

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)

UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type

Grassland - Modified grassland

Post development target conditions (DRAFT)

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	<p>There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m² present, including at least 2 forbs (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.</p> <p>Where the vascular plant species</p>	TARGET
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	
C	<p>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).</p> <p>Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the</p>	TARGET
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	TARGET

F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	TARGET
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).	TARGET

Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)

Number of criteria passed

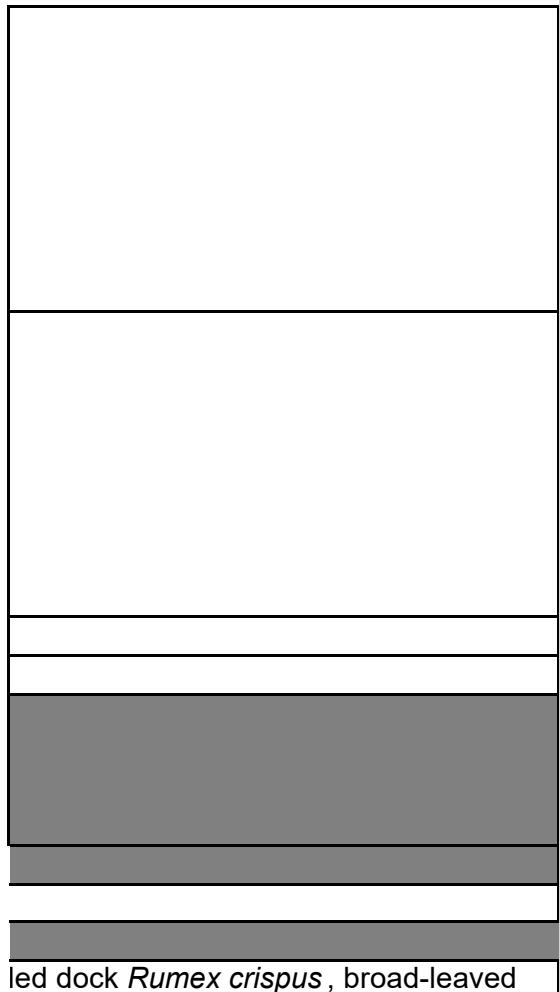
Condition	Condition Assessor	Score Achieved ✕/✓
Passes 6 or 7 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria	Moderate (2)	TARGET
Passes 3 or fewer	Poor (1)	

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* , spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* , curly dock *Rumex* spp.

Notes (such as justification)



led dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types
Post development target conditions (DRAFT)

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A	<p>The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description).¹</p> <p>Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for</p>	TARGET
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	TARGET
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.	TARGET

E	<p>Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition³ and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area.</p> <p>If any invasive non-native plant species⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.</p>	TARGET
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Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types

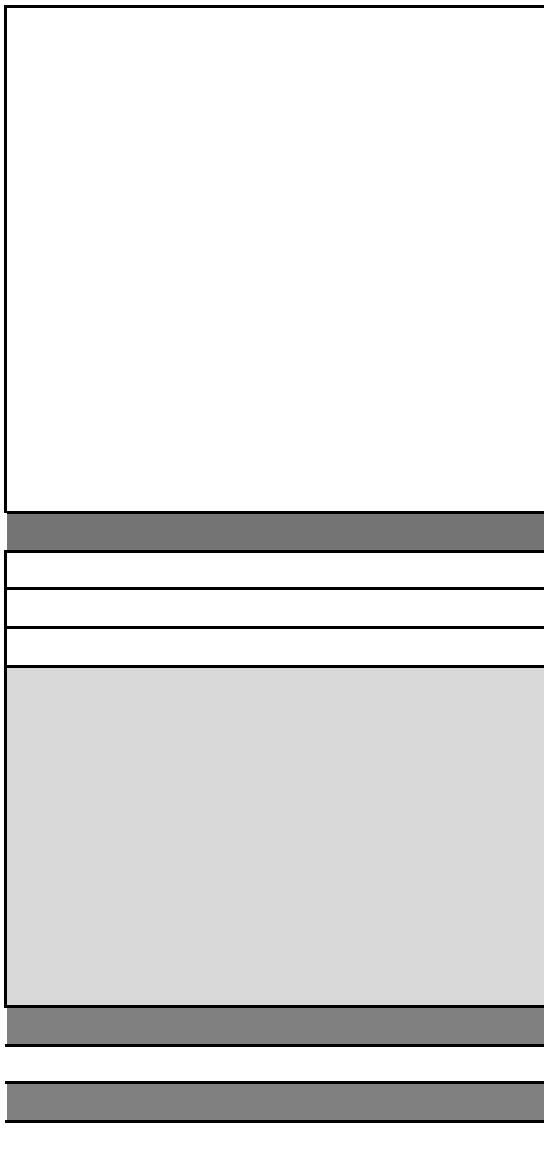
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species	
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for		
Number of criteria passed		
Condition Assessment	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ✗/✓
Acid grassland types (Result out of 5 criteria)		
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)		
Passes 5 or 6 criteria,	Good (3)	
Passes 3 - 5 criteria,	Moderate (2)	TARGET
Passes 2 or fewer	Poor (1)	

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Notes

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

Notes (such as justification)



Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type

Habitat Types

Individual trees – Urban trees

Post development target conditions (DRAFT)

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)
A The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	TARGET
B The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	TARGET
C The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	TARGET
D There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	TARGET
E Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	TARGET

F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	TARGET
Number of criteria passed		
Condition	Condition Assessment	Score Achieved ✘/✓
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)	
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	TARGET
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)	
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score²		
Footnotes		
<p>Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (published 2018) and:</p> <p>Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions</p>		
<p>Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the</p>		

Notes (such as justification)

e from:
<u>habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D</u>

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types
Woodland (other)
Post development target conditions (DRAFT)
Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator		Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)
A	Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.
B	Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in less than 40% of whole woodland ² .
C	Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ present in woodland.	Rhododendron <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> or cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.
D	Number of native tree species	Five or more native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	Three to four native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.
E	Cover of native tree and shrub species	>80% of canopy trees and >80% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	50 - 80% of canopy trees and 50 - 80% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .
F	Open space within woodland	10 - 20% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . Unless woodland is <10ha, in which case 0 - 20% temporary open space is permitted ⁷ .	21 - 40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ .
G	Woodland regeneration	All three classes present in woodland ⁸ ; trees 4 - 7 cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), saplings and seedlings or advanced coppice regrowth.	One or two classes only present in woodland ⁸ .

H	Tree health	Tree mortality 10% or less, no pests or diseases and no crown dieback ⁹ .	11% to 25% tree mortality and or crown dieback or low-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .
I	Vegetation and ground flora	Recognisable NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present, strongly characterised by ancient woodland flora specialists.	Recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.
J	Woodland vertical structure	Three or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland ¹¹ .	Two storeys across all survey plots ¹¹ .
K	Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.
L	Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, branch stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .
M	Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident ¹⁴ .	Less than 1 hectare in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or less than 20% of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .

Total Score (0 to 100)

Condition Assessment Result

Total score >32 (33 to 39)

Total score 26 to 32

Total score <26 (13 to 25)

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment details: EWBG (No date). As [Woodland Wildlife Toolkit \(sylva.org.uk\)](http://Woodland Wildlife Toolkit (sylva.org.uk))

The woodland condition assessment survey methodology is outlined in the EWBG toolkit. However

Footnote 1 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch

Footnote 6 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 6 for more information. Open space within woodland

Footnote 11 – This criterion looks at structural diversity and is useful to understand in conjunction

[Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://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
EWBG INDICATOR 12 is the relevant indicator.

Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator	Notes (such as justification)	< 26 POINTS
One age-class ¹ present.	1		
Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .	2		
Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ³ ≥10% cover.	3		
Two or less native tree or shrub species ⁴ across woodland parcel.	2		
<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	2		
<10% or >40% of woodland has areas of temporary open space ⁶ . But if woodland <10ha has <10% temporary open space, please see Good category ⁷ .	1		
No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	1		

Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	3	
No recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	1	
One or less storey across all survey plots ¹¹ .	1	
No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.	1	
Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood, such as standing and fallen deadwood, large dead branches and or stems, stubs and stumps, or an abundance of small cavities ¹³ .	1	
1 hectare or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	2	
out of a possible 39)	21	

Condition Assessment Score	Result Achieved
Good (3)	
Moderate (2)	
Poor (1) TARGET	

Assessing your Woodland's Condition

The criteria on this sheet are those for *Betula* sp., cherry *Prunus* sp. or *Sorbus* sp. and in this context is temporary open space with the age of trees in a woodland.

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

IK (www.gov.uk)

Condition Sheet: URBAN Habitat Type
Habitat Types
SuDS
Post development target conditions (DRAFT)

Condition Assessment Criteria	Criterion passed (Yes or No)		

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

A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing			
B	The habitat parcel contains different	TARGET		
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 .	TARGET		
	Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5%)			

Additional Criteria - must be assessed for **Bioswale and SuDS habitat types only:**

E1	Plant species are mostly native. If non-	TARGET		
E2	The vegetation is comprised of plant			

Condition **Condition Assessment Score** **Score Achieved ✗/✓**
Results for habitats requiring assessment of **3 core criteria only (all listed urban habitats)**

• Passes all 3 core	Good (3)			
• Passes 2 of 3 core	Moderate (2)	TARGET		
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3	Poor (1)			

Results for **Green roofs and **Open mosaic habitat** on previously developed land**

• 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, E or G)	Good (3)			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes 2 or 3 of 4 criteria; <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Poor (1)			
Results for Bioswale or SuDS (requiring assessment of 5 criteria - core criteria plus additional criteria)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes all 3 core criteria; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passes all additional criteria relevant to specific habitat type (Group) 	Good (3)			
• Passes 3 or 4 of 5	Moderate (2)			
• Passes 2 or fewer	Poor (1)			

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

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

[Home](#) » [NNSS \(nonnative species\)](#)

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

[Horizon-scanning for invasive non-native plants in Great Britain - NECR053 \(nonnative species\)](#)

For criterion C – For green roof habitat types only – buddleia *Buddleja davidii* should be avoided.

[Alternative plants](#) » [NNSS \(nonnative species\)](#)

Condition sheet: HEDGEROW Habitat Types			
Habitat Type			
Native hedgerow			
Post development target conditions (DRAFT)			
Condition Assessment Details			
A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment.			
Hedgerow favourable condition attributes			
Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)		Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description
Core groups - applicable to all hedgerow types			
A1.	Height	>1.5 m average along length	The average height of woody stems from the base of stem to the top of canopy.
A2.	Width	>1.5 m average along length	The average width of woody stems from the widest point of the canopy.
B1.	Gap - hedge base	Gap between ground and base of canopy <0.5 m for >90% of length	This is the vertical 'gapping' component of the hedge, from the ground to the lowest leaf.
B2.	Gap - hedge canopy continuity	Gaps make up <10% of total length; and No canopy gaps >5 m	This is the horizontal 'gapping' component of the hedge, where breaks in the woody canopy occur.
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 (or lack of disturbance) at the base of the hedge. Undisturbed ground is present along the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m, and be present along at least 90% of the length. This criterion recognises the presence of ground flora.
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 cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i> and bindweed <i>Calystegia sepium</i> . Their presence, either simultaneously or sequentially, can exceed the 20% cover threshold.
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 the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) ³) and recently introduced species.	Recently introduced species have naturalised in the UK since 1945. Archaeophytes count as archaeophytes and neophytes as neophytes. The website ⁴ , as well as the English Nature 'Online Atlas of the British Flora' provide an up-to-date list of the species.
D2.	Current damage	>90% of the hedgerow or undisturbed ground is free of damage caused by human activities.	This criterion addresses damage that has led to or is likely to lead to deterioration of the hedge. This could include evidence of:
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 classes or morphologies of trees and provide opportunities for species.
E2.	Tree health	At least 95% of hedgerow trees are in a healthy condition (excluding veteran features valuable for wildlife). There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.	This criterion identifies if damage which compromises the individual specimen

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

Category	Category Requirements	Metric Score
Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 4 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		

Condition categories for hedgerows with trees

Category	Category Requirements	Metric score
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Good	No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group.	3
Moderate	No more than 5 failures in total; AND <u>Does not fail both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).	2
Poor	Fails a total of more than 5 attributes; OR <u>Fails both attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1
Score achieved:		

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

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

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

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

Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) *The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain* ([Species Status No. 7](http://jncc.gov.uk)) | JNCC ([Res](http://jncc.gov.uk))

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

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

Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBN NSS) (2022) Available at [Home » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](http://nonnativespecies.org)

Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from [Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(publishing.gov.uk\)](http://gov.uk) and [Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions \(publishing.gov.uk\)](http://gov.uk)

Assessment. Each attribute is assigned to one of five functional groups (A – E) and		
	Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
body growth estimated from the shoots, excluding any	TARGET?	
body growth estimated at the 'y, excluding gaps and	TARGET?	
ness' of the woody row, and its distance from the y growth.		
ppiness' of the woody row. Gaps are complete copy (no matter how small).	TARGET	
balance (excluding wildlife of the hedgerow. Present for at least 90% of the row than 1 m in width and must be on one side of the hedgerow. The value of the hedgerow		
ed are nettles <i>Urtica</i> spp., and docks <i>Rumex</i> spp. singly or together, does not threshold.		
species refer to plants that have since AD 1500 (neophytes). natives. For information on neophytes see the JNCC BSBI website ⁵ where the British and Irish Flora ⁶ contains the status of species. For	TARGET	
damaging activities that may deteriorate in other attributes.		
ence of pollution, piles of		

if there are a range of ages which allow for replacement opportunities for different

the trees are subject to diseases the survival and health issues.

TARGET

, which is used within the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. The scores for each are

local surveys in the UK. [online] Available on:

us for Hedgerows. [online] Available on:

Great Britain. Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on:
[Source Hub](#)

wild, native or alien? [online] Available on:

British and Irish Flora. [online] Available on:

le on:

n:
[service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[ONS - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type

Habitat Types

Mixed Scrub

Post development target conditions (DRAFT)

Condition Assessment Criteria

A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type - the
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.

Condition Assessment Result (out)

Condition Assessment Score

Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab [Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England \(i\)](#) [Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making plans](#)

Footnote 4 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution c

Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
TARGET	
POSSIBLE	
Number of criteria passed	
Score Achieved ✗/✓	
TARGET	

› description.
publishing.service.gov.uk and
www.gov.uk/guidance

of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels