



The Ecology Co-op

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Unit 4, Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, Petworth, West Sussex, GU28 9BU.

Tel: 01798 861 800 - E-Mail: info@ecologyco-op.co.uk - Web: www.ecologyco-op.co.uk

Biodiversity Impact Calculation

Site Name

Danefold Farm

Issue Date

17th June 2025

Client

Danefold farm

Author

Joshua Harwood

Project No: 10278

The Ecology Co-operation Ltd

Registered Office: Unit 4, Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex, GU28 9BU

Company number: 8905527





Document Control

Issue No	Author	Reviewer	Issue Date	Additions/alterations	Notes
Original	Joshua Harwood BSc (Hons) ACIEEM	Emma Baker BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIEEM	17.06.25	N/A	N/A

Conditions of use

This report has been prepared by The Ecology Co-operation Ltd, with all reasonable skill, care and diligence within the terms of the Contract with the client. This report only becomes the property of the client once payment for it has been received in full.

We disclaim responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above.

This report is confidential to the client, and we accept no responsibility of whatsoever nature to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

About the Author

This report has been prepared by Joshua Harwood, a Project Ecologist at The Ecology Co-op, with 8 years experience. As a member of the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), he is bound by their code of professional conduct.

About the Reviewer

This report has been reviewed by Emma Baker, who is a Senior ecologist with eight years experience. She holds Level 1 great crested newt and hazel dormouse survey licenses. As a Full member of the Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), she is bound by their code of professional conduct.



Report Summary

Purpose	The Ecology Co-operation was commissioned by Danefold farms to undertake a Biodiversity Impact Calculation of a proposal to create a slurry lagoon with associated bunkers for land at Danefold farm, using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric, to quantify net change in biodiversity.
Summary of Losses and Gains	The proposed development scheme at this site will result in the loss of: On-site - Modified grassland, poor condition (0.90ha). The proposed development scheme at this site will enhance: On-site - Modified Grassland (1.167ha) poor condition to modified grassland moderate condition: - Modified grassland (0.278ha) poor condition to g3c other neutral grassland– Poor condition Off-site - Modified grassland (0.177ha) poor condition to g3c other neutral grassland– Poor condition Post intervention the following habitats will be created: On-site - Developed land sealed surface (0.90ha) - condition N/A other
Final Metric Results	The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation has demonstrated that the proposed scheme will results in a likely net gain of 0.71 habitat units (+13.59%) The current scheme does satisfy the trading rules within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and achieves over a 10% net gain.



CONTENTS PAGE

1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Purpose of the Report	1
1.2 Background	1
1.3 Summary of Previous Survey Work	4
1.4 Policy and Legislation	4
1.5 Methodology	5
1.6 Data Sources.....	6
1.7 Results.....	7
1.7.1 Existing Habitats Assessment	7
1.7.2 Habitat Losses and Gains	7
1.8 Conclusions	9
APPENDIX 1 – Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets	10



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Report

Since the 12th February 2024, there has been a mandatory requirement for all new developments to demonstrate 'net gains' in biodiversity following the release of updated National Planning Policy Framework¹ by the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Environment Act 2021². A mandatory value of 10% net gain in biodiversity value for all developments (that do not meet exemption criteria) is required under the Environment Act 2021.

This document includes a baseline 'Biodiversity Impact Calculation' (BIC) for the proposed development at Danefold Farm. The calculation utilises the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and assigns 'biodiversity units' to the pre-existing habitats contained within a proposed development site and those that are predicted to be lost, restored and/or created once the development has been constructed. This allows an objective comparison to be made between the existing biodiversity value of a given site and the predicted biodiversity value post development, with the net change in biodiversity value subsequently quantified.

The purpose of this document is to present the findings of the BIC based on the most up-to date existing habitat survey information and the most current outline plans for the proposed development of the site. Biodiversity Impact Calculations provide an evidence base for discussions between the ecological consultant, developer and the local planning authority regarding on-site avoidance, on-site mitigation and off-site compensation requirements.

This report will be used in relation to a proposal for the creation of a slurry lagoon with associated bunker features. Given the likelihood of proposed changes in the design scheme, some of the recommendations will potentially be subject to change. The results of the BIC are deemed accurate for the most recent layout plan.

This report was commissioned and produced at the request of Danefold farms.

1.2 Background

The site measures 2.43ha in area, and comprises parcels of modified grassland.

The site was subject to a Preliminary Ecological Assessment (PEA) by the Ecology Co-op³ in April 2025.

Habitats (UKHAB) within the site and along the site boundaries are shown in Figure 1.

¹ HM Government (2024). National Planning Policy Framework. Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Available online at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2024.pdf

² HM Government (2021). Environment Act 2021 Available online at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

³ The Ecology Co-op (2025). P10278- Danefold Farm Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.



Figure 1. UKHAB map showing existing habitats within the site. The site boundary is indicated with a red line. Produced using QGIS software, 3.36.3-Maidenhead.



Figure 2. Proposed scheme layout for the development at Danefold Farm, produced by MJ Fuller, drawing number 190924_002, dated 19th September 2024.



Figure 3. UKHAB map showing proposed habitats within the site. The site boundaries are indicated with a redline for the area of the proposed development and the blue line parcel for additional land to be enhanced. Produced using QGIS software, 3.36.3-Maidenhead.

1.3 Summary of Previous Survey Work

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, completed by The Ecology Co-op in June 2025 identified the presence of Great crested *newts* *Triturus cristatus* in ponds within 250m of the site.

1.4 Policy and Legislation

NPPF (2024)

The NPPF sets out the Government's view on how planners should balance nature conservation with development and helps ensure that Government meets its biodiversity commitments with regards to the operation of the planning system.

Paragraph 187d, states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the local environment by:

- “*minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.*”

Paragraph 192b, states that to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should;



- “promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.”

Paragraph 193d, states that when determining planning applications, authorities should apply the following principle:

- “development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

Environment Act (2021)

The Environment Act sets a target of halting the decline in species through the inclusion of a legally binding 2030 species abundance target. Aiming to restore natural habitats and enhance biodiversity, the Act requires new developments to improve or create habitats for nature (through mechanisms such as mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain), and tackle deforestation. Going forwards, UK businesses will need to look closely at their supply chains as amongst other measures they will be prohibited from using commodities associated with wide-scale deforestation. Woodland protection measures are also strengthened through the Act.

Local Policy

Policy 25 (Strategic Policy: The Natural Environment and Landscape Character) of the current District Planning Policy Framework from Horsham District Council⁴ notes that it will support development proposals which:

“Maintains and enhances the existing network of geological sites and biodiversity, including safeguarding existing designated sites and species, and ensures no net loss of wider biodiversity and provides net gains in biodiversity where possible”.

1.5 Methodology

This Biodiversity Impact Calculation uses the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool published by Natural England⁵. This is used to calculate ‘habitat units’ and ‘hedgerow units’ by multiplying the area (ha) or lengths (km), ‘distinctiveness’ (habitat type), ‘condition’ (quality), and strategic significance (location in relation to the authority’s local strategy) of each habitat parcel.

The calculation provides a negative value to the biodiversity units where habitat is being directly lost to development. Where habitats are enhanced or created on-site, or off-site, the calculation gives a positive value but adds risk factors that account for uncertainty - difficulty in creating new habitats and time delays while they establish; habitats that are more difficult to restore or that will take a long time to reach a set target condition will score lower and therefore make a smaller positive contribution.

Where on-site gains are equal to or larger than the losses, the project is deemed to have neutral biodiversity

⁴ Horsham District Council (2015) Horsham District Planning Framework (excluding South Downs National Park). Available online at: https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/60190/Horsham-District-Planning-Framework-November-2015.pdf

⁵ Natural England (2023) *The Statutory Biodiversity Metric – Calculation Tool*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>



impact or biodiversity 'net gain' respectively.

Where on-site gains do not outweigh on-site losses and a biodiversity 'net loss' is calculated, this becomes an 'offset requirement'. Offsets can be provided by further habitat creation or enhancement in-situ or elsewhere and are assessed using the same metric to balance the predicted gains against the losses to ensure no net loss will be achieved. It follows that a biodiversity net gain can still be achieved by providing higher biodiversity gains through the offset than the net loss resulting from the development.

Note that the metric does not allow for 'trading down'; one of the key principles in measuring biodiversity net losses or gains is that habitats of high ecological importance cannot be offset by the creation of larger areas of habitats with lower value. The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool includes a 'trading down correction' that deducts the number of biodiversity units that are not accounted for through the creation of equivalent high distinctive habitats than that lost. For example, the loss of a small area of lowland meadow priority habitat (high distinctiveness) will not be offset by a larger area of modified grassland (medium distinctiveness) and will only be offset by an equivalent area of habitat of the same distinctiveness or higher.

1.6 Data Sources

This calculation uses the most up to date survey information, using botanical data gathered during the site visit on the 8th April 2025 and specific condition assessments which were undertaken on the same date. The areas of each habitat category were measured using GIS mapping tools (QGIS). Condition assessments were made in accordance with the Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition assessments document⁶ and the Statutory Biodiversity Metric: draft user guide⁷. Applying the precautionary principle, a presumption for the higher condition was used where there was any uncertainty in the condition of existing habitats.

To predict habitat/hedgerow units supported after by the site after completion of the development, the aerial imagery was overlaid by the proposed scheme layout (see Figure 2). This allowed direct losses of habitats to be measured where the built environment overlaps with pre-existing habitat, with gardens and amenity areas treated separately. The habitats that are 'created' after development are assumed to achieve the highest level of condition as appropriate; a separate landscape and enhancement plan should be produced to ensure this condition is achieved.

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool uses a separate calculator spreadsheet for linear features. This works under the same principles as above but replaces areas of habitat with linear length of a feature. It should be noted that because linear features often have higher ecological importance, linear habitats are assigned higher distinctiveness and must be offset with other linear features. The hedgerow units generated for linear features are not equivalent or interchangeable with biodiversity calculations for areas of habitat.

⁶ Natural England (2023) *Statutory Biodiversity Metric Condition Assessments* Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>

⁷ Natural England (2023). *Statutory Biodiversity Metric draft user guide*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides>



1.7 Results

1.7.1 Existing Habitats Assessment

A summary of habitats and condition assessments is provided in Table 1. Full results of condition assessments for habitats which require it (using the Statutory Biodiversity Metric condition assessment document) are provided in Appendix 1.

Overall, the on-site calculated baseline is 5.20 habitat units.

Table 1. Existing habitat conditions for Danefold Farm.

Habitats		Condition Assessments
UK Habitat (UKHAB) Classification System	Location/Reference (habitat parcels split if multiple areas with different condition assessments)	Condition
Modified Grassland	Grassland parcel in west of the site protected by small wire mesh fence	Good
Modified Grassland	Remainder of grassland parcel on the proposed development site and continuing into the adjacent off-site parcel	Poor

1.7.2 Habitat Losses and Gains

The proposed development scheme at this site will result in the loss of:

On-site

- Modified grassland, poor condition (0.90ha).

The proposed development scheme at this site will enhance:

On-site

- Modified Grassland (1.167ha) poor condition to modified grassland moderate condition:
- Modified grassland (0.278ha) poor condition to g3c other neutral grassland– Poor condition

Off-site

- Modified grassland (0.177ha) poor condition to g3c other neutral grassland– Poor condition

Post intervention the following habitats will be created:

On-site

- Developed land;sealed surface (0.90ha) - condition N/A other

The overall results of the calculations are presented in Table 2 and Table 3 Please refer to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation tool supplied with this document (submitted separately) for full details of the calculation.



DANEFOLD FARM, SLURRY LAGOON – BIODIVERSITY IMPACT CALCULATION

Table 2. Headline results of the Biodiversity Impact Calculation for the proposed development at Danefold Farm.

Danefold Farm - Slurry Lagoon

Headline Results

Scroll down for final results

Return to results menu

On-site baseline	Habitat units	5.20	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	5.56	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
On-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.36	7.02%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

On-site net gain is less than target set

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.35	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.70	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Off-site net change (units & percentage)	Habitat units	0.34	96.50%
	Hedgerow units	0.00	0.00%
	Watercourse units	0.00	0.00%

Combined net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.71	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Spatial risk multiplier (SRM) deductions	Habitat units	0.00	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	

FINAL RESULTS

Total net unit change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	0.71	
	Hedgerow units	0.00	
	Watercourse units	0.00	
Total net % change (Including all on-site & off-site habitat retention, creation & enhancement)	Habitat units	13.59%	
	Hedgerow units	0.00%	
	Watercourse units	0.00%	
Trading rules satisfied?	Yes		

Unit Type	Target	Baseline Units	Units Required	Unit Deficit
Habitat units	10.00%	5.20	5.72	0.00
Hedgerow units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00
Watercourse units	10.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00

No additional area habitat units required to meet target
No additional hedgerow units required to meet target
No additional watercourse units required to meet target

Table 3. Trading summary results of the Biodiversity Impact Calculation for the proposed development at Danefold Farm.

Trading Summary		
Distinctiveness Group	Trading Rule	Trading Satisfied?
Very High	Same habitat required – bespoke compensation option 8	Yes ✓
High	Same habitat required =	Yes ✓
Medium	Same broad habitat or a higher distinctiveness habitat required (2)	Yes ✓
Low	Same distinctiveness or better habitat required 2	Yes ✓



DANEFOLD FARM, SLURRY LAGOON – BIODIVERSITY IMPACT CALCULATION

Medium Distinctiveness					
Habitat group	Group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change	Cumulative broad habitat change
Cropland - Arable field margins cultivated annually	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cropland - Arable field margins game bird mix	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Arable field margins pollen and nectar	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Arable field margins tussocky	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grassland - Other neutral grassland	Grassland	1.00	0.79	1.79	1.79
Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Bramble scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Lakes - Reservoirs	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Biodiverse green roof	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Individual trees - Urban tree	Individual trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Individual trees - Rural tree	Individual trees	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Other SSSI pine woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral coarse sediment	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Littoral sand	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)	Intertidal hard structures	1.89	0.29	1.79	

Medium Distinctiveness Summary	
Medium Distinctiveness Units available to offset Lower Distinctiveness Deficit	1.79 ✓
Medium Distinctiveness Broad Habitat losses to be offset by trading up	0.00
Higher Distinctiveness Surplus Units minus Medium Distinctiveness Broad Habitat Deficit	0.00
Cumulative surplus of units	1.79 ✓

Low Distinctiveness					
Habitat group	Group	On-site unit change	Off-site unit change	Project wide unit change	
Cropland - Cereal crops	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cropland - Horticulture	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Intensive orchards	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Non-cereal crops	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Temporary grass and clover leys	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cropland - Winter stubble	Cropland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grassland - Modified grassland	Grassland	-0.73	-0.38	-1.08	
Grassland - Bracken	Grassland	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.08
Heathland and shrub - Rhododendron scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond	Lakes	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/sphernal	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs	Sparsely vegetated land	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Bioswale	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Bare ground	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Allotments	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Facade-bound green wall	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Ground based green wall	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Ground level planter	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Other green roof	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Intensive green roof	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Introduced shrub	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Rain garden	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Actively worked sand pit quarry or open cast mine	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Sustainable drainage system	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban - Vacant or derelict land	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Urban - Vegetated garden	Urban	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland	Woodland and forest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coastal saltmarsh - Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	Coastal saltmarsh	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral coarse sediment	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral mud	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral sand	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral muddy sand	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral mixed sediments	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral seagrass	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral biogenic reefs	Intertidal sediment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial features of hard structures	Intertidal hard structures	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Heathland and shrub - Other sea buckthorn scrub	Heathland and shrub	0.00	0.00	0.00	
		-0.73	-0.33	-1.08	

Low Distinctiveness Summary	
Low Distinctiveness net change in units	-1.08 8
Cumulative surplus of units	0.71 ✓

1.8 Conclusions

The Statutory Biodiversity Metric calculation has demonstrated that the proposed scheme will results in a likely net gain of **0.71 habitat units (+13.59%)**

The current scheme does satisfy the trading rules within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and achieves over a 10% net gain.

Should you need any further advice on the information provided above, please do not hesitate to contact The Ecology Co-op.



APPENDIX 1 – Habitat Condition Assessment Sheets

Baseline – Modified Grassland western parcel

Score: **3**

Result: **Good**

Condition Criteria Assessment for Grasslandlow

A. There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1).

TRUE

B. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.

TRUE

C. Scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area.

TRUE

D. Physical damage evident in less than 5% of total grassland area,

TRUE

E. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).

FALSE

F. Cover of bracken is <20%.

TRUE

G. There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981)

TRUE



Baseline – Modified Grassland eastern parcel

Score: 1

Result: **Poor**

Condition Criteria Assessment for Grasslandlow

A. There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1).

FALSE

B. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.

FALSE

C. Scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area.

TRUE

D. Physical damage evident in less than 5% of total grassland area,

Notes

Exceeds 5%

FALSE

E. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).

TRUE

F. Cover of bracken is <20%.

TRUE

G. There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981)

TRUE



Proposed – Modified Grassland

Score: **2**

Result: **Moderate**

Condition Criteria Assessment for Grasslandlow

A. There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m2 present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1).

TRUE

B. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.

FALSE

C. Scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area.

TRUE

D. Physical damage evident in less than 5% of total grassland area,

Notes

Exceeds 5%

FALSE

E. Cover of bare ground between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).

TRUE

F. Cover of bracken is <20%.

TRUE

G. There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981)

TRUE



Proposed other neutral grassland

Score: 1

Result: **Poor**

Condition Criteria Assessment for Grasslandhigh

A. The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present.

FALSE

B. Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20 per cent is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.

TRUE

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

FALSE

D. Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg) less than 5%.

TRUE

E. Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition 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.

FALSE

F. There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in criterion 5 above cannot contribute towards this count).

TRUE