

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

[Version Number: July 2025 \(v1.0.2\)](#)

Instructions

The method for assessing habitat condition is split into three main steps, 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:

- 1) Condition assessments must be undertaken by a competent person (hereafter referred to as assessors), as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
- 2) Condition assessments should be undertaken at the optimum time of year for the assessed habitat(s).
- 3) Assessors must have digital or hard copy access to condition sheets (see **Tabs 1-25**) and the survey cover sheet during the survey (see **SURVEY COVER SHEET** tab).
- 4) 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 DEF** tab).
- 5) The location and extent of the habitat parcel(s) to be assessed must be mapped, either on digital or paper maps (mapped habitat parcels can later be split according to their condition).
- 6) 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.

- 1) Some condition sheets are unique to a single habitat type; others cover a range of habitat types within the same broad habitat category.

2) For each sheet there is version A and B.

- i. Sheet A can be used to record information for one habitat parcel
- ii. Sheet B can be used to record information for up to two 10 habitat parcels

- 3) Each condition sheet is set to print at A4 and can be used as a paper form.

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

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

- A) 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.
- B) 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.
- C) Some condition assessment sheets have 'essential' criteria. Essential criteria must be passed to achieve a particular condition state.
- D) 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. [Report any high-risk non-native invasive species to the GG non-native species secretariat.](#)
- E) 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.
- F) 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.
 - 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.
- G) 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.
 - ii. They should only be applied through application of professional judgement, and sound ecological evidence must be provided to justify the use of these categories.
 - iii. 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 'Good' to a 'Fairly Good').
 - iv. Ensure any constraints are made clear in the 'Assessor's comments' box in the metric and associated reporting.
- H) 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.

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:

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

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Notes on Using Condition Sheets
Additional habitat-specific instructions for
Using the 'Woodland' condition sheetThe
Using the 'Lakes' condition sheetThe Fre
Using the 'Coastal' and 'Intertidal' habitat
Using the 'Hedgerow' condition sheetThe

non-standard condition assessment sheets are provided below:

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 is provided within the La

shwater 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 La

condition sheetsFor 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 s

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 withi

plete 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, e
ake condition sheet. The average of the HNA scores is used to assign a final condition score.
summed, and the total sum is used to assign a final condition score.
in 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

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.

9 functional groups.

Habitat Definitions

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

[UK Habitat Classification System definitions](#)

[EUNIS habitat definitions](#)

[Water Framework Directive Lakes Typologies](#)

[Annex I habitats](#)

Most (but not all) biodiversity metric terrestrial habitat types are described to Level 4 in UKHab, the equivalent habitat may need converting to a metric habitat type when using the metric, when associated with a specific type.

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

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

	Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)
Woodland and forest	Felled
	Lowland beech and yew woodland
	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
	Native pine woodlands
	Other coniferous woodland
	Other Scot's pine woodland
	Other woodland; broadleaved
	Other woodland; mixed
	Upland birchwoods
	Upland mixed ashwoods
	Upland oakwood
	Wet woodland
	Wood-pasture and parkland
Coastal lagoons	Coastal lagoons
Coastal saltmarsh	Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
	Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
Rocky shore	High energy littoral rock
	High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
	Moderate energy littoral rock
	Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
	Low energy littoral rock
	Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
	Features of littoral rock
	Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
Intertidal sediment	Littoral coarse sediment
	Littoral sand
	Littoral muddy sand
	Littoral mud
	Littoral mixed sediments
	Littoral seagrass
	Littoral seagrass on peat, clay or chalk
	Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels
	Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria
	Features of littoral sediment
	Artificial littoral coarse sediment
	Artificial littoral muddy sand
	Artificial littoral mud
	Artificial littoral sand
	Artificial littoral mixed sediments
	Artificial littoral seagrass
	Artificial littoral biogenic reefs
Intertidal hard structures	Artificial hard structures
	Artificial features of hard structures
	Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)
Hedgerows and	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch
	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
	Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch
	Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch
	Species-rich native hedgerow
	Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch

Lines of trees	Native hedgerow with trees
	Ecologically valuable line of trees
	Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch
	Native hedgerow
	Line of trees
	Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch
	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
Watercourse	Priority habitat
	Other rivers and streams
	Ditches
	Canals
	Culvert
	Watercourse footprint

herefore some metric habitats encompass UKHa
essing its condition the most accurate descriptio

Source Material
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[illegible]

[illegible]

hab Level 5 sub-divisions. When classifying a habitat, the assessor should use the following list of habitats. Using professional judgement, this may include the following:

Classification habitat name in UKHab / EUNIS / Annex 1
Arable field margins cultivated annually
Arable field margins wild bird mix
Arable field margins pollen and nectar
Arable field margins tussocky
Cereal crops
Winter stubble
Horticulture
Intensive orchards
Non-cereal crops
Temporary grass and clover leys
Traditional orchards
Bracken
Floodplain wetland mosaic
Lowland calcareous grassland
Lowland dry acid grassland
Lowland meadows
Modified grassland
Other lowland acid grassland
Other neutral grassland
Tall herb communities (H6430)
Upland acid grassland
Upland calcareous grassland
Upland hay meadows
Blackthorn scrub
Bramble scrub
Gorse scrub
Hawthorn scrub
Hazel scrub
Lowland heathland
Mixed scrub
Mountain heaths and willow scrub
Rhododendron scrub
Willow scrub
Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)
Other sea buckthorn scrub

Upland heathland
N/A
N/A
Aquifer-fed naturally fluctuating water bodies
Ornamental lakes or ponds
N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A
Ponds (priority habitat)
Pond (non-priority)
Reservoir
Mediterranean temporary ponds (H3170)
Calaminarian grasslands
Sand dunes
Coastal vegetated shingle
Ruderal or ephemeral
Tall forbs
Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
Limestone pavement
Maritime cliff and slopes
Other inland rock
Allotments
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
Bioswale
Biodiverse green roof
Built linear features
Cemeteries and churchyards
Developed land; sealed surface
Biodiverse green roof
Facade-bound green wall
Ground-based green wall
Ground level planters
Intensive green roof
Introduced shrub
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Other green roof
Rain garden
Active sand pit or quarry or open cast mine
Sustainable drainage system
Unvegetated garden
Vacant or derelict land
Bare ground
Vegetated garden
Blanket bog
Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)
Lowland fens; Upland flushes fens and swamps; Other wetlands
Lowland raised bog
Oceanic valley bog
Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
Reedbeds

Transition mires and quaking bogs - lowland (H7140) / upland
Felled
Lowland beech and yew woodland
Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Native pine woodlands
Other coniferous woodland
Other Scot's pine woodland
Other broadleaved woodland
Other woodland; mixed
Upland birchwoods
Upland mixed ashwoods
Upland oakwood
Wet woodland
Wood-pasture and parkland
Saline coastal lagoons
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
-
High energy littoral rock
High energy littoral rock
Moderate energy littoral rock
Moderate energy littoral rock
Low energy littoral rock
Low energy littoral rock
Features of littoral rock
Features of littoral rock
Littoral coarse sediment
Littoral sand and muddy sand
Littoral sand and muddy sand
Littoral mud
Littoral mixed sediments
Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms
Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms
Littoral biogenic reefs
Littoral biogenic reefs
Features of littoral sediment
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
Species-rich native hedgerow
Species-rich native hedgerow
Species-rich native hedgerow
Native hedgerow
Species-rich native hedgerow
Native hedgerow

Native hedgerow
Ecologically valuable line of trees
Ecologically valuable line of trees
Native hedgerow
Line of trees
Line of trees
Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
-
-
-
-
-
-

ould classify and record it to the most accurate and appropriate level. Although a Level 5, or
the Level 5 UKHab description, as well as the Level 4 description, depending on the habitat

Other definition or notes
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
As defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
Record all other sea buckthorn scrub as 'Other sea buckthorn scrub'
None

None
As defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
As defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
None
None
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
< 2ha
< 2ha
Some larger reservoirs are covered by the WFD Lakes typology.
Record temporary water bodies not meeting this definition as another pond or lake habitat type
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
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
None
None
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
None
None

The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
None
None
None
None
None
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Adapted from EUNIS)
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
None
None
None
None
None
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species
None
see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Adapted from EUNIS)
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see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Adapted from EUNIS)
Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
None
Use combined UKHab codes

Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
None
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
Do not use JNCC definitions to determine this Priority Habitat habita type.
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Selecting Condition Sheet Instructions:

The table below sets out which condition sheet to use for each habitat type. Locate the relevant habitat type in the first column (Habitat type) to determine which habitat condition sheet should be used to assess that particular habitat type. The third and fourth columns can be clicked on to navigate directly to the required condition sheet, for ease of navigation.

Some habitats are allocated a fixed condition score in the biodiversity metric and do not require a condition assessment for the metric. For medium distinctiveness habitats there is a fixed option in the metric - 'Condition Assessment N/A'; for very low distinctiveness habitats there is a fixed option in the metric - 'Condition Assessment N/A'; for very low distinctiveness habitats there is a fixed option in the metric - 'Condition Assessment N/A'.

Habitat type	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 - Modified grassland	Grassland Low distinctiveness
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	Condition Assessment N/A
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

Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond	Ponds
Lakes - Peat lakes	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	
Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grasslands	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness
Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal sand dunes	Coastal
Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal vegetated shingle	
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral	Urban
Sparsely vegetated land – Tall forbs	
Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	Sparsely vegetated land
Sparsely vegetated land - Limestone pavement	Limestone pavement
Sparsely vegetated land - Maritime cliff and slopes	Coastal
Sparsely vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree	Sparsely vegetated land
Broad habitat type: Urban	
Urban - Allotments	Urban
Urban - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	N/A - Other
Urban - Bioswale	Urban
Urban - Biodiverse green roof	
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
Urban - Ground based green wall	
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
Urban – Bare ground	
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
Coastal saltmarsh - Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
Broad habitat type: Intertidal hard structures	
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures	Intertidal hard structures
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial features of hard structures	
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)	
Broad habitat type: Intertidal sediment	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral coarse sediment	Intertidal 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 seagrass
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass - on peat, clay or chalk	
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral seagrass	Intertidal biogenic reefs
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs – Sabellaria	
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral biogenic reefs	
Broad habitat type: Rocky shore	
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock	Rocky shore
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 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	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	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch	No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor
Hedgerows and lines of trees – Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow	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	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow	

Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees	
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch	
Watercourse habitats	
Broad habitat type: Watercourse	
Watercourse – Ditches	Ditches
Watercourse – Culvert	No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor
Watercourse – Priority habitat, Other rivers and streams, Canals	River Condition Assessment required

(Habitat type), then refer to the second column
 and fourth columns (Link to sheet) contain links which

metric to be completed. For certain low and
 habitats the fixed option is 'N/A - Other'.

Link to sheet (1 habitat parcel)	Link to sheet (up to 10 habitat parcels)
N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A
Tab 23A	Tab 23B
Tab 6A	Tab 6B
Tab 5A	Tab 5B
Tab 6A	Tab 6B
Tab 17A	Tab 17B
Tab 6A	Tab 6B
Tab 20A	Tab 20B
N/A	N/A
Tab 20A	Tab 20B
Tab 7A	Tab 7B
Tab 20A	Tab 20B
Tab 7A	Tab 7B
Tab 20A	Tab 20B
N/A	N/A
Tab 20A	Tab 20B
N/A	N/A
Tab 7A	Tab 7B
Tab 20A	Tab 20B
Tab 14A	Tab 14B
Tab 14A	Tab 14B

Tab 18A	Tab 18B
Tab 14A	Tab 14B
Tab 18A	Tab 18B
Tab 14A	Tab 14B
Tab 18A	Tab 18B
Tab 6A	Tab 6B
Tab 1A	Tab 1B
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
Tab 21A	Tab 21B
Tab 15A	Tab 15B
Tab 1A	Tab 1B
Tab 21A	Tab 21B
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 23A	Tab 23B
N/A	N/A
Tab 24A	Tab 24B
Tab 25A	Tab 25B

Tab 2A	Tab 2B
Tab 3A	Tab 3B
Tab 11A	Tab 11B
Tab 13A	Tab 13B
Tab 12A	Tab 12B
Tab 10A	Tab 10B
Tab 19A	Tab 19B
Tab 9A	Tab 9B
Tab 16A	Tab 16B
N/A	N/A
Tab 8A	Tab 8B

Tab 4A	Tab 4B
N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A

Survey Cover Sheet			
Survey date/s	30/04/2025	Site name or location	Holiday Let Dwelling – Taintfield Farm, Kings Lane, Kent Street, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8BD
Weather conditions	25 C, BF=0 (Beaufort wind scale), no rain	Project or development name	Holiday Let Dwelling – Taintfield Farm
Surveyor name	Hannah Baker	On-site or off-site	On-site
Survey reference	C-NJA-062-004	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	1 sheet used, 2 habitat parcels					2	

	Urban							
	Wetland							
	Woodland							
	Wood-pasture and parkland							

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			
An area of sparsely vegetated urban land was recorded in the southeastern section of the development boundary. A pile of timber was recorded in this habitat. Species recorded: Common nettles (D), bramble (F), elder (F), forget-me-not species (F), bristly oxtongue (F), creeping thistle (F), hogweed (R), broad-leaved dock (R), cleavers (R), red dead-nettle (R), dandelion (R).			
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 - Holiday Let Dwelling – Taintfield Farm, Kings Lane, Kent Street, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8BD	Survey date and Surveyor name	30/04/2025 - Hannah Baker
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	C-NJA-062-004
Grid reference	TQ 22589 21907 & TQ 22593 21921	Habitat parcel reference	3
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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	
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.	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	
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 detrimental to the habitat or native wildlife ⁴ .		
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 achieved (Yes or No)			Yes
Number of criteria passed			1
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/ ✓
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)	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 type):			
• 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 Secretariat (GBNNSS) website:

[Home » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

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 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

For criterion C – For green roof habitat types only – buddleia *Buddleja davidii* should be assessed alongside Schedule 9 species. This species impairs the health of the local ecosystem and reduces 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 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 – Use professional judgement. Sources of information about non-native species that are not detrimental to native wildlife can be found on the GBNNSS website:

[Alternative plants » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

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

Condition + Encroachment Reporting Sheet: RIVERS and STREAMS

River Condition Assessment (RCA) + Encroachment results for: Priority rivers,

Site name/location:		Unique river section reference:
GPS of MoRPh5 midpoint		River section length:

Rivers and streams form naturally draining networks within the wider landscape.

RCA River Type and Habitat Description for full river section (from walkover su

THE RESULTS OF THE 32 RCA INDICATORS FOR EACH RIVER SECTION SHOULD BE INSERTED

Condition Assessment Criteria		RCA Index values
RCA INDEX ID	RCA INDEX NAME	Insert values -4 to 0 OR 0 to 4; Highlight those >2 OR <-2

BANK TOP

B1	Bank top vegetation structure	
B2	Bank top tree feature richness	
B3	Bank top water-related features	
B4	<i>Bank top NNIPS cover</i>	
B5	<i>Bank top managed ground cover</i>	

BANK FACE

C1	Bank face riparian vegetation structure	
C2	Bank face tree feature richness	
C3	Bank face natural bank profile extent	
C4	Bank face natural bank profile richness	
C5	Bank face natural bank material richness	
C6	Bank face bare sediment extent	
C7	<i>Bank face artificial bank profile extent</i>	
C8	<i>Bank face reinforcement extent</i>	
C9	<i>Bank face reinforcement material severity</i>	
C10	<i>Bank face NNIPS cover</i>	

CHANNEL MARGIN

D1	Channel margin aquatic vegetation extent	
D2	Channel margin aquatic morphotype richness	
D3	Channel margin physical feature extent	
D4	Channel margin physical feature richness	
D5	<i>Channel margin artificial features</i>	

CHANNEL BED

E1	Channel aquatic morphotype richness	
E2	Channel bed tree features richness	
E3	Channel bed hydraulic features richness	
E4	Channel bed natural features extent	
E5	Channel bed natural features richness	
E6	Channel bed material richness	
E7	<i>Channel bed siltation</i>	
E8	<i>Channel bed reinforcement extent</i>	

E9	Channel bed reinforcement severity	
E10	Channel bed artificial features severity	
E11	Channel bed NNIPS extent	
E12	Channel bed filamentous algae extent	
Overview of RCA and river section assessment		
River Condition Assessment PRELIMINARY SCORE:		River Type and class bands:
River Shape index:		Is the river channel OVERDEEP? <i>If yes, what supporting evidence is provided?</i>
River Condition Assessment FINAL CLASS:		IS THE RCA FINAL CLASS MODIFIED ? <i>If yes, why and what supporting evidence is provided?</i>
Summary of RCA results (and Encroachment where applicable) with recommen		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve the river condition score		

[illegible]

Version
Version 1.0.0
Version 1.0.1
Version 1.0.2

Changes made

Initial draft statutory version

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Formatting corrections to sheet 8B

Reformatting of instructions and habitat definition sheets

Clarification of information in the habitat definitions sheet

Addition of the RCA form

Amended references in habitat definition sheet

Date released
29th November 2023
12th February 2024
3rd July 2025