

Instructions

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

- STEP 1: Considerations before assessing condition
- STEP 2: Choosing the right condition sheet
- STEP 3: Using condition sheets

Step 1: Considerations before assessing condition

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

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

Step 2: Choosing the right condition sheet

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes on Using Condition Sheets

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

Using the 'Woodland' condition sheet

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

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

Using the 'Lakes' condition sheet

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

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

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

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

Using the 'Hedgerow' condition sheet

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

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

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

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
	Tall herb communities (H6430)	Use Habitats Directive Annex 1 definition	Tall herb communities (H6430)	None
	Upland acid grassland	UKHab	Upland acid grassland	None
	Upland calcareous grassland	UKHab	Upland calcareous grassland	None
	Upland hay meadows	UKHab	Upland hay meadows	None
Heathland and shrub	Blackthorn scrub	UKHab	Blackthorn scrub	None
	Bramble scrub	UKHab	Bramble scrub	None
	Gorse scrub	UKHab	Gorse scrub	None
	Hawthorn scrub	UKHab	Hawthorn scrub	None
	Hazel scrub	UKHab	Hazel scrub	None
	Lowland heathland	UKHab	Lowland heathland	None
	Mixed scrub	UKHab	Mixed scrub	None
	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	UKHab	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	None
	Rhododendron scrub	UKHab	Rhododendron scrub	None
	Willow scrub	UKHab	Willow scrub	None
	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	Habitats Directive Annex 1	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	All other sea buckthorn scrub should be recorded as 'Other sea buckthorn scrub'
Individual tree	Other sea buckthorn scrub	UKHab	Other sea buckthorn scrub	None
	Upland heathland	UKHab	Upland heathland	None
	Rural tree	Metric-specific	N/A	None
Lakes	Urban tree	Metric-specific	N/A	None
	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	UKHab	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	None
	Ornamental lake or pond	UKHab	Ornamental lakes or ponds	None

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
	High alkalinity lakes	Water Framework Directive (WFD) Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Low alkalinity lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Marl lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Moderate alkalinity lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Peat lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Ponds (priority habitat)	UKHab	Ponds (priority habitat)	< 2ha
	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	UKHab	Pond (non-priority)	< 2ha
	Reservoirs	UKHab/WFD Lakes typology*	Reservoir	*Some larger reservoirs are covered by the WFD Lakes typology.
	<i>Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)</i>	UKHab*	Mediterranean temporary ponds (H3170)	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. *All temporary water bodies not meeting this definition should be recorded as the appropriate pond or lake habitat type.
	Calaminarian grasslands	UKHab	Calaminarian grasslands	None
	Coastal sand dunes	UKHab	Sand dunes	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Coastal vegetated shingle	UKHab	Coastal vegetated shingle	None
	<i>Ruderal/Ephemeral</i>	UKHab	Ruderal or ephemeral	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
	Tall forbs	UKHab	Tall forbs	None
	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	UKHab	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	None
	Limestone pavement	UKHab	Limestone pavement	None

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
	Maritime cliff and slopes	UKHab	Maritime cliff and slopes	None
	<i>Other inland rock and scree</i>	UKHab	Other inland rock	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
Urban	Allotments	UKHab	Allotments	None
	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	UKHab	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	None
	Bioswale	UKHab	Bioswale	None
	Biodiverse green roof	UKHab	Biodiverse green roof	None
	Built linear features	UKHab	Built linear features	None
	Cemeteries and churchyards	UKHab	Cemeteries and churchyards	None
	Developed land; sealed surface	UKHab	Developed land; sealed surface	None
	Biodiverse green roof	UKHab	Biodiverse green roof	None
	Facade-bound green wall	UKHab	Facade-bound green wall	None
	<i>Ground based green wall</i>	UKHab	Ground-based green wall	None
	Ground level planters	UKHab	Ground level planters	None
	Intensive green roof	UKHab	Intensive green roof	None
	Introduced shrub	UKHab	Introduced shrub	None
	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	UKHab	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	None
	Other green roof	UKHab	Other green roof	None
	Rain garden	UKHab	Rain garden	None
	<i>Actively worked sand pit quarry or open cast mine</i>	UKHab	Active sand pit or quarry or open cast mine	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. This classification relates to non-vegetated working areas only.
	Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)	UKHab	Sustainable drainage system	None
	Unvegetated garden	UKHab	Unvegetated garden	None
	Vacant or derelict land	UKHab	Vacant or derelict land	None

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
	Bare ground	UKHab	Bare ground	None
	Vegetated garden	UKHab	Vegetated garden	None
Wetland	Blanket bog	UKHab	Blanket bog	None
	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)	UKHab	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)	None
	<i>Fens (upland and lowland)</i>	UKHab	Lowland fens; Upland flushes fens and swamps; Other wetlands	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
	Lowland raised bog	UKHab	Lowland raised bog	None
	<i>Wetland – Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)</i>	EUNIS	Oceanic valley bog	None
	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	UKHab	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	None
	Reedbeds	UKHab	Reedbeds	None
Woodland and forest	<i>Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)</i>	UKHab	Transition mires and quaking bogs - lowland (H7140) Transition mires and quaking bogs - upland (H7140)	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
	Felled	UKHab	Felled	None
	Lowland beech and yew woodland	UKHab	Lowland beech and yew woodland	None
	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	UKHab	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	None
	Native pine woodlands	UKHab	Native pine woodlands	None
	Other coniferous woodland	UKHab	Other coniferous woodland	None
	Other Scot's pine woodland	UKHab	Other Scot's pine woodland	None
	<i>Other woodland; broadleaved</i>	UKHab	Other broadleaved woodland	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
	Other woodland; mixed	UKHab	Other woodland; mixed	None
	Upland birchwoods	UKHab	Upland birchwoods	None
	Upland mixed ashwoods	UKHab	Upland mixed ashwoods	None
	Upland oakwood	UKHab	Upland oakwood	None
	Wet woodland	UKHab	Wet woodland	None
	Wood-pasture and parkland	UKHab	Wood-pasture and parkland	None
Coastal lagoons	<i>Coastal lagoons</i>	EUNIS	Saline coastal lagoons	None

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
Coastal saltmarsh	<i>Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</i>	EUNIS	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	None
	<i>Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
Rocky shore	High energy littoral rock	EUNIS	High energy littoral rock	None
	<i>High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	High energy littoral rock	None
	Moderate energy littoral rock	EUNIS	Moderate energy littoral rock	None
	<i>Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Moderate energy littoral rock	None
	Low energy littoral rock	EUNIS	Low energy littoral rock	None
	<i>Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Low energy littoral rock	None
	Features of littoral rock	EUNIS	Features of littoral rock	None
	<i>Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Features of littoral rock	None
Intertidal sediment	Littoral coarse sediment	EUNIS	Littoral coarse sediment	None
	<i>Littoral sand</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sand and muddy sand	None
	<i>Littoral muddy sand</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sand and muddy sand	None
	Littoral mud	EUNIS	Littoral mud	None
	Littoral mixed sediments	EUNIS	Littoral mixed sediments	None
	<i>Littoral seagrass</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms	None
	<i>Littoral seagrass on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms	None

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
	<i>Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species	Littoral biogenic reefs	None
	<i>Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species	Littoral biogenic reefs	None
	Features of littoral sediment	EUNIS	Features of littoral sediment	None
	<i>Artificial littoral coarse sediment</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral muddy sand</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral mud</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral sand</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral mixed sediments</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral seagrass</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial littoral biogenic reefs</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
Intertidal hard structures	<i>Artificial hard structures</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial features of hard structures</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None
	<i>Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGG)</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric		None

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
Hedgerows and Lines of trees	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a5 70 h2a5 191 h2a5 70 191
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow with trees</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a5 190
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a5 190 70 h2a5 190 191 h2a5 190 70 191
	<i>Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a 190 70 h2a 190 191 h2a 190 70 191
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	UKHab code: h2a5
	<i>Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a 70 h2a 191 h2a 70 191
	<i>Native hedgerow with trees</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a 190
	<i>Ecologically valuable line of trees</i>	UKHab	Ecologically valuable line of trees	Combined UKHab codes: w~ 1175
	<i>Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Ecologically valuable line of trees	Combined UKHab codes: w~ 1175 70 w~ 1175 191 w~ 1175 70 191
	Native hedgerow	UKHab	Native hedgerow	Combined UKHab codes: h2a h2a6
	Line of trees	UKHab	Line of trees	UKHab code: w~ 1174
	<i>Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Line of trees	Combined UKHab codes: w~ 1174 70 w~ 1174 191 w~ 1174 70191
	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	UKHab	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	UKHab code: h2b
Watercourse	Priority habitat	UKHab	Rivers (priority habitat)	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
	Other rivers and streams	UKHab	Other rivers and streams	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
	Ditches	Metric-specific	Ditch	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
	Canals	UKHab	Canals	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
	Culvert	N/A	N/A	Use as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Habitat type (Habitats in bold are Priority Habitats)	Condition sheet
Area habitats	
Broad habitat type: Cropland	
Cropland - Arable field margins cultivated annually	Condition Assessment N/A
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	
Broad habitat type: Grassland	
Grassland - Bracken	Condition Assessment N/A
Grassland - Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for details on recording.
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness
Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland	
Grassland - Lowland meadows	Grassland Low distinctiveness
Grassland - Modified grassland	
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness
Grassland - Other neutral grassland	
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430)	
Grassland - Traditional orchards	Orchard
Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness
Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland	
Grassland - Upland hay meadows	
Broad habitat type: Heathland and scrub	
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub	Scrub
Heathland and shrub - Bramble scrub	Condition Assessment N/A
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub	Scrub
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub	
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub	
Heathland and shrub - Lowland heathland	Heathland
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub	Scrub
Heathland and shrub - Mountain heaths and willow scrub	Use Heathland condition sheet for Mountain heaths OR Scrub condition sheet for Willow scrub
Heathland and shrub - Rhododendron scrub	
Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	Scrub
Heathland and shrub - Other sea buckthorn scrub	Condition Assessment N/A
Heathland and shrub - Upland heathland	Heathland
Heathland and shrub – Willow scrub	Scrub
Broad habitat type: Lakes	
Lakes - Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	Lakes
Lakes - High alkalinity lakes	
Lakes - Low alkalinity lakes	
Lakes - Marl lakes	
Lakes - Moderate alkalinity lakes	
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond	Lakes OR Ponds
Lakes - Peat lakes	
Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)	Ponds
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)	
Lakes - Reservoirs	Lakes
Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)	Use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes OR Pond condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools
Broad habitat type: Sparsely vegetated land	

Habitat type (Habitats in bold are Priority Habitats)	Condition sheet
Sparingly vegetated land - Calaminarian grasslands	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness
Sparingly vegetated land - Coastal sand dunes	Coastal
Sparingly vegetated land - Coastal vegetated shingle	
Sparingly vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral	Urban
Sparingly vegetated land - Tall forbs	
Sparingly vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	Sparingly vegetated land
Sparingly vegetated land - Limestone pavement	Limestone pavement
Sparingly vegetated land - Maritime cliff and slopes	Coastal
Sparingly vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree	Sparingly vegetated land
Broad habitat type: Urban	
Urban - Allotments	Urban
Urban - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	N/A - Other
Urban - Bioswale	
Urban - Biodiverse green roof	Urban
Urban - Built linear features	N/A - Other
Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards	Use Urban condition sheet as default.
Urban - Developed land; sealed surface	N/A - Other
Urban - Facade-bound green wall	
Urban - Ground based green wall	Urban
Urban - Ground level planters	Condition Assessment N/A
Urban - Intensive green roof	Urban
Urban - Introduced shrub	Condition Assessment N/A
Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	Urban
Urban - Other green roof	Condition Assessment N/A
Urban - Rain garden	Urban
Urban - Actively worked sand pit, quarry or open cast mine	Condition Assessment N/A
Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)	Urban
Urban - Unvegetated garden	N/A - Other
Urban - Vacant or derelict land	
Urban - Bare ground	Urban
Urban - Vegetated garden	Condition Assessment N/A
Broad habitat type: Wetland	
Wetland - Blanket bog	Wetland
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)	
Broad habitat type: Woodland	
Woodland and forest - Felled	No assessment required - condition fixed at Good
Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland	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	Wood-pasture and parkland
Broad habitat type: Coastal lagoons	
Coastal lagoons - Coastal lagoons	Coastal lagoons
Broad habitat type: Coastal saltmarsh	
Coastal saltmarsh - Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
Coastal saltmarsh - Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	Coastal saltmarsh

Habitat type (Habitats in bold are Priority Habitats)	Condition sheet
Broad habitat type: Intertidal hard structures	
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)	Intertidal hard structures
Broad habitat type: Intertidal sediment	
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
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 seagrass
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral seagrass	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs – Sabellaria	Intertidal biogenic reefs
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral biogenic reefs	
Broad habitat type: Rocky shore	
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
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	
Broad habitat type: Individual trees	
Individual trees – Rural tree	Individual trees
Individual trees – Urban tree	
Hedgerows and Lines of trees habitats	
Broad habitat type: Hedgerows and lines of trees	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Line of trees	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	
Hedgerows and lines of trees – Ecologically valuable line of trees	Line of trees
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	
Hedgerows and lines of trees – Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow with trees	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	Hedgerow

Survey Cover Sheet			
Survey date/s	10/04/2024 & 24/04/2024	Site name or location	Land to the east of Tilletts Lane, Warnham, West Sussex
Weather conditions	Overcast, dry	Project or development name	Land to the east of Tilletts Lane
Surveyor name	Natalie Arscott	On-site or off-site	On-site
Survey reference	23-246	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							
On-site, Land east of Tilletts Lane	Grassland low distinctiveness	4			1		3	
	Grassland medium, high, very high distinctiveness							
	Heathland							
On-site, Land east of Tilletts Lane	Hedgerow	7	6		1			
On-site, Land east of Tilletts Lane	Individual trees	4	3		1			

	Intertidal biogenic reefs						
	Intertidal hard structures						
	Intertidal seagrass						
	Intertidal sediment						
	Lakes						
	Limestone pavement						
	Line of trees						
	Orchard						
	Ponds						

	Rocky shore						
	Scrub						
	Sparsely vegetated land						
On-site, Land east of Tilletts Lane	Urban	3			2		1
	Wetland						
	Woodland						
	Wood-pasture and parkland						

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)																					
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type																					
Grassland - Modified grassland																					
Habitat Description																					
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification																					
On-site or off-site, site name and location		On-site, Land to the east of Tilletts Lane, Warnham		Survey date and Surveyor name		10/04/2024 & 24/04/2024, Natalie Arscott															
				Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		23-246															
Limitations (if applicable)				Habitat parcel reference								Notes (such as justification)									
				Grid reference																	
Condition Assessment Criteria				TQ 15626 33946	TQ 15699 33900	TQ 15834 33978	TQ 15776 33742														
				Criterion passed (Yes or No)																	
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.				No	Yes	No	No													
B	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.				Yes	No	No	No													
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.				No	Yes	Yes	Yes													
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.				No	Yes	Yes	No													
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .				No	No	Yes	No													
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes													
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes													
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)																					
Number of criteria passed											3	5	5	3							
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved ✕/✓									Notes (such as justification)								
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 dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

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

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

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

B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	<p>This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small).</p> <p>Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).</p>	Yes									
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).	<p>This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes			
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	<p>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.</p>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes			
D1.	Invasive and neophyte species	>90% of the hedgerow and undisturbed ground is free of invasive non-native plant species (including those listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ³) and recently introduced species.	<p>Recently introduced species refer to plants that have naturalised in the UK since AD 1500 (neophytes). Archaeophytes count as natives. For information on archaeophytes and neophytes see the JNCC website⁴, as well as the BBSI website⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website⁷.</p>	Yes									
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	<p>This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes.</p> <p>This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).</p>	Yes									

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.	<p>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.</p>	Yes	N/A	No	No	Yes	Yes	No			
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.	<p>This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.</p>	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are set out in the 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 <u>Does not fail both 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 <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		H2 - 3
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 <u>Does not fail both 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 <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		H1 - 3, H3 - 3, H4 - 3,
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score		

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.												
<p>Please see the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of <u>rural</u> trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</p>												
Habitat Description												
<p>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.</p>												
<p>Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only): Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.</p>												
On-site or off-site, site name and location		On-site, Land to the east of Tilletts Lane, Warnham	Survey date and Surveyor name		10/04/2024 & 24/04/2024, Natalie Arscott							
			Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		23-246							
Limitations (if applicable)			Habitat parcel reference									
			T63	T64	T65	T66						
Condition Assessment Criteria			Grid reference									
			TQ 15830 33992	TQ 15831 33987	TQ 15835 33982	TQ 15837 33977						
Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)		
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
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).		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .		Yes	Yes	No	Yes						
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.		Yes	Yes	No	No						
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes						
Number of criteria passed			6	6	4	5						
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✕/✓									
Passes 5 or 6 criteria		Good (3)	Yes	Yes		Yes						

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 - Façade-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

Ruderal/ephemeral vegetation along the verges of Tilletts Lane and bare ground along the footpath connecting Knob Hill to Caryll Place.

 See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for green roofs, and UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) for other habitats: [ukhab – UK Habitat Classification](#)

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site, Land to the east of Tilletts Lane, Warnham	Survey date and Surveyor name	10/04/2024 & 24/04/2024, Natalie Arscott										
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	23-246										
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		Grid reference											
Condition Assessment Criteria		TQ 15422 33961	TQ 15429 33958	TQ 15770 33842								Notes (such as justification)	
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											

Core Criteria - must be assessed for all urban habitat types:

A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	No	No	No								
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	Yes	Yes	No								
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ¹) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement) ² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area ³ . Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Yes	Yes	Yes								

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.	N/A	N/A	N/A								
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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 detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife ⁴ .	N/A	N/A	N/A								
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant species suited to wetland or riparian situations.	N/A	N/A	N/A								

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).	N/A	N/A	N/A								
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Additional Criterion - must be assessed for Biodiverse green roofs only:

Version	Changes made	Date released
Version 1.0.0	Initial draft statutory version	29th November 2023
Version 1.0.1	<p>Individual trees tab – added wording to say '<i>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.</i>'</p> <p>Individual trees tab – Changed '<i>Canopies must overlap continuously</i>' to '<i>Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously</i>'</p> <p>Coastal tab – wording added to the list of 'General coastal species indicative of suboptimal condition' to say '<i>sea buckthorn (only outside its restricted native range)</i>'</p> <p>Scrub tab – wording added to Criterion A to say sea buckthorn can be 100% cover '<i>(only in its restricted native range)</i>'</p> <p>Instructions tab – changed date at top of sheet from 'November 2023' to 'February 2024'</p> <p>Habitat definitions tab – removed reference to 'see Technical Annex 2' from the table. Cells C11, C131 – C140.</p> <p>Hedgerow tab – 'See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 and UK Habitat Classification' removed, leaving just the UKHab link.</p> <p>Intertidal biogenic reefs tab – changed 'see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2' to say 'see tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric'.</p> <p>Intertidal hard structures tab – changed 'see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2' to say 'see tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric'.</p> <p>Intertidal seagrass tab – changed 'see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2' to say 'see tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric'.</p> <p>Intertidal sediment tab – changed 'see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2' to say 'see tab G1 of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric'.</p> <p>Pond tab – removed 'For ponds (non-priority) – see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2.'</p> <p>Habitat Definitions tab – cell E48 – removed reference to '<i><2ha</i>' for Ornamental lake or pond.</p> <p>Habitat Definitions tab – cell E54, E55 – changed '<i><=2ha</i>', from Ponds (priority) and Ponds (non-priority) to '<i><2ha</i>'.</p> <p>Habitat Definitions tab - row 55 – removed references to Ponds (non-priority) having a definition different to that in UKHab.</p>	12th February 2024