

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 DEFINITION** 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 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 Fres
Using the 'Coastal' and 'Intertidal' habitat c
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 the Lake & Shrubwater 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 & Shrubwater 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 to give an overall condition score. 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

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

amed, and the total sum is used to assign a final condition score.

ne 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 functi

f 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.

ional 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 assessed 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
Sparsely vegetated land	Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)
	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
Wetland	Bare ground
	Vegetated garden
	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)
	Felled
	Lowland beech and yew woodland

Woodland and forest	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 Lines of trees	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
	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

Therefore some metric habitats encompass UKHAs. Assessing its condition the most accurate description

Source Material
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[illegible]

ab 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
-
-
-
-
-
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-
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-
-
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
he 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
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
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
None
None
None
This classification relates to non-vegetated working areas only.
None
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

[illegible]

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'.

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
	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	Coastal saltmarsh
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 sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels	Intertidal biogenic reefs
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	
Hedgerows and lines of trees – Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor
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 5A	Tab 5B
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	28/01/2026 and 01/05/2026	Site name or location	Land off Henfield Road, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8DT
Weather conditions	January: Clear, dry but wet underfoot, cold May: Sunny, dry, warm and still	Project or development name	Land off Henfield Road
Surveyor name	Natalie Arscott and Paul Thrift	On-site or off-site	Onsite
Survey reference	25-101	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							
Land off Henfield Road	Grassland low distinctiveness	3			1		2	
	Grassland medium, high, very high distinctiveness							
	Heathland							

Land off Henfield Road	Hedgerow	4	2		2			
Land off Henfield Road	Individual trees	9	3		6			
	Intertidal biogenic reefs							
	Intertidal hard structures							
	Intertidal seagrass							
	Intertidal sediment							
	Lakes							

	Limestone pavement							
Land off Henfield Road	Line of trees	1			1			
	Orchard							
	Ponds							
	Rocky shore							
Land off Henfield Road	Scrub	3			3			
	Sparsely vegetated land							

	Urban							
	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	Onsite, Land off Henfield Road, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8DT	Survey date and Surveyor name	28/01/2026 and 01/05/2026, Natalie Arscott and Paul Thrift										
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)											
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference											
		1-W-P	2-E-P	3-NW-M									
		Grid reference											
Condition Assessment Criteria		TQ 21345 22027	TQ 21444 22018	TQ 21333 22084									
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											Notes (such as justification)
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. 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.	N	N	Y									
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	N	N	N									
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	N	N	Y									
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	N	N	N									
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Y	Y	Y									
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Y	Y	Y									
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	Y	Y	Y									
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)		N	N	Y									
Number of criteria passed		3	3	5									
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓											
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)												
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)			Y									
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	Y	Y										
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).

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

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types																	
Habitat Type																	
Native hedgerow																	
Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch																	
Native hedgerow with trees																	
Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch																	
Species-rich native hedgerow																	
Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch																	
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees																	
Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch																	
Habitat Description																	
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification																	
On-site or off-site, site name and location		Onsite, Land off Henfield Road, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8DT			Survey date and Surveyor name		28/01/2026 and 01/05/2026, Natalie Arscott and Paul Thrift										
Limitations (if applicable)					Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)												
Condition Assessment Details																	
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and the condition of a hedgerow is assessed according to the number of attributes from these functional groups which pass or fail the ‘favourable condition’ criteria.																	
This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document ² . For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.																	
Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.																	
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes																	
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'		Criteria description		Habitat parcel reference											
						1-NH-M	2-HT-G	3-HTD-S-G	4-HTD-N-M								
						Grid reference											
						TQ 21303 22094	TQ 21379 21943	TQ 21386 21993	TQ 21397 22053								
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types						Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)	
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody growth estimated from base of stem to the top of the shoots, excluding any bank beneath the hedgerow, any gaps or isolated trees. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).			Y	Y	Y	Y								
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody growth estimated at the widest point of the canopy, excluding gaps and isolated trees. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).			N	Y	Y	N								
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow, and its distance from the ground to the lowest leafy growth. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).			Y	N	Y	Y								

B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gappiness' of the woody component of the hedgerow. Gaps are complete breaks in the woody canopy (no matter how small). 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).	N	Y	Y	N										
C1.	Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	>1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least).	This is the level of disturbance (excluding wildlife disturbance) at the base of the hedgerow. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Y	N	Y	N										
C2.	Nutrient-enriched perennial vegetation	Plant species indicative of nutrient enrichment of soils dominate <20% cover of the area of undisturbed ground.	The indicator species used are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.	Y	Y	Y	Y										
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.	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 website ⁴ , as well as the BSBI website ⁵ 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 website ⁷ .	N	Y	Y	Y										
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damaging activities that may have led to or lead to deterioration in other attributes. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Y	Y	Y	N										
Additional group - applicable to hedgerows with trees only																	
E1.	Tree class	There is more than one age-class (or morphology) of tree present (for example: young, mature, veteran and or ancient ⁸), and there is on average at least one mature, ancient or veteran tree present per 20 - 50m of hedgerow.	This criterion addresses if there are a range of age-classes or morphologies which allow for replacement of trees and provide opportunities for different species.	N/A	Y	Y	N										
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	N/A	Y	Y	Y										

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			Score achieved							
Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score								
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3								
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2								

[illegible]

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Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score²

Footnotes

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

[Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

and:

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

Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.

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Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Line of trees Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch Ecologically valuable line of trees Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch <i>Please see the separate Individual trees condition sheet for linear blocks and groups of trees in an <u>urban</u> setting. You should only use this Line of trees condition assessment and record this habitat type in <u>rural</u> locations.</i>			
Habitat Description			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ . For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook. Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite, Land off Henfield Road, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8DT	Survey date and Surveyor name	28/01/2026 and 01/05/2026, Natalie Arscott and Paul Thrift
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	TQ 21290 22014	Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	N	
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Y	
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N	
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	N	
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	Y	
Number of criteria passed			2
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/ ✓	
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	Y	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnotes			
Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) <i>Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK</i> . 2nd ed [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).			
Footnote 2 – Where ancient and veteran trees are present, see gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from: Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)			

and:

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

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Condition Sheet: POND Habitat Type			
Habitat Type			
Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat) Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat) Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170) [Use this condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools, use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes] Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond [Use this condition sheet for Ornamental ponds, use Lake condition sheet for Ornamental lakes]			
Habitat Description			
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite, Land off Henfield Road, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8DT	Survey date and Surveyor name	28/01/2026 and 01/05/2026, Natalie Arscott and Paul Thrift
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	
Grid reference	TQ 21443 21972	Habitat parcel reference	
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
Core Criteria - applicable to all ponds (woodland¹ and non-woodland):			
A	The pond is of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution. Turbidity is acceptable if the pond is grazed by livestock.	N	
B	There is semi-natural habitat (moderate distinctiveness or above) completely surrounding the pond, for at least 10 m from the pond edge for its entire perimeter.	N	
C	Less than 10% of the water surface is covered with duckweed <i>Lemna</i> spp. or filamentous algae.	Y	
D	The pond is not artificially connected to other waterbodies, such as agricultural ditches or artificial pipework.	Y	
E	Pond water levels can fluctuate naturally throughout the year. No obvious artificial dams ² , pumps or pipework.	Y	
F	There is an absence of listed non-native plant and animal species ³ .	Y	
G	The pond is not artificially stocked with fish. If the pond naturally contains fish, it is a native fish assemblage at low densities.	Y	
Additional Criteria - must be assessed for all non-woodland ponds:			

H	Emergent, submerged or floating plants (excluding duckweed) ⁴ cover at least 50% of the pond area which is less than 3 m deep.	N	
I	The pond surface is no more than 50% shaded by adjacent trees and scrub.	N	
Number of criteria passed		5	
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/ ✓
Results for woodland ponds which require assessment of 7 core criteria			
Passes 7 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 4 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Results for non-woodland ponds which require assessment of 9 criteria			
Passes 9 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 6 to 8 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 5 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	Y	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnote 1 - A woodland pond will be surrounded on all sides by woodland habitat. Footnote 2 – This excludes natural dams such as those created by Eurasian beaver <i>Castor fiber</i>. Footnote 3 - Any species included on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) UKTAG GB High Impact Species List should be absent: WFD UKTAG (2021) <i>Classification of aquatic alien species according to their level of impact</i> [online]. Available from: UKTAG classification of alien species working paper v8.pdf (wfduk.org) - Frequently occurring non-native plant species include water fern <i>Azolla filiculoides</i>, Australian swamp stonecrop <i>Crassula helmsii</i>, parrot's feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>, floating pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> and Japanese knotweed <i>Reynoutria japonica</i>, giant hogweed <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i> (on the bank). - Frequently occurring non-native animals include signal crayfish <i>Pacifastacus leniusculus</i>, zebra mussels <i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>, killer shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i>, demon shrimp <i>Dikerogammarus haemobaphes</i>, carp <i>Cyprinus carpio</i>. Footnote 4 - If the pond is seasonal (as in, it dries out in most summers) then emergent species alone are likely to be found.			

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Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type												
Habitat Types												
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub												
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub												
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub												
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub												
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub												
Heathland and shrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)												
Heathland and shrub - Willow scrub												
Habitat Description												
For Dunes with sea buckthorn see:		Dunes with sea-buckthorn (Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides) - Special Areas of Conservation (jncc.gov.uk)										
For other scrub types see:		ukhab – UK Habitat Classification										
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Onsite, Land off Henfield Road, Cowfold, West Sussex, RH13 8DT	Survey date and Surveyor name			28/01/2026 and 01/05/2026, Natalie Arscott and Paul Thrift							
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)		Habitat parcel reference										
		1-SW-M	2-SE-M	3-E-M								
		Grid reference										
Condition Assessment Criteria		TQ 21310 21987	TQ 21468 21969	TQ 21501 22018								
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches its UKHab description (where in its natural range). ¹ - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> (only in its restricted native range), or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).	N	N	Y								
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	Y	Y	Y								
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	Y	Y	Y								
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	N	N	N								
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Y	Y	Y								
Number of criteria passed		3	3	4								
Condition Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/ ✓										
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)											
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Y	Y	Y								
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)											
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score												
Footnotes												

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

Footnote 2 – Native woody species as defined and listed in the Hedgerow Survey Handbook: DEFRA (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK*. 2nd ed. [online]. Defra, London. PB1195. Available from: Hedgerow Survey Handbook (publishing.service.gov.uk).

Footnote 3 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran species. Available from:

[Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk) and
[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.

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

Footnote 6 – Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type may include: non-native conifers, tree-of-heaven *Alianthus altissima*, holm oak *Quercus ilex*, European turkey oak *Quercus cerris*, cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, snowberry *Symphoricarpos* spp., shallon *Gaultheria shallon*, American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*, buddleia *Buddleia* spp., cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* spp., Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica* and hybrid bluebells *Hyacinthoides x massartiana*. There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.

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Condition + Encroachment Reporting Sheet: RIVERS and STREAMS

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

Site name/location:	Land East of Henfield, RH13 8DT	Unique river section reference:
GPS of MoRPh5 midpoint	GPS: TQ 21331 21961	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

River type K

The river within the proposed site RLB is Cowfold Stream, an historic river that has
water away from the adjacent fields

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	3
B2	Bank top tree feature richness	4
B3	Bank top water-related features	0
B4	Bank top NNIPS cover	0
B5	Bank top managed ground cover	-2

BANK FACE

C1	Bank face riparian vegetation structure	2
C2	Bank face tree feature richness	3

C3	Bank face natural bank profile extent	2
C4	Bank face natural bank profile richness	3
C5	Bank face natural bank material richness	2
C6	Bank face bare sediment extent	1
C7	Bank face artificial bank profile extent	-4
C8	Bank face reinforcement extent	0
C9	Bank face reinforcement material severity	0
C10	Bank face NNIPS cover	0
CHANNEL MARGIN		

D1	Channel margin aquatic vegetation extent	3
D2	Channel margin aquatic morphotype richness	3
D3	Channel margin physical feature extent	1
D4	Channel margin physical feature richness	2
D5	<i>Channel margin artificial features</i>	-1
CHANNEL BED		
E1	Channel aquatic morphotype richness	3

E2	Channel bed tree features richness	2
E3	Channel bed hydraulic features richness	0
E4	Channel bed natural features extent	0
E5	Channel bed natural features richness	0
E6	Channel bed material richness	1
E7	Channel bed siltation	0
E8	Channel bed reinforcement extent	0
E9	Channel bed reinforcement severity	0
E10	Channel bed artificial features severity	-1
E11	Channel bed NNIPS extent	0
E12	Channel bed filamentous algae extent	0

Overview of RCA and river section assessment

River Condition Assessment PRELIMINARY SCORE:	1.227	River Type and class bands:
River Shape index:	1.58	Is the river channel OVERDEEP? If yes, what supporting evidence is provided?
River Condition Assessment FINAL CLASS:	Moderate	IS THE RCA FINAL CLASS MODIFIED ? If yes, why and what supporting evidence is provided?

Summary of RCA results (and Encroachment where applicable) with recommendations

Subreach 1 has a final condition score of Moderate and there are many positive features, including the presence of structure and presence of tree features. One major negative is the artificial bank protection.

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve the river condition score

Both positive and negative indices were recorded during the assessment, providing a baseline condition and helping to identify opportunities for ecological enhancement. As the assessment progresses, the river condition score is expected to improve.

Other rivers and streams, Canals
Cowfold Subreach 1
109m
urvey)
s been incised and straightened to carry
BELOW WITH NOTES TO EXPLAIN
Notes / Justification
Explain where significant, the influence of high/low RCA indices on overall river condition
This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank top has vegetation of varying heights and types. This was present on both banks. Increased bank top vegetation structure enhances bank stability, improves water quality, and boosts biodiversity through diverse habitats.
This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank top has various tree features present such as fallen trees, large wood and deadwood. This was present on both banks. Diversity of tree features increases habitats and biodiversity.
This is a positive indicator.
This is a positive indicator.
This is a negative indicator. The lower the value for this river type indicates the greater the extent of managed ground which is pasture on the left bank. Managed ground usually increases pollutants and discharge into the channel
This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank top has vegetation of varying heights and types. This was present on both banks.
This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank face has various tree features present such as fallen trees or deadwood. This would be solely present on the left bank.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the abundance of bank face natural profiles. Between the two banks there was vertical, steep and gentle profiles. A variety of natural bank profiles facilitate essential geomorphic and ecological processes that create diverse habitats and self-sustaining ecosystems.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type a higher number of various bank face profiles. This was present on the left bank; the right bank had a more uniform profile. There was vertical, steep and gentle profiles. The greater number were on the left bank. A variety of natural bank profiles facilitate essential geomorphic and ecological processes that create diverse habitats and self-sustaining ecosystems.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank face has greater number of different materials. There was clay and earth present. Various materials increases habitat diversity.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank face has greater extent of vegetation and therefore less abundance of bare sediment. Both the right and left bank had unvegetated areas although it was greater on the right bank. Bare sediment is a natural part of a river bank but when it becomes extensive it leads to bank instability and an increase of sediment in the river.

This is a negative indicator. The lower the value for this river type indicates the greater the extent of the bank face that has been modified. This was seen to a greater extent on the right bank that had a uniform, generally steep, bank profile. The river had historically been straightened.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a positive indicator. The higher the value for this river type shows the more extensive the aquatic marginal vegetation. This was present to a greater extent on the left bank, with the presence of rushes and some broadleaf plants such as Water forget-me-not. The greater extent of various marginal vegetation provides a greater extent of habitat, food source and bank stability.

This is a positive indicator. The higher the value for this river type indicates the number of different marginal aquatic vegetation morphotypes—specifically emergent broad-leaved and emergent linear-leaved. This was present to a greater degree on the left bank. The presence of various marginal vegetation provides a complex habitat and food source.

This is a positive indicator. The higher the value for this river type indicates the greater the extent of marginal physical features which show natural hydrogeomorphological processes or animal habitats are present such as eroding cliff, stable cliff and burrows.

This is a positive indicator. The higher the value for this river type indicates the greater number of marginal physical features which show natural hydrological processes are present. This was eroding cliff, stable cliff and burrows on the left bank. A variety of natural bank profiles facilitate essential geomorphic and ecological processes that create diverse habitats and self-sustaining ecosystems.

This is a negative indicator. The lower the value for this river type indicates the number of artificial features such as pipes. There was water coming from a discrete area (5cm) of the left bank face where water was entering the channel and was considered a pipe outfall.

This is a positive indicator. The higher the value for this river type indicates the greater the number of different aquatic vegetation morphotypes on the river bed such as rushes and Water Mint. The presence of various marginal vegetation provides a complex habitat and food source.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the channel has various tree features present such as fallen trees, tree roots or deadwood. This aids the river being connected to the floodplain by providing a barrier in flooding. It also creates localised erosion and deposition.

This is a positive indicator.

This is a positive indicator.

This is a positive indicator.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the channel has greater number of different materials. There was clay present. This creates a variety of habitats.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator. The lower the value for this river type indicates the number of artificial features. There was some large trash.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

t

K

Yes. The river shape index is less than 2, indicating the river is overdeep. This is supported by the modification of the channel with steep sides and high banks.

No

ndations for improvements

features including vegetation type and profile due to historical straightening and

balanced representation of current river
assessed watercourse lies within the RLB of

Condition + Encroachment Reporting Sheet: RIVERS and STREAMS

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

Site name/location:	Land East of Henfield, RH13 8DT	Unique river section reference:
GPS of MoRPh5 midpoint	GPS: TQ 21436 21946	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

River Type K.

The river within the proposed site RI B is Cowfold Stream, an historic river that has

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	4
B2	Bank top tree feature richness	3
B3	Bank top water-related features	3
B4	Bank top NNIPS cover	0
B5	Bank top managed ground cover	-2

BANK FACE

C1	Bank face riparian vegetation structure	3
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C2	Bank face tree feature richness	4
C3	Bank face natural bank profile extent	3
C4	Bank face natural bank profile richness	3
C5	Bank face natural bank material richness	2
C6	Bank face bare sediment extent	2
C7	<i>Bank face artificial bank profile extent</i>	-4
C8	<i>Bank face reinforcement extent</i>	0
C9	<i>Bank face reinforcement material severity</i>	0
C10	<i>Bank face NNIPS cover</i>	0

CHANNEL MARGIN		
D1	Channel margin aquatic vegetation extent	1
D2	Channel margin aquatic morphotype richness	0
D3	Channel margin physical feature extent	2
D4	Channel margin physical feature richness	1
D5	<i>Channel margin artificial features</i>	0
CHANNEL BED		
E1	Channel aquatic morphotype richness	0
E2	Channel bed tree features richness	3
E3	Channel bed hydraulic features richness	2
E4	Channel bed natural features extent	0
E5	Channel bed natural features richness	0

E6	Channel bed material richness	3
E7	Channel bed siltation	0
E8	Channel bed reinforcement extent	0
E9	Channel bed reinforcement severity	0
E10	Channel bed artificial features severity	-1
E11	Channel bed NNIPS extent	0
E12	Channel bed filamentous algae extent	0

Overview of RCA and river section assessment

River Condition Assessment PRELIMINARY SCORE:	1.51	River Type and class bands:
River Shape index:	2.22	Is the river channel OVERDEEP? <i>If yes, what supporting evidence is provided?</i>
River Condition Assessment FINAL CLASS:	Fairly Good	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

Subreach 2 has a final condition score of Fairly Good and there are many positive structure and presence of tree features. The major negative is the artificial bank

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve the river condition score

Both positive and negative indices were recorded during the assessment, providing a condition and helping to identify opportunities for ecological enhancement. As the as

Other rivers and streams, Canals
Cowfold Subreach 2
154m
urvey)
s been incised and straightened to carry
BELOW WITH NOTES TO EXPLAIN
Notes / Justification
Explain where significant, the influence of high/low RCA indices on overall river condition
This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank top has vegetation of varying heights and types. This was present on both banks. Increased bank top vegetation structure enhances bank stability, improves water quality, and boosts biodiversity through diverse habitats.
This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank top has various tree features present such as fallen trees, large wood or deadwood. This was present on both banks. Diversity of tree features increases habitats and biodiversity.
This is a positive indicator. There was a pond unconnected to the river on the left bank top. A pond supplies offline water storage and filtration.
This is a negative indicator.
This is a negative indicator. The lower the value for this river type indicates the greater the extent of managed ground which is pasture on the left bank. Managed ground usually increases pollutants and discharge into the channel
This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank face has vegetation of varying heights and types. This was present on both banks. Increased bank face vegetation structure enhances bank stability, improves water quality, and boosts biodiversity through diverse habitats.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank face has various tree features present such as fallen trees or deadwood. This was present on both banks. Diversity of tree features increases habitats and biodiversity.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type a greater extent of natural bank face profiles are present. This was present on both banks. A variety of natural bank profiles facilitate essential geomorphic and ecological processes that create diverse habitats and ~~self-sustaining ecosystems~~

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type a higher number of various bank face profiles. This was present on both banks. A variety of natural bank profiles facilitate essential geomorphic and ecological processes that create diverse habitats and self-sustaining ~~ecosystems~~

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank face has greater number of different materials. There was clay and earth present. Various materials increases habitat diversity.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the bank face has greater extent of vegetation and therefore less abundance of bare sediment. Both the right and left bank had unvegetated areas but to a lesser extent than subreach 1. Bare sediment is a natural part of a river bank but when it becomes extensive it leads to bank instability and an increase of ~~sediment in the river~~

This is a negative indicator. The lower the value for this river type indicates the greater the extent of the bank face that has been modified. Although there were micro-meanders created by the movement of water the river has historically been straightened.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a positive indicator. The higher the value for this river type shows the more extensive the aquatic marginal vegetation. This included emergent broad-leave, emergent linear-leaved, and amphibious. The greater extent of various marginal vegetation provides a greater extent of habitat, food source and bank stability

This is a positive indicator.

This is a positive indicator. The higher the value for this river type indicates the greater extent of marginal physical features which show natural hydrogeomorphological processes or animal habitats are present such as eroding cliff and stable cliff.

This is a positive indicator. The higher the value for this river type indicates the greater number of marginal physical features which show natural hydrological processes or animal habitats are present. This was eroding cliff and stable cliff. A variety of natural bank profiles facilitate essential geomorphic and ecological processes that create diverse habitats and self-sustaining ecosystems.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a positive indicator.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type tree features affecting the channel such as vegetation shading channel, submerged tree roots, and large wood were present. This aids the river being connected to the floodplain by providing a barrier in flooding, It also creates localised erosion and deposition.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type there are a greater number of surface flow types. There was smooth and rippled flow types present.

This is a positive indicator.

This is a positive indicator.

This is a positive indicator. The higher value indicates that for this river type the channel has greater number of different materials. There was clay and gravel/pebble present.

This creates a variety of habitats.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator. The lower the value for this river type indicates the number of artificial features. There was some large trash.

This is a negative indicator.

This is a negative indicator.

t

K

Although the river shape index indicates the river is likely overdeep, it was deemed from the visual aspects of the river width and bank face height, this subreach was not overdeep and therefore the final condition is the same as the preliminary condition score

No

ndations for improvements

features including vegetation type and profile due to historical straightening.

**balanced representation of current river
assessed watercourse lies within the RLB of**

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 E

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

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

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

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

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