of

ck *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain

s, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.

ie habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a

[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

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**Limitations (if applicable)****Grid reference****Habitat Description**[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)**Condition Assessment Criteria**

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.

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.

C

Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens².

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%.
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.
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 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). 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)	
Number of criteria passed	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
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)
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 co

Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ficaria verna*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species.

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species is high, consider applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread in the area.

Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

see UKHab guidance for details.]

Survey date and Surveyor name	
Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Habitat parcel reference	

Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)

[illegible]

Cirsium arvense, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock
 p *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*,
 species local to the region and or site.

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 g

Grassland - Upland acid grassland

Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland

Grassland - Upland hay meadows

Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland

Habitat Description[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name	
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Grid reference	
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high		
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.		

C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .		
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%.		
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.		
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 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). 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)			
Number of criteria passed			
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)		
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,

Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arven* nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium* and or site.

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across a site relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.

Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

guidance for details.]

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e								
r No)								Notes (such as justification)

or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.

ise, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common *n repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region

ross the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species

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

Condition Sheet: HEATHLAND Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types**

Heathland and shrub - Lowland heathland

Heathland and shrub - Mountain heaths and willow scrub

Heathland and shrub - Upland heathland

Habitat Description[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)**On-site or off-site, site name and location****Limitations (if applicable)****Grid reference****Condition Assessment Criteria**

A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and
B	There are at least two dwarf shrub species Frequent ² , and cover of dwarf shrubs is
C	All heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> age-classes (pioneer, degenerate and mature) present with at
D	Unshaded bare ground is between 1-10%.
E	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of WCA³ and shallon <i>Gaultheria shallon</i>⁴. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.
F	No signs of disturbance of sensitive areas ⁵ , including managed burns.
G	No more than 33% of heather shoots have been recently grazed, or flowering heather plants are at least Frequent ² in autumn.
H	The canopy cover of scattered trees and or scrub (not including gorse <i>Ulex</i> spp.) is:
I	Total gorse cover is less than 50%, with common gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> less than 25%.
J	The cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 5% ⁶ .

K	No signs of any damaging activities ⁷ or contamination to the habitat such as: artificial drains, peat extraction, silt, leachate or eutrophication.	
Essential criteria for achieving Good condition achieved (Yes or No)		
Number of criteria passed		
Condition Assessment Result (out of 11 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score
Passes 9 - 11 criteria including all essential criteria A - E.		Good (3)
Passes 7 or 8 criteria; OR Passes 9 - 10 criteria but fails any essential criteria (criteria A - E).		Moderate (2)
Passes 6 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 – According to the relative abundance DAFOR scale – Dominant, Abundant, Frequent

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread

Footnote 5 – Professional judgement should be used to assess this and evidence should be provided
Definition of sensitive areas:

- (a) Vegetation severely wind-clipped, mostly forming a mat less than 10 cm thick.
- (b) Areas where soils are thin and less than 5 cm deep.
- (c) Hill slopes greater than 1 in 2 (26°), and all the sides of gullies.
- (d) Ground with abundant, and or an almost continuous carpet of Sphagnum moss *Sphagnum* spp.
- (e) Areas with noticeably uneven structure, at a spatial scale of around 1 m² or less. The uneven distinct, often large, spreading dwarf shrub bushes. The dwarf shrub canopy will not be complete in other parts. Layering is likely to be present and may be common.
- (f) Pools, wet hollows, peat hags and erosion gullies within 10 m of the edge of watercourses.

Footnote 6 – Cover of bracken may exceed 5% where there is an identified biodiversity benefit, twice *Linaria flavirostris*.

Footnote 7 – Damaging activities include: accidental or unmanaged fires; managed fire or storage; and damaging levels of public access resulting in trampling and or litter.

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

[illegible]

Score Achieved x/ ✓	

nt, Occasional or Rare.

re species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly,
pread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

vided according to the INSTRUCTIONS Tab of this spreadsheet.

pp., bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, liverworts and or lichens.
nness (more commonly found in very old heather stands) will relate to
tely continuous, and some of its upper surface may be twice as high as

, for example bracken beds in the South Pennines as nesting sites for

is on wet heath; excessive poaching; damage from machinery use

Condition Sheet: HEATHLAND Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types**

Heathland and shrub - Lowland heathland

Heathland and shrub - Mountain heaths and willow scrub

Heathland and shrub - Upland heathland

Habitat Description[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name		
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference		
		Grid reference		
Condition Assessment Criteria				
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)		
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and			
B	There are at least two dwarf shrub species Frequent ² , and cover of dwarf shrubs is			
C	All heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> age-classes (pioneer, degenerate and mature) present with at least 10% pioneer heather in the lowlands or at least 10% degenerate or mature in the uplands. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.			
D	Unshaded bare ground is between 1-10%.			
E	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³ and			
F	No signs of disturbance of sensitive areas ⁵ , including managed burns.			

G	No more than 33% of heather shoots have been recently grazed, or flowering heather plants are at least Frequent ² in autumn.		
H	The canopy cover of scattered trees and or scrub (not including gorse <i>Ulex</i> spp.) is: •less than 20% for upland heaths; •less than 15% for lowland dry heaths; and •less than 10% for lowland wet heaths.		
I	Total gorse cover is less than 50%, with common gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i> less than 25%.		
J	The cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 5% ⁶ .		
K	No signs of any damaging activities ⁷ or contamination to the habitat such as: artificial drains, peat extraction, silt, leachate or eutrophication.		
Essential criteria for achieving Good condition achieved (Yes or No)			
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 11 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/ ✓	
Passes 9 - 11 criteria including all essential criteria A - E.	Good (3)		
Passes 7 or 8 criteria; OR Passes 9 - 10 criteria but fails any essential criteria (criteria A - E).	Moderate (2)		
Passes 6 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 – According to the relative abundance DAFOR scale – Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional or Rare.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the h
relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 5 – Professional judgement should be used to assess this and evidence should be provided according to the INSTF
Definition of sensitive areas:

(a) Vegetation severely wind-clipped, mostly forming a mat less than 10 cm thick.

(b) Areas where soils are thin and less than 5 cm deep.

(c) Hill slopes greater than 1 in 2 (26°), and all the sides of gullies.

(d) Ground with abundant, and or an almost continuous carpet of Sphagnum moss *Sphagnum* spp., bilberry *Vaccinium myr*

(e) Areas with noticeably uneven structure, at a spatial scale of around 1 m² or less. The unevenness (more commonly four
canopy will not be completely continuous, and some of its upper surface may be twice as high as other parts. Layering is lik

(f) Pools, wet hollows, peat hags and erosion gullies within 10 m of the edge of watercourses.

Footnote 6 – Cover of bracken may exceed 5% where there is an identified biodiversity benefit, for example bracken beds i

Footnote 7 – Damaging activities include: accidental or unmanaged fires; managed fires on wet heath; excessive poaching;

[illegible]

[illegible]

habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size

INSTRUCTIONS Tab of this spreadsheet.

tillus, liverworts and or lichens.
and in very old heather stands) will relate to distinct, often large, spreading dwarf shrub bushes. The dwarf shrub
likely to be present and may be common.

in the South Pennines as nesting sites for twite *Linaria flavirostris*.

damage from machinery use or storage; and damaging levels of public access resulting in trampling and or litter.

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

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types**Habitat Type**

Native hedgerow

Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch

Native hedgerow with trees

Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch

Species-rich native hedgerow

Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch

Species-rich native hedgerow with trees

Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch

Habitat Description[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)**On-site or off-site, site name and location****Limitations (if applicable)****Grid reference****Condition Assessment Details**

A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. Each attribute is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the 'favourable' condition.

This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook¹ and Favourable Conservation Status documents.

Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present in the hedgerow.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes**Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)****Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'****Criteria description****Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types**

A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody stems
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody stems
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m	This is the vertical 'gapping'
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and	This is the horizontal 'gapping'

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present greater than 1 m in width at the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the habitat with the capacity to heavily trodden footpaths, niches.
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their exceed the 20% cover threshold.
D1.	Invasive and	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground	Recently introduced species
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is	This criterion addresses damage
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only			
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if the which allow for replacement different species.
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the compromises the survival and

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2

Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score		

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local survey layout* (hedgeline.org.uk)

Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) *Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943* (naturalengland.org.uk)

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) *The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain* (jncc.gov.uk)

Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). *Definitions: wild, native or alien?* – [Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland \(bsbi.org\)](http://bsbi.org)

Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) *Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* (brc.ac.uk)

Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on: nonnativespecies.org

Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: publishing.service.gov.uk and gov.uk *Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK*

nce (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base ent for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, and must be present along at least one side of e value of the hedgerow base as a boundary to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat		
are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> or presence, either singly or together, does not shold.		
s refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK		
maging activities that may have led to or lead to		
here are a range of age-classes or morphologies of trees and provide opportunities for		
ie trees are subject to damage which and health of the individual specimens.		

n the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.

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is in the UK. [online] Available on:

erows. [online] Available on:

l. Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on:

e or alien? [online] Available on:

ish Flora. [online] Available on:

[.uk\)](#)

[JK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types**Habitat Type****Native hedgerow****Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch****Native hedgerow with trees****Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch****Species-rich native hedgerow****Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch****Species-rich native hedgerow with trees****Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch****Habitat Description**[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)**On-site or off-site,
site name and
location****Survey date and
Surveyor name****Limitations (if****Survey reference****Condition Assessment Details**

A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. The condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups that are present.

This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook¹ and Favourable Conservation Condition Handbook.

Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all the key features of the hedgerow.

Hedgerow favourable condition attributes

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	Habitat
			Grid reference
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types			Criteria

A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	
B2.	Gap - hedge	Gaps make up <10% of total	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the	

C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	
D1.	Invasive and	>90% of the hedgerow and	Recently introduced species refer to	
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only				
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	

E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	
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The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is tables below.

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both <u>attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both <u>attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees		
Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both <u>attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR Fails both <u>attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score		

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook*. A standard procedure for local survey layout (hedgelink.org.uk)

Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) *Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for He*

[Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) *The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain* | [The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain \(Species Status No. 7\) | JNCC Resource Hub](#)

Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). *Definitions: wild, native or alien?* – [Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland \(bsbi.org\)](#)

Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) *Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* | [Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora \(brc.ac.uk\)](#)

Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on: [Home » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. 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](#)

it. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the al groups which pass or fail the ‘favourable condition’ criteria. Status document². For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other																		
parcel reference <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>																		
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on passed (Yes or No)									Notes (such as justification)									

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s used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the

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Irish Flora. [online] Available on:

[gov.uk\)](#)

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

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 this sheet for individual trees.***Habitat Description****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 on only):

Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of developments. Canopies should be predominantly non-touching. Former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly be non-touching. Woodland may be assessed within this category.

On-site or off-site, site name and location**Limitations (if applicable)****Grid reference****Condition Assessment Criteria**

A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).
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).
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .
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.
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of hollows.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is overhanging vegetation beneath.

Number of criteria passed**Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)****Condition Assessment Score**

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 score²

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: [Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.se](#)
and:
[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions](#)

Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it
through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.

se the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in rural locations.

ily):
of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and
tly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for

Survey date and Surveyor name	
Survey reference (if relating	
Habitat parcel reference	
Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Score Achieved x/ ✓	
tat type.	

[rvice.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

s - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

t meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s

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

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 cor***Habitat Description****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 incl
former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Gr
may be assessed within this category.

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name			
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)			
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference			
		Grid reference			
Condition Assessment Criteria					
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)			
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).				
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).				

C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .				
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.				
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.				
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.				

Number of criteria passed					
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 score²

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:

[Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612212/Keepers_of_time_-_ancient_and_native_woodland_and_trees_policy_in_England.pdf)

and:

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612212/Ancient_woodland,_ancient_trees_and_veteran_trees_advice_for_making_planning_decisions.pdf)

Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.

condition assessment and record that habitat type in rural locations.

cludes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland

[illegible]

Condition Sheet: INTERTIDAL BIOGENIC REEFS Habitat Type**EUNIS Habitat Types****Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels****Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria****Artificial littoral biogenic reefs****Habitat Description**

See tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and the below:

[Littoral biogenic reefs - JNCC Marine Habitat Classification](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference

Habitat Attributes to Record

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Percentage cover of recognisable biogenic reef structures across the bed;
- Distribution of the habitat seaward and landward limits and extent;
- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Presence and density of non-natural structures and direct human impacts;
- Assessment of litter;
- Whether the habitat distribution is constrained by human modification; and
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are	Artificial structures present,
B	Presence and	Not more than one invasive	No invasive non-native
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of	Visual evidence of low to
D	Non-natural structures	No evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from
E	Litter (when examining	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach

Total %**Condition Assessment Result****TOTAL SCORE 12-15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 5-7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION****Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score****Footnotes**

Footnote 1 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC *and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards* [online]. Available from:

[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. / [Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Didemnum vexillum* – Carpet sea squirt
- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 2 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 3 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter m⁻¹. Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories, and further classify (rubber, cloth, metal, medical, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) as anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides more details on the method:

NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year national assessment of the Total Environment [online], 579. Available from:

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is part of the Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the MSF. VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines*. Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines](#)

[illegible]

sent;

Poor (1 point)	Score per criterion	Notes (such as justification)
Artificial structures present,		
One or more invasive non-		
Visual evidence of high algal		
Evidence of impacts from		
Following the MCS beach		
Score (out of a possible 15)		
	Result Achieved	

(No date) *SACFOR abundance scale used for both littoral*

Available on:

min⁻¹ person⁻¹, which is summarised below:
of the beach and the strandline. The transect should be
sify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene,
ing MCS classifications. Following this, record and sum all
ay be useful, please see Nelms et al (2017) for more

tionwide assessment using citizen science data. *Science*

[using citizen science data \(researchgate.net\)](#)

ch is guidance developed within the Common
FD Technical Group on Marine Litter.
r *Macro Litter on Coastlines*. EUR 30347 EN, Publications

[ies \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Condition Sheet: INTERTIDAL BIOGENIC REEFS Habitat Type**EUNIS Habitat Types****Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels****Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria****Artificial littoral biogenic reefs****Habitat Description**

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name	
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if	

See tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and the below:

[Littoral biogenic reefs - JNCC Marine Habitat Classification](#)**Habitat Attributes to Record**

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Percentage cover of recognisable biogenic reef structures across the bed;
- Distribution of the habitat seaward and landward limits and extent;
- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Presence and density of non-natural structures and direct human impacts;
- Assessment of litter;
- Whether the habitat distribution is constrained by human modification; and
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are	Artificial structures present,	Artificial structures
B	Presence and	Not more than one	No invasive non-native	One or more invasive
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of	Visual evidence of low to	Visual evidence of high
D	Non-natural structures	No evidence of impacts	Evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from
E	Litter (when examining	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach	Following the MCS

Total Score (out of a possible 15)**Condition Assessment Result****TOTAL SCORE 12-15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 5-7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION****Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score****Footnotes**

Footnote 1 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC (No date) *SACFOR at*
[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK_Marine_NIS_priority_list_2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. Available on: [Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Didemnum vexillum* – Carpet sea squirt
- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 2 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 3 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter $\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, which involves collecting litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and the sea. Litter should be identified into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, glass, paper, food, wood, and other), and further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, glass, paper, food, wood, and other), and further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, glass, paper, food, wood, and other). Record and sum all anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614442/MSFD-Technical-Guidance-on-Marine-Litter.pdf](#)

NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science data. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 115, 103–115. [\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science data](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is guidance developed for the MSFD by the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines*. [\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Habitat parcel reference										
Grid reference										
Score per criterion										Notes (such as justification)
Result Achieved										
bundance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards [online]. Available from:										

is summarised below:

strandline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories (sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classifications. Following this, if useful, please see Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

using citizen science data. *Science of the Total Environment* [online], 579. Available from:

[data \(researchgate.net\)](#)

included within the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Guidelines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available

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

Condition Sheet: INTERTIDAL HARD STRUCTURES Habitat Type**Artificial Habitat Types****Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures****Intertidal hard structures - Artificial features of hard structures****Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)**

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	

Habitat Description

See tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

Habitat Attributes to Record

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition;
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water; and
- Assessment of litter.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are functioning	Artificial structures	Artificial structures
B	Presence and	Not more than one invasive non-	No invasive non-native	One or more invasive non-
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to	Visual evidence of high
D	Litter (when examining	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach	Following the MCS beach
E	Amount of colonisation	More than three different communities of flora or fauna present.	Two or three different communities of flora or fauna present.	One or no communities of flora or fauna present.

Total Score (out of a possible 15)**Condition Assessment Result****TOTAL SCORE 12-15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 5-7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION****Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score**

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC (No date) *SACFOR abundance and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards* [online]. Available from:

[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. Available on:

[Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Didemnum vexillum* – Carpet sea squirt
- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)
- *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* - Trumpet tube worm
- *Corella eumyota* – Orange-tipped sea squirt
- *Grateloupia turuturu* – Devil's tongue weed, gracie, red menace and red tide
- *Schizoporella japonica* – Orange ripple bryozoan

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 2 - Peak bloom time is July – September

Footnote 3 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter $\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, which is Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and the st 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories, and further classify them into 12 materi rubber, cloth, metal, medical, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery/ceramic) using MCS classifications. F anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be useful, please see details on the method:

NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment us of *The Total Environment* [online], 579. Available from:

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science da](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is guidance develop Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the MSFD Technical Group on VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastl* Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab

[illegible]

Abundance scale used for both littoral

is summarised below:
transect. The transect should be
litter groups (plastic, polystyrene,
following this, record and sum all
the Nelms et al (2017) for more

using citizen science data. *Science*

data ([researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net))
included within the Common
Inventory of Marine Litter.
lines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications

Condition Sheet: INTERTIDAL HARD STRUCTURES Habitat Type**Artificial Habitat Types****Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures****Intertidal hard structures - Artificial features of hard structures****Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)**

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name	
Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		Limitations (if applicable)	

Habitat Description

See tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

Habitat Attributes to Record

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition;
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water; and
- Assessment of litter.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are functioning	Artificial structures	Artificial structures
B	Presence and	Not more than one invasive non-	No invasive non-native	One or more invasive non-
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to	Visual evidence of high
D	Litter (when examining	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach	Following the MCS beach
E	Amount of colonisation	More than three different communities of flora or fauna present.	Two or three different communities of flora or fauna present.	One or no communities of flora or fauna present.

Total Score (out of a possible 15)**Condition Assessment Result****TOTAL SCORE 12-15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 5-7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION****Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score****Footnotes**

Footnote 1 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC (No date) *SACFOR ab*
Available from:

[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. Available on:

[Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Didemnum vexillum* – Carpet sea squirt
- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)
- *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* - Trumpet tube worm
- *Corella eumyota* – Orange-tipped sea squirt
- *Grateloupia turuturu* – Devil's tongue weed, gracie, red menace and red tide
- *Schizoporella japonica* – Orange ripple bryozoan

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 2 - Peak bloom time is July – September

Footnote 3 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter $\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, which is Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and the st 101 item categories, and further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, r classifications. Following this, record and sum all anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Lit on the method:

NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment us from:

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science da](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is guidance develop Directive (MSFD) by the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastl*
Available from:

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(researchgate.net\)](#)

[illegible]

undance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards [online].

s summarised below:

randline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of medical, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS
litter identification guides may be useful, please see Nelms et al (2017) for more details

sing citizen science data. *Science of The Total Environment* [online], 579. Available

ita ([researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net))

ed within the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework

lines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online]

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

Condition Sheet: INTERTIDAL SEAGRASS Habitat Type**Habitat Types**

Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass

Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass - on peat, clay or chalk

Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral seagrass

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	

Habitat Description

See tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and the below:

[JNCC littoral seagrass bed habitat description](#)**Habitat Attributes to Record**

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Percentage cover of seagrass across the bed;
- Distribution of the seagrass landward, seaward and extent should be recorded;
- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water;
- Presence and density of non-natural structures and direct human impacts;
- Assessment of litter; and
- Evidence of visible rhizomes

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A Coastal processes	Coastal processes are functioning	Artificial structures	Artificial structures
B Presence and abundance	Not more than one invasive non-	No invasive non-native	One or more invasive non-
C Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to	Visual evidence of high
D Non-natural structures	No evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from
E Litter (when examining a	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach	Following the MCS beach

Total score (out of a possible 15)**Condition Assessment Result****TOTAL SCORE 12 - 15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 8 - 11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 5 - 7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION****Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score****Footnotes**

Footnote 1 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC (No date) *SACFOR abundance of littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards* [online]. Available from:
[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. Available on:
[Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Didemnum vexillum* – Carpet sea squirt
- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)
- *Eriocheir sinensis* – Chinese mitten crab

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 2 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 3 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter $\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, which is Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and the strandline be 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories, and further classify them into 12 material categories (polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classification. Record and sum all anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be found in Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science data. *Science of The Total Environment* [online], 579. Available from:

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science data](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is guidance developed for the Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the MSFD Technical Group on Macro Litter. VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines*. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(researchgate.net\)](#)

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undance scale used for both

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sing citizen science data.

ta ([researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net))

ed within the Common
Marine Litter.

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Condition Sheet: INTERTIDAL SEAGRASS Habitat Type**Habitat Types**

Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass

Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass - on peat, clay or chalk

Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral seagrass

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)	

Habitat Description

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See tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and the below:

[JNCC littoral seagrass bed habitat description](#)**Habitat Attributes to Record**

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Percentage cover of seagrass across the bed;
- Distribution of the seagrass landward, seaward and extent should be recorded;
- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water;
- Presence and density of non-natural structures and direct human impacts;
- Assessment of litter; and
- Evidence of visible rhizomes.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A Coastal processes	Coastal processes are functioning	Artificial structures	Artificial structures
B Presence and abundance	Not more than one invasive non-	No invasive non-native	One or more invasive non-
C Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to	Visual evidence of high
D Non-natural structures	No evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from
E Litter (when examining a	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach	Following the MCS beach

Total Score (out of a possible 15)**Condition Assessment Result****TOTAL SCORE 12 - 15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 8 - 11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 5 - 7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION****Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score**

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC (No date) *SACFOR abundance scales* ([sacfor.pdf](https://jncc.gov.uk/sacfor.pdf) (jncc.gov.uk))

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](https://nonnativespecies.org/uk-marine-nis-priority-list-2020)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. Available on:

[Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](https://marinepathwaysgroup.org/nonnativespecies.org)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include:

- *Didemnum vexillum* – Carpet sea squirt
- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)
- *Eriocheir sinensis* – Chinese mitten crab

Please check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 2 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 3 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter $\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, which is Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and the strandline. Further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, sanitary, faeces, | anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be useful, please see

NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science data ([PDF](#)) [Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science data](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is guidance developed by the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines* ([PDF](#)) [A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(researchgate.net\)](#)

[illegible]

undance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards [online]. Available from:

is summarised below:

randline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories, and paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classifications. Following this, record and sum all

is Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

ising citizen science data. *Science of The Total Environment* [online], 579. Available from:

[ta \(researchgate.net\)](#)

and within the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the

ines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

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

Condition Sheet: INTERTIDAL SEDIMENT Habitat Type**Habitat Types**

Littoral coarse sediment
 Littoral sand
 Littoral muddy sand
 Littoral mud
 Littoral mixed sediments
 Features of littoral sediment
 Artificial littoral coarse sediment
 Artificial littoral mixed sediments
 Artificial littoral mud
 Artificial littoral muddy sand
 Artificial littoral sand

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

Habitat Description

See tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and the below:

[EUNIS littoral sediment description](#)

Habitat Attributes to Record

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Description of sediment character;
- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Observations on transitions to other habitats;
- Assessment of litter;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water; and
- Description of zonation.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are functioning	Artificial structures present
B	Presence and abundance	Not more than one invasive non-	No invasive non-native
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to
D	Non-natural structures	No evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from
E	Litter (when examining a	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach

Tot

Condition Assessment Result

TOTAL SCORE 12-15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 5-7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC *sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards* [online]. Available from:

[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](https://jncc.gov.uk/sacfor.pdf)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](https://nonnativespecies.org/uk-marine-nis-priority-list-2020)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. *A Marine Pathways Group » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)*

- *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* - Trumpet tube worm
- *Styela clava* - Asian tunicate; leathery sea squirt, club tunicate
- *Corella eumyota* - Orange-tipped sea squirt
- *Grateloupia turuturu* - Devil's tongue weed, gracie, red menace and red tide

Intertidal mixed sediment A2.4

- *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* - Trumpet tube worm

Always check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 2 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 3 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter m^{-1} r Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back o long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories, and further classify the metal, medical, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS class litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be useful, ple

NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nat *The Total Environment* [online], 579. Available from:

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment u](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), whic Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the MSFD Technical Gr

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for* Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlin](#)

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

sent;

Poor (1 point)	Score per criterion	Notes (such as justification)
Artificial structures present		
One or more invasive non-		
Visual evidence of high algal		
Evidence of impacts from		
Following the MCS beach		
total Score (out of a possible 15)		
Result Achieved		

(No date) SACFOR abundance scale used for both littoral and

Available on:

min⁻¹ person⁻¹, which is summarised below:
of the beach and the strandline. The transect should be 100 m
m into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth,
sifications. Following this, record and sum all anthropogenic
ease see Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

tionwide assessment using citizen science data. *Science of*
[using citizen science data \(researchgate.net\)](#)
ch is guidance developed within the Common Implementation
roup on Marine Litter.
r *Macro Litter on Coastlines*. EUR 30347 EN, Publications
[es \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Condition Sheet: INTERTIDAL SEDIMENT Habitat Type**Habitat Types**

Littoral coarse sediment

Littoral sand

Littoral muddy sand

Littoral mud

Littoral mixed sediments

Features of littoral sediment

Artificial littoral coarse sediment

Artificial littoral mixed sediments

Artificial littoral mud

Artificial littoral muddy sand

Artificial littoral sand

On-site or off-site, site
name and location

Limitations (if

Habitat Description

See tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and the below:

[EUNIS littoral sediment description](#)**Habitat Attributes to Record**

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Description of sediment character;
- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes;
- Description of species diversity and community composition;
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Observations on transitions to other habitats;
- Assessment of litter;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water; and
- Description of zonation.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are	Artificial structures	Artificial structures present
B	Presence and	Not more than one invasive	No invasive non-native	One or more invasive non-
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to	Visual evidence of high
D	Non-natural	No evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from	Evidence of impacts from
E	Litter (when	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach	Following the MCS beach

Total Score (out of a possible 15)**Condition Assessment Result****TOTAL SCORE 12-15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION****TOTAL SCORE 5-7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION****Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score**

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - Abundances estimated using SACFOR scales details available here: JNCC (No date) [SACFOR.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. Available on: [Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

- *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* - Trumpet tube worm
- *Styela clava* - Asian tunicate; leathery sea squirt, club tunicate
- *Corella eumyota* - Orange-tipped sea squirt
- *Grateloupia turuturu* - Devil's tongue weed, gracie, red menace and red tide

Intertidal mixed sediment A2.4

- *Ficopomatus enigmaticus* - Trumpet tube worm

Always check for updates of high-risk species.

Footnote 2 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 3 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter $\text{m}^{-1} \text{min}^{-1} \text{person}^{-1}$, wh Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and t further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, sanitary, fae anthropogenic litter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be useful, pleas NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessme [\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen scienc](#) The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is guidance dev MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on C*

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(researchgate.r](#)

DR abundance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards [online]. Available from

which is summarised below:

the strandline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 item categories (e.g. plastic, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classifications. Following this, record and summarise the data. For more details on the method, see Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

ent using citizen science data. *Science of The Total Environment* [online], 579. Available from:

[citizen science data \(researchgate.net\)](#)

developed within the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

Coastlines. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available

[citizen science data \(researchgate.net\)](#)

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

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categories, and
n all

SFD) by the

from:

Condition Sheet: LAKE Habitat Type

Habitat Types

Lakes - Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating waterbodies

Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental lakes, or use Pond condition sheet for Ornamental ponds]

Lakes - High alkalinity lakes

Lakes - Low alkalinity lakes

Lakes - Marl lakes

Lakes - Moderate alkalinity lakes

Lakes - Peat lakes

Lakes - Reservoirs

Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170) [Use this condition sheet for Temporary lakes, or use Pond condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools]

Habitat Description

See Water Framework Directive:

[WFD Lakes typologies description](#)

For 'Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating waterbodies', 'Reservoirs' and 'Temporary lakes, ponds and pools' see [UKHab](#)

Condition Assessment Criteria

The Freshwater Biological Association 'Habitat Naturalness Assessment' is used to assess the condition of chemical, and biological naturalness) are averaged to generate an overall 'habitat naturalness assessment' use in the metric (see below).

There are other elements considered in the lake naturalness assessment, but these are not included when

Details of the methodology for assessing naturalness of lakes are available at:

[Contribute naturalness data – Discovering Priority Habitats in England](#)

The key documents are:

[Lake naturalness assessment – guidance document \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex I – Printable lake naturalness survey form to use in field \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex II – Physical naturalness photographs \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex-III - Hydrological naturalness photographs \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex IV – Chemical naturalness photographs \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex V – Plant functional group photographs \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex VI – Further species recording \(PDF\)](#)

We encourage recording of data on lakes on the Freshwater Biological Association 'Habitat Naturalness Assessment'

[Contribute data – Discovering Priority Habitats in England \(wpengine.com\)](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location	
Limitations (if applicable)	
Grid reference	

Average 'Habitat Naturalness Assessment' Class	Condition Assessment Score
1 Natural	Good (3)
2	Fairly good (2.5)
3	Moderate (2)
4	Fairly poor (1.5)
5 Least natural	Poor (1)
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score	

amental ponds and pools]

tion sheet for Temporary ponds and pools]

UK Habitat Classification:

lakes. Scores for four attributes (physical, hydrological, score' which can then be translated into a condition score for calculating the condition assessment score.

assessment' website portal:

Survey date and Surveyor name	
Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Habitat parcel reference	

Score Achieved

Condition Sheet: LAKE Habitat Type

Habitat Types

Lakes - Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating waterbodies

Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental lakes, or use Pond condition sheet for Ornamental ponds]

Lakes - High alkalinity lakes

Lakes - Low alkalinity lakes

Lakes - Marl lakes

Lakes - Moderate alkalinity lakes

Lakes - Peat lakes

Lakes - Reservoirs

Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170) [Use this condition sheet for Temporary lakes, or use Pond condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools]

Habitat Description

See Water Framework Directive:

[WFD Lakes typologies description](#)

For 'Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating waterbodies', 'Reservoirs' and 'Temporary lakes, ponds and pools' see UKHab [UKHab](#)

Condition Assessment Criteria

The Freshwater Biological Association 'Habitat Naturalness Assessment' is used to assess the condition of lakes (lake biological naturalness) are averaged to generate an overall 'habitat naturalness assessment score' which can

There are other elements considered in the lake naturalness assessment, but these are not included when calculating the naturalness score.

Details of the methodology for assessing naturalness of lakes are available at:

[Contribute naturalness data – Discovering Priority Habitats in England](#)

The key documents are:

[Lake naturalness assessment – guidance document \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex I – Printable lake naturalness survey form to use in field \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex II – Physical naturalness photographs \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex - III Hydrological naturalness photographs \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex IV – Chemical naturalness photographs \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex V – Plant functional group photographs \(PDF\)](#)

[Annex VI – Further species recording \(PDF\)](#)

We encourage recording of data on lakes on the Freshwater Biological Association 'Habitat Naturalness Assessment'.

[Contribute data – Discovering Priority Habitats in England \(wpengine.com\)](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location	Survey date and Surveyor name		
	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		
	Habitat parcel reference		
Limitations (if applicable)			
	Grid reference		

Limitations (if applicable)				
Average 'Habitat Naturalness Assessment' Class	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved		
1 Natural	Good (3)			
2	Fairly good (2.5)			
3	Moderate (2)			
4	Fairly poor (1.5)			
5 Least natural	Poor (1)			
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score				

mental ponds and pools]

1 sheet for Temporary ponds and pools]

K Habitat Classification:

kes. Scores for four attributes (physical, hydrological, chemical, and
then be translated into a condition score for use in the metric (see below).

lculating the condition assessment score.

ssment' website portal:

[illegible]

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

Condition Sheet: LIMESTONE PAVEMENT Habitat Type		
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type		
Sparsely vegetated land - Limestone pavement		
Habitat Description		
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	Cover of typical emergent pavement flora and clint-top vegetation	
B	Cover of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA) ¹ is	
C	Species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ make up less than 1% of	
D	Less than 25% of live leaves (broadleaved plants), fronds (ferns) or shoots	
E	There is no evidence of damage to the pavement surface.	
Number of criteria passed		
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score		
Footnotes		
Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).		
Footnote 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk professional judgement.		
Footnote 3 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: perennial rye-grass <i>elatus</i> , crested dog's-tail <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i> , bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg., creeping thistle <i>Cirsium ar</i> <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common ragwort <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> , common net species. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.		

[illegible]

Condition Sheet: LIMESTONE PAVEMENT Habitat Type							
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type							
Sparsely vegetated land - Limestone pavement							
Habitat Description							
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification							
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name					
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)					
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference					
		Grid reference					
Condition Assessment Criteria							
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)					
A	Cover of typical emergent pavement flora and clint-top vegetation						
B	Cover of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of						
C	Species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ make up less than 1% of vegetated ground cover.						
D	Less than 25% of live leaves (broadleaved plants), fronds (ferns) or shoots (dwarf shrubs) show signs of grazing or browsing.						
E	There is no evidence of damage to the pavement surface.						
Number of criteria passed							
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/ ✓					
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)						
Passes 4 criteria	Moderate (2)						
Passes 3 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)						
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score							

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the h zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional

Footnote 3 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, false *Cynosurus cristatus*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *obtusifolius*, common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, other pernicious perennial species. There may be more or site.

	Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab
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habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer
al judgement.

alse oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, crested dog's-tail
ock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex*
ay be additional relevant species local to the region and

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type**Habitat Types****Line of trees**

Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch

Ecologically valuable line of trees

Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch

Please see the separate Individual trees condition sheet for linear blocks and groups of trees in an urban setting. You should assessment and record this habitat type in rural locations.

Habitat Description

FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY - AS THIS FEATURE WILL BE RETAINED - This habitat supports 5 no. trees, relative

See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook¹. For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook.

Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site - The Coach House, Knowsley View, Knowsley Road, Ainsworth, Bolton, BL2 5PT	Survey date and Surveyor name
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating)
Grid reference	SD 76478 10956	Habitat parcel reference

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	N
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of	Y
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates	N
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	N
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Y

Number of criteria passed		
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/ ✓
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

Reduce anthropogenic disturbance within proximity of the habitat; this is important to protect root structure and integrity. C

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK*. 2nd ed. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).

Footnote 2 – Where ancient and veteran trees are present, see gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees: [Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

and:

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

	Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab
<i>Id only use this Line of trees condition</i>	
ly evenly positioned, at the northern	
Julie Wickington 21.03.25	
Notes (such as justification)	
Less than 70% of the specimens are native	
Tree canopy is continuous due to	
Trees are only small to medium in size,	
An agricultural field is positioned to the north of the tree line and u1, 827 Built-up areas and gardens, garden is established to the south. The agricultural field to the	
All specimens appear to be in good health with no evidence of damage and/or disease.	
2	
consult an arboricultural specialist to affirm	

ed [online]. Defra, London. PB1195.

es. Available from:

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type**Habitat Types****Line of trees****Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch****Ecologically valuable line of trees****Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch**

Please see the separate Individual trees condition sheet for linear blocks and groups of trees in an urban setting. You should record this habitat type in rural locations.

Habitat Description

See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook¹. For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook.

Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name					
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)					
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference					
		Grid reference					
Condition Assessment Criteria							
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)					
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.						
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.						
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.						
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .						

E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran					
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 – DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK</i>. 2nd edition. Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk). Footnote 2 – Where ancient and veteran trees are present, see gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees: 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)						

					Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab
<i>ould only use this Line of trees condition assessment and</i>					
					Notes (such as justification)

nd ed [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from:

trees. Available from:

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Condition Sheet: ORCHARD Habitat Type		
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type		
Grassland - Traditional orchard		
Habitat Description		
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	Presence of ancient ¹ and or veteran ¹ trees.	
B	Presence of deadwood in or on trees, or on the ground: at least 20% of mature trees have deadwood associated with them. Some examples of deadwood are: standing, attached and fallen trees or limbs; dead stems; branches and branch stubs greater than 10 cm diameter; and internal cavities. The types and distribution of deadwood provide a range of habitats suitable to support a wide assemblage of saproxylic invertebrates. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.	
C	Less than 5% of fruit trees are smothered by scrub. Small patches of	
D	There is evidence of formative and or restorative pruning to maintain	
E	At least 95% of the trees are free from damage caused by humans or animals, for example browsing, bark stripping or rubbing on non-adjusted ties.	
F	Grassland is not overgrazed, poaching is not evident around the trees, with no more than 10% of trees poached under the canopy.	
G	Species richness of the grassland is equivalent to a medium, high, or very high distinctiveness grassland.	
H	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on	
Essential criteria achieved (required for good condition - Yes or No)		
Number of criteria passed		
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓

Passes 6- 8 criteria, including essential criteria A and B.	Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria; OR Passes 6 or 7 criteria but fails an essential criterion.	Moderate (2)	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria.	Poor (1)	

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:

[Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61221/Keepers_of_time_-_ancient_and_native_woodland_and_trees_policy_in_England.pdf)

and:

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61221/Ancient_woodland,_ancient_trees_and_veteran_trees_advice_for_making_planning_decisions.pdf)

Footnote 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to i by applying professional judgement.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and common nettle *Urtica dioica* species local to the region and or site.

[illegible]



[/gov.uk\)](#)

varies across the habitat, split into
its risk of spread into adjacent habitat,

um arvense, spear thistle *Cirsium*
ica. There may be additional relevant

Condition Sheet: ORCHARD Habitat Type					
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type					
Grassland - Traditional orchard					
Habitat Description					
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification					
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name			
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)			
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference			
		Grid reference			
Condition Assessment Criteria					
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)			
A	Presence of ancient ¹ and or veteran ¹ trees. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.				
B	Presence of deadwood in or on trees, or on the ground: at least 20% of mature trees have deadwood associated with them. Some examples of deadwood are: standing, attached and fallen trees or limbs; dead stems; branches and branch stubs greater than 10 cm diameter; and internal cavities. The types and distribution of deadwood provide a range of habitats suitable to support a wide assemblage of saproxylic invertebrates. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition.				
C	Less than 5% of fruit trees are smothered by scrub. Small patches of dense scrub and or scattered scrub growing between trees can be beneficial to biodiversity, however these occupy less than 10% of ground cover.				
D	There is evidence of formative and or restorative pruning to maintain				

E	At least 95% of the trees are free from damage caused by humans or animals, for example browsing, bark stripping or rubbing on non-adjusted ties.				
F	Grassland is not overgrazed, poaching is not evident around the trees, with no more than 10% of trees poached under the canopy.				
G	Species richness of the grassland is equivalent to a medium, high, or very high distinctiveness grassland.				
H	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on				
Essential criteria achieved (required for Good condition - Yes or No)					
Number of criteria passed					
Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√			
Passes 6- 8 criteria, including essential criteria A and B.	Good (3)				
Passes 4 or 5 criteria; OR Passes 6 or 7 criteria but fails an essential criterion.	Moderate (2)				
Passes 3 or fewer criteria.	Poor (1)				
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score					
Footnotes					
Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. 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 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using proportionate measures to manage the risk. Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Footnote 4 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> and common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>. There may be additional relevant species					

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

						Notes (such as justification)

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type**Habitat Type****Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)****Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)****Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)** [Use this condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools, use Lake lakes]**Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond** [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental ponds, use Lake condition sheet for Ornam**Habitat Description**[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)

Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland¹ and non-woodland):

A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no	
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely	
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or	
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural	
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial	
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species ³ .	
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a	

Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:

H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) ⁴ cover at least 50% of	
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	

Number of criteria passed

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/ ✓
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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)	
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnote 1 - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.

Footnote 2 – This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver *Castor fiber*.

Footnote 3 - Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be included in the *Classification of aquatic alien species according to their level of impact* [online]. Available from:

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

- Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern *Azolla filiculoides*, Australian swamp stonecrop *Craspediophyllum aquaticum*, floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* and Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, *mantegazzianum* (on the bank).
- Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, zebra mussels *Dreissena polymorpha*, *Dikerogammarus villosus*, demon shrimp *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes*, carp *Cyprinus carpio*.

Footnote 4 - If the pond is seasonal (as in, it dries out in most summers) then emergent species alone are likely to be found.

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

d be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021)

ssula helmsii, parrot’s feather
, giant hogweed *Heracleum*

lymorpha, killer shrimp

ound.

Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type**Habitat Type****Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)****Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)****Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)** [Use this condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools, use L**Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond** [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental ponds, use Lake condition sheet for Orr**Habitat Description**[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name		
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference		
		Grid reference		
Condition Assessment Criteria				
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)		
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland¹ 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.			
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.			
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.			
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.			

E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams ² , pumps or pipework.			
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species ³ .			
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.			

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.			
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.			

Number of criteria passed				
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)			
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)			

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnote 1 - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat.

Footnote 2 – This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver *Castor fiber*.

Footnote 3 - Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List sh
level of impact [online]. Available from:

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

- Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern *Azolla filiculoides*, Australian swamp stonecrop *Utricularia lanunculoides* and Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*, giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* (on the bank).
- Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, zebra mussels *Dreissena polymorpha*, carp *Cyprinus carpio*.

Footnote 4 - If the pond is seasonal (as in, it dries out in most summers) then emergent species alone are likely to be present.

Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes]
namental lakes]

[illegible]

ould be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021) *Classification of aquatic alien species according to their*

Crassula helmsii, parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum*, floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle*
ank).

r polymorpha, killer shrimp *Dikerogammarus villosus*, demon shrimp *Dikerogammarus*

be found.

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

Condition Sheet: ROCKY SHORE Habitat Type**Habitat Types**

Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock

Rocky shore - Moderate energy littoral rock

Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock

Rocky shore - Features of littoral rock

Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk

Rocky shore - Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk

Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk

Rocky shore - Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk

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

Habitat Description[EUNIS -Factsheet for Features of littoral rock \(europa.eu\)](https://eunis.europa.eu/en/littoral-rock)**Habitat Attributes to Record**

The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet:

- Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes across the full vertical extent of the
- Description of species diversity and community composition across the full vertical extent of the
- Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present;
- Presence and abundance of non-native species;
- Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment;
- Presence and density of non-natural structures and direct human impacts;
- Assessment of litter; and
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water.

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 point)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are functioning	Artificial structures present, for
B	Presence and abundance	Not more than one invasive non-	No invasive non-native species
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to
D	Non-natural structures and direct human impacts	No evidence of impacts from direct human activities, or they occupy <1% of the habitat area (for example, pontoons, moorings, boats, crab tiles, bait digging or anchoring scars).	Evidence of impacts from direct human activities occupies 1-10% of the habitat area (for example, pontoons, moorings, boats, crab tiles, bait digging or anchoring scars).
E	Litter (when examining a	Following the Marine	Following the MCS beach litter

Condition Assessment Result

TOTAL SCORE 12-15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 5-7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Distribution patterns of rocky shore communities are shaped by environmental stress conditions at the top of the shore. This results in species being present in clearly conspicuous zonation patterns. This results in differing zonation patterns in either sheltered or wave-exposed areas at a local scale. Surveys should therefore record all condition assessment criteria across the full vertical range. Available from: *Marine Strategy Framework Directive Indicators for UK rocky Shores Part 1: Defining and validating indicators*. Available from:

[Marine Strategy Framework Directive Indicators for UK Rocky Shores - Part 1: Defining and validating indicators](#)

Footnote 2 - Details on abundances estimated using SACFOR scale available here: JNCC (No data available) [online]. Available from:

[sacfor.pdf \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. Available

[Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include (please check for updates):

- *Didemnum vexillum* – Carpet sea squirt
- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)
- *Corella eumyota* – Orange-tipped sea squirt
- *Grateloupia turuturu* – Devil's tongue weed, gracile, red menace and red tide
- *Schizoporella japonica* – Orange ripple bryozoan

Footnote 3 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 4 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter m⁻¹ min⁻¹ per 100m. Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and the water's edge. Record the number of litter items to one of 101 item categories, and further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, paper, glass, metal, wood, rubber, leather, fabric, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classifications. Following this, record and sum all anthropogenic litter items. For more useful, please see Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:

NELMS, S.E. ET AL. (2017) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 117: 579. Available from:

[\(PDF\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using citizen science](#)

The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is guided by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter.

VAN LOON, W. ET AL. (2020). *A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines*. Luxembourg. [online] Available from:

[\(PDF\) A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(research report\)](#)

[illegible]

Total score (out of a possible 15)	
	Result Achieved
ss gradients, in particular the vertical gradient from the low tide line up to terrestrial nes. Other environmental stresses, like exposure to wave action, also impact d shores, and in rocky shores often being temporally and spatially highly variable at tical and horizontal extent of the shore. Reference: BURROWS, M.T., ET AL. (2014) ing the indicators. JNCC Report, No. 522, SAMS/MBA/NOCS for JNCC, JNCC ating the indicators (jncc.gov.uk) late) SACFOR abundance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 on: or updates of high-risk species): erson⁻¹, which is summarised below: each and the strandline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign gathered items olystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medical, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, tter items and remove them from the beach. Litter identification guides may be assessment using citizen science data. <i>Science of The Total Environment</i> [online], izen science data (researchgate.net) idance developed within the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine <i>Litter on Coastlines</i>. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, earchgate.net)	

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Condition Sheet: ROCKY SHORE Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock			
Rocky shore - Moderate energy littoral rock			
Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock			
Rocky shore - Features of littoral rock			
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk			
Rocky shore - Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk			
Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk			
Rocky shore - Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk			
On-site or off-site, site name and location			
Limitations (if applicable)			
Habitat Description			
EUNIS -Factsheet for Features of littoral rock (europa.eu)			
Habitat Attributes to Record			
The following information should be recorded within the condition assessment sheet: • Description of presence of typical communities and biotopes across the full vertical extent of the rocky shore • Description of species diversity and community composition across the full vertical extent of the rocky shore • Observations on coastal process functioning and any human physical modifications present • Presence and abundance of non-native species; • Percentage cover of algal growths that could be attributed to nutrient enrichment; • Presence and density of non-natural structures and direct human impacts; • Assessment of litter; and • Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification of overlying water.			
Condition Assessment Criteria			
Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 point)
A	Coastal processes	Coastal processes are functioning naturally. No evidence of human physical modifications which are clearly impacting the habitat.	Artificial structures present, for example groynes that are impeding the natural movement of sediments or water, affecting up to 25% of the habitat.
B	Presence and	Not more than one invasive non-	No invasive non-native species are
C	Water Quality	No visual evidence of pollution.	Visual evidence of low to
D	Non-natural	No evidence of impacts from direct	Evidence of impacts from direct
E	Litter (when	Following the Marine Conservation	Following the MCS beach litter
Total			

Condition Assessment Result

TOTAL SCORE 12-15 (75-100%) = GOOD CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 8-11 (50-75%) = MODERATE CONDITION

TOTAL SCORE 5-7 (0-50%) = POOR CONDITION

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Distribution patterns of rocky shore communities are shaped by environmental species being present in clearly conspicuous zones. Other environmental stresses, like exposed shores, and in rocky shores often being temporally and spatially highly variable at a local scale. Reference: BURROWS, M.T., ET AL. (2014) *Marine Strategy Framework Directive Indicator* Peterborough. Available from:

[Marine Strategy Framework Directive Indicators for UK Rocky Shores - Part 1: Defining and](#)

Footnote 2 - Details on abundances estimated using SACFOR scale available here: [JNCC \(jncc.gov.uk\)](#)

Use the non-native species list available here:

[Microsoft Word - UK Marine NIS priority list 2020 \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

DEFRA (2022) *UK Marine Non-Indigenous Species Priority List* (updated 2020) [online]. Available from: [Marine Pathways Group » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

High-risk species indicative of suboptimal condition at time of publication include (please check for updates):

- *Didemnum vexillum* – Carpet sea squirt
- *Hemigrapsus* spp. – Asian Shore crabs (*H. sanguineus*, *H. takanoi* or *H. penicillatus*)
- *Corella eumyota* – Orange-tipped sea squirt
- *Grateloupia turuturu* – Devil's tongue weed, graciele, red menace and red tide
- *Schizoporella japonica* – Orange ripple bryozoan

Footnote 3 - Peak bloom time is July – September.

Footnote 4 - Please use the method as set out in Nelms et al (2017) to identify litter m⁻¹ mirror. Collect litter along a linear transect parallel with the strandline, located between the back of the beach and the water's edge. Litter should be identified and recorded, and then further classify them into 12 material groups (plastic, polystyrene, rubber, cloth, metal, medicinal, glass, wood, paper, food, and other). Litter items should be removed from the beach. Litter identification guides may be useful, please see the following link: [NELMS, S.E. ET AL. \(2017\) Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using a new methodology \(PDF\)](#)

[Marine anthropogenic litter on British beaches: A 10-year nationwide assessment using a new methodology \(PDF\)](#) The indicator thresholds for litter are based on the methods in Van Loon et al (2020), which is available from the Technical Group on Marine Litter.

[VAN LOON, W. ET AL. \(2020\). A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines \(PDF\)](#) [A European Threshold Value and Assessment Method for Macro Litter on Coastlines](#)

	Result Achieved								

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l stress gradients, in particular the vertical gradient from the low tide line up to terrestrial conditions at the top of the shore. Wave exposure to wave action, also impact distribution patterns. This results in differing zonation patterns in either sheltered or exposed areas. Surveys should therefore record all condition assessment criteria across the full vertical and horizontal extent of the shore. *Guidance for UK rocky Shores Part 1: Defining and validating the indicators*. JNCC Report, No. 522, SAMS/MBA/NOCS

[validating the indicators \(jncc.gov.uk\)](https://jncc.gov.uk/validating-the-indicators)

(No date) *SACFOR abundance scale used for both littoral and sublittoral taxa from 1990 onwards* [online]. Available

available on:

check for updates of high-risk species):

1 person⁻¹, which is summarised below:
 the beach and the strandline. The transect should be 100 m long. Assign gathered items of litter to one of 101 items (e.g. metal, sanitary, faeces, paper, wood, glass, pottery or ceramic) using MCS classifications. Following this, record an estimate of the number of items per person. For more details on the method: see Nelms et al (2017) for more details on the method:
 nationwide assessment using citizen science data. *Science of The Total Environment* [online], 579. Available from: [researchgate.net](https://researchgate.net/publication/317111111)
 This is guidance developed within the Common Implementation Strategy for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). *Macro Litter on Coastlines*. EUR 30347 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. [online] Available from: [researchgate.net](https://researchgate.net/publication/317111111)

[illegible]

the shore. This results in
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ilable from:

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) - Sp (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
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
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	
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of	
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or	
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 (2006) *Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK*. 2nd ed. [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: 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 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348421/Ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions.pdf)

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the site, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to the distance 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 conifer *Pinus* spp., non-native deciduous *Alnus* spp., holm oak *Quercus ilex*, European turkey oak *Quercus cerris*, cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, sycamore *Platanus* spp., shallon *Gaultheria shallon*, American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*, buddleia *Buddleja* spp., sycamore *Platanus* spp., Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and hybrid bluebells *Hyacinthoides x massartiana*. There may also be species local to the region and or site.

	Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab
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Special Areas of Conservation

07) *Hedgerow Survey*
available from: Hedgerow

and
gov.uk)

varies across the habitat,
ative to its risk of spread

rs, tree-of-heaven *Alianthus*
snowberry *Symphoricarpos*
cotoneaster *Cotoneaster*
may be additional relevant

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 <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) - Species		
For other scrub types see:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification		
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name		
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference		
		Grid reference		
Condition Assessment Criteria				
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)		
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			
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or			
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 x/ ✓		
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 for 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) 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 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, turkey oak <i>Quercus cerris</i>, cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>, snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp., shallon <i>Gaulthria</i> spp., cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp., Spanish bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> and hybrid bluebells <i>Hyacinthoides x</i> local to the region and or site.				

al Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)							
e							
p)							Notes (such as justification)

Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in vice.gov.uk).

and
[.uk\)](#)

as across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone
fessional judgement.

tree-of-heaven *Alianthus altissima*, holm oak *Quercus ilex*, European
eria shallon, American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*, buddleia
tyacinthoides x massartiana. There may be additional relevant species

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

Condition Sheet: SPARSELY VEGETATED LAND Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types****Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats****Sparsely vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree****Habitat Description**[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)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its specific sparsely vegetated habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description, with characteristic indicator species consistently present. ¹	
B	The cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> , scrub and trees is less than 25%.	
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁴ make up less than 5% of vegetated ground cover.	
D	Vegetation cover of vascular and non-vascular plants is between 5 and 50%.	
Number of criteria passed		
Condition Assessment Result (out of 4 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 4 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 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 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, create 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 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistles *Euthymus* spp., brambles *Rubus* spp., common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. There may be additional relevant species.

[illegible]

abitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying
fessional judgement.

thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, docks *Rumex* spp.,
nt species local to the region and or site.

Condition Sheet: SPARSELY VEGETATED LAND Habitat Type			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types			
Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats			
Sparsely vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree			
Habitat Description			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name	
		Survey reference (if applicable, link to a wider survey)	
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference	
		Grid reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria			
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	
A	The parcel represents a good example of its specific sparsely vegetated habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description, with characteristic indicator species consistently present. ¹		
B	The cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> , scrub and trees is less than 25%.		
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁴ make up less than 5% of vegetated ground cover.		
D	Vegetation cover of vascular and non-vascular plants is between 5 and 50%.		
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result (out of 4 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	
Passes 4 criteria		Good (3)	
		Score Achieved ×/√	

Passes 3 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

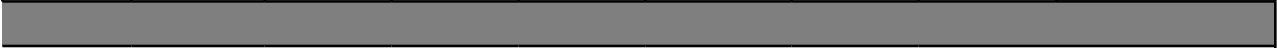
Footnote 1 – Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description.

Footnote 2 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the site, assess the risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, common nettle *Urtica dioica* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

Surveyor								
f relating								
evidence								
or No)								Notes (such as justification)



ss the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species

e, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, docks *Rumex* spp., brambles *Rubus* spp., common ragwort *Jacobaea*

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

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type							
Habitat Types							
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs Urban - Allotments Urban - Biodiverse green roof Urban - Bioswale Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards Urban - Facade-bound green wall Urban - Ground based green wall Urban - Intensive green roof Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land Urban - Rain garden Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS) Urban - Vacant or derelict land Urban - Bare ground							
Habitat Description							
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs and UK Habitat Classification habitats: <table border="1"> <tr> <td>On-site or off-site, site name and location</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limitations (if applicable)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grid reference</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		On-site or off-site, site name and location		Limitations (if applicable)		Grid reference	
On-site or off-site, site name and location							
Limitations (if applicable)							
Grid reference							
Condition Assessment Criteria							
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types :							
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to						
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example						
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the						
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land only:							
D	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: - At least four early successional communities (a) to (i); Communities: (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland, (i) pools.						
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for Bioswale and SuDS habitat types only:							
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be						
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.						
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Intensive green roofs only:							

F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers. 70% of the roof area is soil and vegetation (including water features).
---	---

Additional Criterion - must be assessed for **Biodiverse green roofs** only:

G	The roof has a varied depth of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and seeded with wildflowers and sedums or is pre-prepared with sedums and wildflowers. Note – to achieve Good condition some additional habitat, such as sand piles, stones, logs etc. are present.
---	--

Essential criteria relevant for habitat type

Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
-----------------------------	----------------------------

Results for habitats requiring assessment of **3 core criteria** only (**all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs**):

• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Good (3)
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.	Poor (1)

Results for **Green roofs** and **Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land** (requiring assessment of **4 criteria** only - core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type):

• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (D, F or G).	Good (3)
• Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR • Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)
• Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.	Poor (1)

Results for **Bioswale or SuDS** (requiring assessment of **5 criteria** - core criteria plus additional criteria)

• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group E)	Good (3)
• Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR • Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)
• Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.	Poor (1)

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 2 – Sources of information about detrimental non-native species can be found on website:

[Home » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/non-native-species)

and Natural England Access to Evidence page should also be checked for up-to-date information. [Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/About-us/Our-work/Invasive-species/Invasive-species-horizon-scanning-for-invasive-non-native-plants-in-Great-Britain-NECR053)

For criterion C – For green roof habitat types only – buddleia *Buddleja davidii* should be assessed if it impairs the health of the local ecosystem and reduces the biodiversity potential of the roof. It should not be seeded correctly in subsequent years.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species is patchy, assess accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size determined using professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Use professional judgement. Sources of information about non-native species can be found on the GBNNSS website:

[Alternative plants » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/non-native-species)

		Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab
on (UKHab) for other		UKHab – UK Habitat Classification
Survey date and Surveyor name		
Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		
Habitat parcel reference		
Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)	

at type achieved (Yes or No)	
Number of criteria passed	
Score Achieved x/ ✓	
en mosaic habitat on	
ype):	

ia specified for habitat type):	

the GB Non-native Species Secretariat (GBNNSS)

nation:
[l.org.uk](#))

essed alongside Schedule 9 species. This species
t is also a sign that a roof has not been planted and

native species varies across the habitat, split into
ze relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat,

; that are not detrimental to native wildlife can be found

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs Urban - Allotments Urban - Biodiverse green roof Urban - Bioswale Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards Urban - Facade-bound green wall Urban - Ground based green wall Urban - Intensive green roof Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land Urban - Rain garden Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS) Urban - Vacant or derelict land Urban - Bare ground			
Habitat Description			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs, and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other			
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and S name	
		Survey reference (relating to a wider	
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel refe	
		Grid reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria			
		Criterion passed (Yes	
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types:			
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to		
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example		
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the		
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land only:			
D	The parcel shows spatial variation and forms a mosaic of bare substrate PLUS: - At least four early successional communities (a) to (i); Communities: (a) annuals; (b) mosses/liverworts; (c) lichens; (d) ruderals; (e) inundation species; (f) open grassland; (g) flower-rich grassland; (h) heathland, (i) pools.		

Additional Criteria - must be assessed for Bioswale and SuDS habitat types only:			
E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-native species are present, they should not be		
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.		
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Intensive green roofs only:			
F	The roof has a minimum of 50% native and non-native wildflowers.		
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Biodiverse green roofs only:			
G	The roof has a varied depth of 80 – 150 mm; at least 50% is at 150 mm and is planted and		
Essential criteria relevant for habitat type achieved (Yes or No)			
Number of criteria passed			
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/ ✓
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats except Open mosaic habitat on			
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Good (3)	
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)	
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.		Poor (1)	
Results for Green roofs and Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land (requiring assessment of 4 criteria only - core criteria plus additional criterion specified for habitat type):			
• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes additional criterion relevant to specific habitat type (D, F or G).		Good (3)	
• Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; OR • Passes 4 of 4 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.		Moderate (2)	
• Passes 0 or 1 of 4 criteria.		Poor (1)	
Results for Bioswale or SuDS (requiring assessment of 5 criteria - core criteria plus additional criteria specified for habitat			

• Passes all 3 core criteria; AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; AND • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group E)	Good (3)		
• Passes 3 or 4 of 5 criteria; OR • Passes 5 of 5 criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)		
• Passes 2 or fewer of 5 criteria.	Poor (1)		

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 2 – Sources of information about detrimental non-native species can be found on the GB Non-native Species Home » [NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](https://nonnativespecies.org)

and Natural England Access to Evidence page should also be checked for up-to-date information:

[Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk/horizon-scanning-for-invasive-non-native-plants-in-great-britain-NECR053)

For criterion C – For green roof habitat types only – buddleia *Buddleja davidii* should be assessed alongside the biodiversity potential of the roof. It is also a sign that a roof has not been planted and seeded correctly in subsequent years.

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the site, assess the risk of spread of invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Use professional judgement. Sources of information about non-native species that are not detrimental to biodiversity are available on the [Alternative plants » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](https://nonnativespecies.org)

r habitats:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification						
urveyor								
if survey)								
erence								
or No)								Notes (such as justification)

previously developed land, Bioswale, SuDS and Green roofs):								
type):								

Species Secretariat (GBNNSS) website:

chedule 9 species. This species impairs the health of the local ecosystem and reduces the
quent years.

across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the
ement.

ental to native wildlife can be found on the GBNNSS website:

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

Condition Sheet: WETLAND Habitat Type**Habitat Types**

Grassland - Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM - See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Wetland - Blanket bog

Wetland - Depression on peat substrates (H7150)

Wetland - Fens (upland and lowland)

Wetland - Lowland raised bog

Wetland - Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)

Wetland - Purple moor grass and rush pastures

Wetland - Reedbeds

Wetland - Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)

Habitat Description

[For Oceanic valley mires - see EUNIS](#)

See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for Floodplain wetland mosaic (FWM) and coastal and floodplain wetland mosaic (CFGM) and see the below:

[Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh UK BAP Priority Habitat description](#)

[Priority Habitat Inventory \(England\) - data.gov.uk](#)

All other wetland habitats - see UK Habitat Classification (UKHab):

[UKHab](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location	
Limitations (if applicable)	
Grid reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria	
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all wetland habitat types :	
A	The water table is at, or near the surface throughout the year - this could be open water or saturation of soil
B	The parcel represents a good example of its specific habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description, with vascular and non-vascular characteristic indicator species consistently present. ¹
C	The water supplies (groundwater, surface water and or rainwater) to the wetland are of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.
D	Cover of scrub and scattered trees are less than 10%.
E	Cover of bare ground is less than 5%.
F	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and species
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Fen and Purple moor grass and rush pasture habitats only:	
G	No more than 25% of the habitat area has a continuous cover of litter (such as dead vegetation) preventing
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Bog habitats only:	
H	Sphagnum moss <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. and cottongrasses <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. are at least Frequent ⁵ . Cover of
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Reedbed habitats only:	
I	The reedbed has a diverse structure with between 60% and 80% reeds <i>Phragmites australis</i> . Other areas may
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM only:	
J	All ditches recorded within the habitat achieve Good condition as assessed using the Ditch condition sheet.

Essential criterion achieved (required for Good)	
Number of criteria achieved	
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 6 criteria (Depression on peat substrates (H7150) and Oceanic valley mire)	
• Passes 5 or 6 core criteria, including criterion A.	Good (3)
• Passes 3 or 4 core criteria; OR • Passes 5 core criteria but fails criterion A.	Moderate (2)
• Passes 2 or fewer core criteria.	Poor (1)
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 7 criteria - core criteria and additional criterion specified for habitat types except Depression on peat substrates (H7150) and Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1):	
• Passes 5 or 6 core criteria including criterion A; AND • Passes additional criterion G, H, I or J (choose the one specified for the habitat type).	Good (3)
• Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria; OR • Passes 6 of 7 criteria but fails criterion A or additional criterion G, H, I or J (choose the one specified for the habitat type).	Moderate (2)
• Passes 3 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 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, use the most appropriate value.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, docks *Rumex* spp., and common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the site.

Footnote 5 – According to the relative abundance DAFOR scale – Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional or Rare.

Footnote 6 – Ericaceous dwarf shrubs include: crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*, cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, and bell heather *Erica cinerea*. There may be other species present on the site.

Footnote 7 – For fens, specify what fen type is present using base-status and trophic status - alkaline, neutral or oligotrophic.

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

oodplain grazing marsh (CFGM). For CFGM also

[illegible]

condition) Yes or No:	
number of criteria passed	
Score Achieved x/ √	
Score Achieved [1] (D2.1)):	
type - all habitat	

cross the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying
using professional judgement.

use, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, common nettle *Urtica*
to the region and or site.

re.

rry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, cranberry *Vaccinium*
additional relevant species local to the region and or

neutral, or acidic; eutrophic, mesotrophic or

Condition Sheet: WETLAND Habitat Type**Habitat Types**

Grassland - Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM - See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Wetland - Blanket bog

Wetland - Depression on peat substrates (H7150)

Wetland - Fens (upland and lowland)

Wetland - Lowland raised bog

Wetland - Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)

Wetland - Purple moor grass and rush pastures

Wetland - Reedbeds

Wetland - Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)

Habitat Description

[For Oceanic valley mires - see EUNIS](#)

See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for Floodplain wetland mosaic (FWM) and coastal and floodplain grazing

[Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh UK BAP Priority Habitat description](#)

[Priority Habitat Inventory \(England\) - data.gov.uk](#)

All other wetland habitats - see UK Habitat Classification (UKHab):

[UKHab](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name			
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)			
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference			
		Grid reference			
Condition Assessment Criteria					
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)			
Core Criteria - must be assessed for all wetland habitat types:					
A	The water table is at, or near the surface throughout the year - this could be open				
B	The parcel represents a good example of its specific habitat type - the appearance				
C	The water supplies (groundwater, surface water and or rainwater) to the wetland are of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.				
D	Cover of scrub and scattered trees are less than 10%.				
E	Cover of bare ground is less than 5%.				
F	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ² (as listed on Schedule 9 of				
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Fen and Purple moor grass and rush pasture habitats only:					
G	No more than 25% of the habitat area has a continuous cover of litter (such as dead				
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Bog habitats only:					
H	Sphagnum moss <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. and cottongrasses <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. are at least				

Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Reedbed habitats only:					
I	The reedbed has a diverse structure with between 60% and 80% reeds <i>Phragmites</i>				
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM only:					
J	All ditches recorded within the habitat achieve Good condition as assessed using the Ditch condition sheet.				
Essential criterion achieved (required for Good condition) Yes or No:					
Number of criteria passed					
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved x/√	
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 6 criteria (Depression on peat substrates (H7150) and Oceanic valley mire [1])					
•Passes 5 or 6 core criteria, including criterion A.		Good (3)			
•Passes 3 or 4 core criteria; OR •Passes 5 core criteria but fails criterion A.		Moderate (2)			
•Passes 2 or fewer core criteria.		Poor (1)			
Results for habitats requiring assessment of 7 criteria - core criteria and additional criterion specified for habitat type - all habitat types except Depression on peat substrates (H7150) and Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1):					
•Passes 5 or 6 core criteria including criterion A; AND •Passes additional criterion G, H, I or J (choose the one specified for the habitat type).		Good (3)			
•Passes 4 or 5 of 7 criteria; OR •Passes 6 of 7 criteria but fails criterion A or additional criterion G, H, I or J (choose the one specified for the habitat type).		Moderate (2)			
•Passes 3 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 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the |
invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spea
spp., and common ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

Footnote 5 – According to the relative abundance DAFOR scale – Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional or Rare.

Footnote 6 – Ericaceous dwarf shrubs include: crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*, cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, bilberry *Vacc
vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, and bell heather *Erica cinerea*. There may be additional relevant species local to

Footnote 7 – For fens, specify what fen type is present using base-status and trophic status - alkaline, neutral, o

marsh (CFGM). For CFGM also see the below:

(D2.1)):							

habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the

or thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, docks *Rumex*

vacinium myrtillus, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*, heather *Calluna*
the region and or site.

or acidic; eutrophic, mesotrophic or oligotrophic.

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types**

Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland
 Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
 Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands
 Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland
 Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland
 Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved
 Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed
 Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods
 Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods
 Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood
 Woodland and forest - Wet woodland

Habitat Description

[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey
[Woodland Wildlife Toolkit \(sylva.org.uk\)](#)

IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland biodiversity. The outputs of this condition assessment are not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the full EWBG assessment. The EWBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the removal of EWBG Indicators 12 (Presence of woodland around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland), and minor changes to other indicators.

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

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³	Rhododendron	Rhododendron or
D	Number of native tree	Five or more native tree or	Three to four native tree	Two or less native tree

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 .
F	Open space within	10 - 20% of woodland has	21 - 40% of woodland	<10% or >40% of
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in	One or two classes only	No classes or coppice
H	Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less,	11% to 25% tree	Greater than 25% tree
I	Vegetation and ground	Recognisable NVC plant	Recognisable woodland	No recognisable
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 .
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots	Between 25% and 50%	Less than 25% of all
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 .	1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .

Total Score (out of a possible 39)

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

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment details: EWBG (No date). *Assessing your woodland*. Available from:

[Woodland Wildlife Toolkit \(sylva.org.uk\)](http://sylva.org.uk)

The woodland condition assessment survey methodology is outlined in the EWBG toolkit. However the criteria for the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and must be used when assessing woodland condition.

EWBG INDICATOR 12 is the relevant indicator.

Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches (>1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and Diameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter of 20 cm.

Footnote 14 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant from trampling, machinery, animal poaching or litter.

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

Key Method, available here:

ng input into the biodiversity metric. The EWBG condition assessment, because of 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover

Score per	Notes (such as justification)

reResult Achieved

our Woodland's Condition [online].

a on this sheet are those specific to the

, cherry *Prunus* sp. or *Sorbus* sp.: 0 – 20
20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years
the woodland or stand being assessed.

significant where >20% of vegetation

recel. If the distribution of invasive non-

amended), particularly the following
 glandulifera; Japanese knotweed
 os albus; variegated yellow archangel
anthus altissima.

ative tree or shrub species including
all species listed are native to all parts of
esent.

cies in upper (>5 m) and understorey (up

ntext is temporary open space in which
m permanent open space where tree
ith less than 20% covered by shrubs or

potential of the woodland by considering
category of the 'age distribution of trees'
if seedlings, saplings and young trees

ests and their risk level.

NVC translation table' in the UK Habitat

je of trees in a woodland. Vertical
ex: recorded when the stand is
idle or lower); 3) Middle; 4) Lower; and 5)
more information.

ent and veteran trees. Available from:

ches on the forest floor and stumps (<1
d also deadwood on standing live trees.

cant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types**

Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland
 Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
 Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands
 Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland
 Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland
 Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved
 Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed
 Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods
 Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods
 Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood
 Woodland and forest - Wet woodland

Habitat Description

[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

This condition sheet is based on the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG) Woodland Condition Survey Methodology (EWBG 2015) and the [Woodland Wildlife Toolkit \(sylva.org.uk\)](#)

IMPORTANT: This biodiversity metric woodland condition assessment must be used to assess woodland being impacted by the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland). It is not equivalent to, nor are they comparable with the scores from the EWBG condition assessment, because the EWBG condition assessment includes the removal of EWBG Indicator 7 (Proportion of favourable land cover around woodland) and Indicator 14 (Size of woodland).

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name		Habitat parcel reference		
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		Grid reference		

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator		
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.			
	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .			
	Invasive plant	No invasive species ³	Rhododendron	Rhododendron or			
	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.			

[illegible]

Footnotes

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment details: EWBG (No date). *Assessing your Woodland Wildlife Toolkit* (sylva.org.uk)

The woodland condition assessment survey methodology is outlined in the EWBG toolkit. However the criteria on 1 used when assessing woodland condition.

Footnote 1 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch *Betula* sp., cherry (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or *Sorbus* species; 0 - 20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years = Intermediate; and >60 years = Old. For a consistent recognisable layer across the woodland or stand being assessed. Presence of a few saplings would not be sufficient.

Footnote 2 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 2 for more information. Browsing pressure is considered to be significant if there is evidence of damage from any type of browsing pressure listed.

Footnote 3 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 3 for more information. Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the woodland is split into parcels accordingly.

Check for the presence of all plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended): American cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*; Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*; Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*; white-flowered *Symphoricarpos albus*; variegated yellow archangel *Lamium galeobdolon* subsp. *argenteum*; rhododendron *Rhododendron*

Footnote 4 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 4 and Table 2 for more information. The number of different native tree and shrub species found is provided in Table 2. Not all species listed are native to all parts of the UK. All native species should be recorded if present.

Footnote 5 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 5 and for more information. The abundance of native tree species is recorded for trees and shrubs.

Footnote 6 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 6 for more information. Open space within woodland in this context includes, for example, glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not occurring. Area is at least 10 m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees.

Footnote 7 – Given the increased ratio of edge habitat to woodland where the woodland is <10ha.

Footnote 8 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 8 for more information. This indicator measures regeneration potential of young trees of 4-7 cm DBH. All three classes would fall in the 'young' category of the 'age distribution of trees' indicator. Considering regeneration potential - if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration is occurring.

Footnote 9 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 9 for more information and Table 3 for a list of diseases and pests and their effects.

Footnote 10 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 10 directing to NVC key for more information. The 'UKHab to NVC' key is useful to assess this.

Footnote 11 – This criterion looks at structural diversity and is useful to understand in conjunction with the age of trees and storeys present. Possible storey values are: 1) Upper; 2) Complex: recorded when the stand is composed of multiple storeys (as upper, middle or lower); 3) Middle; 4) Lower; and 5) Shrub layer. There might be no storeys where the woodland is dominated by a single tree species.

Footnote 12 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:

[Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614441/Keepers_of_time_-_ancient_and_native_woodland_and_trees_policy_in_England.pdf) and:

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614441/Ancient_woodland,_ancient_trees_and_veteran_trees_advice_for_making_planning_decisions.pdf)

EWBG INDICATOR 12 is the relevant indicator.

Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches at point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and also deadwood on standing live trees. Diameter of 20 cm.

Footnote 14 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant tree poaching or litter.

Method, available here:

put into the biodiversity metric. The outputs of this condition assessment are VBG assessment has been adapted for the biodiversity metric, including the (land), and minor changes to other indicators.

ce							
							Notes (such as justification)

rry *Prunus* sp. or *Sorbus* sp.: 0 - 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years intermediate; >60 years = Old. A recognisable age-class should be a t indicate that the woodland has an 'age-class' of young trees.

ificant where >20% of vegetation visible within each survey plot shows

If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat,

nded), particularly the following invasive non-native species: American skunk
ica; cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*; shallon *Gaultheria shallon*; snowberry
rhododendron *ponticum*; and tree-of-heaven *Alianthus altissima*.

tree or shrub species including young trees and shrubs. A list of commonly
Note a list of commonly found non-native tree species are also included and

n upper (>5 m) and understorey (up to 5 m) layers including young trees and

is temporary open space in which trees can be expected to regenerate (for
ation is not possible or desirable (for example, tarmac, buildings, rivers).

itial of the woodland by considering three classes: seedlings; saplings; and
cator, but the regeneration indicator gathers additional information by
eneration processes are happening.

and their risk level.

> translation table' in the UK Habitat Classification resources may also be

trees in a woodland. Vertical structure is defined as the number of canopy
ple tree heights that cannot easily be stratified into broad height bands (such
d has been felled. See EWBG INDICATOR 11 for more information.

on the forest floor and stumps (<1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest
iameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter

nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery, animal

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

Condition Sheet: WOOD-PASTURE AND PARKLAND Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type****Woodland and forest - Wood-pasture and parkland****Habitat Description**[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if
Grid reference		Habitat parcel reference

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	Presence of ancient and or veteran trees ¹ .	
B	Three different life-stages (for example young, mature or veteran) of	
C	Native scrub is present with a variety of heights, widths, shapes and	
D	Frequent ³ presence of decaying wood providing ecological niches –	
E	There is no evidence of recent adverse impact on tree health by human	
F	Ground cover comprises open habitats, for example grassland or	
G	Ground cover is subject to an appropriate management regime providing	
H	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁵ (as listed on	
Number of criteria passed		

Condition Assessment Result (out of 8 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 7 or 8 criteria and meets criterion A	Good (3)	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria OR Passes 7 criteria but fails criterion A	Moderate (2)	
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score**Footnotes****Footnote 1** – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. 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 \(w](#)

‘Veteran’ is not an age-class of tree, but in a habitat context refers to those trees having veteran characteristics of any age.

Footnote 2 - The composition of native scrub provides opportunities for natural tree regeneration and affecting the integrity of the habitat mosaic.

Footnote 3 - According to the relative abundance DAFOR scale – Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional

Footnote 4 - Examples evidencing a management regime that creates open habitat ground cover with include: grassland with varied sward height, or heathland with a range of age-classes of heather *Calluna* dwarf shrubs.

Footnote 5 - Assess this for each distinct habitat block. If the distribution of invasive non-native species habitat, define blocks accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a zone of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement. Since wood-pasture and parkland is a mosaic comprising a variety of plant structures and heights, careful consideration should be used when splitting habitat. moreover, splitting a habitat into blocks does not change its habitat type.

Footnote 6 - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 7 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type may include: non-native *Ailanthus altissima*, *Ailanthus* spp., holm oak *Quercus ilex*, European turkey oak *Quercus cerris*, cherry laurel *Laurocerasus*, shallon *Gaultheria shallon*, American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*, snowberry *Buddleia* spp., cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* spp., Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and *Hyacinthoides x massartiana*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

tree protection without

casional or Rare.

1 varied structure may
na vulgaris or other

as varies across the
a size relative to its risk
nosaic habitat
ing a habitat into parcels;

onifers, tree-of-heaven
y laurel *Prunus*
Symphoricarpos spp.,
hybrid bluebells

Condition Sheet: WOOD-PASTURE AND PARKLAND Habitat Type**UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type****Woodland and forest - Wood-pasture and parkland****Habitat Description**[ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location		Survey date and Surveyor name				
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)				
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference				
		Grid reference				
Condition Assessment Criteria						
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)				
A	Presence of ancient and or veteran trees ¹ .					
B	Three different life-stages (for example young, mature or veteran) of open grown or pollarded trees ¹ are present, to ensure replacement and continuity of tree cohort, veteran characteristics and habitat.					
C	Native scrub is present with a variety of heights, widths, shapes and					
D	Frequent ³ presence of decaying wood providing ecological niches – such as standing, attached and fallen deadwood (for example, dead stems, branches and branch stubs), trees with heart-rot, or hollowing in the trunk or major limbs. Decay features might be revealed by certain types of fungal fruiting bodies.					
E	There is no evidence of recent adverse impact on tree health by human activities, livestock, wild animals, pests or diseases (this excludes veteran features valuable for wildlife). For example, no evidence of poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, ground compaction, grazing damage to bark and roots, competition or shading from surrounding trees.					
F	Ground cover comprises open habitats, for example grassland or					
G	Ground cover is subject to an appropriate management regime providing structural diversity for vertebrates and invertebrates, which is not being or threatened by infill of trees and scrub, by natural establishment or forestry plantation, native or non-native. See Footnote 4 for details.					
H	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁵ (as listed on					
Number of criteria passed						

[illegible]

ut which may be any age.

ion without affecting the integrity of the habitat

Rare.

cture may include: grassland with varied sward

ross the habitat, define blocks accordingly,
t habitat, using professional judgement. Since
eration should be used when splitting a habitat

-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*, *Ailanthus* spp.,
a *shallon*, American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton*
ebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and hybrid bluebells

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 only use the Line of Trees Condition 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 (only outside its restricted native range)*’

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 the UKHab link.

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

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

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

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

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