

Condition Assessment of Baseline Habitats

Individual trees:

Name	Code	UKHAB Definition
Individual Trees	N/a	Individual trees (description applied to the urban or rural environment): Young trees over 7.5 cm in diameter at breast height whose canopies are not touching. Urban Perimeter / Linear Blocks and Groups (description applied to the urban environment only): Groups or stands of trees (size requirement as defined above) within and around the perimeter of urban land. This includes those along urban streets, highways, railways and canals, and also former field boundary trees incorporated into developments. Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Yes/No	2no. Buddleia (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>) Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>), cherry (<i>Prunus sp.</i>) and field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>) Trees removed before site visit are unidentified.
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).	Yes	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .	No	Ash, cherry and field maple are mature.
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.	Yes	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Yes/No	Small trees devoid of deadwood etc, Ash tree is ivy-clad and cherry has loose bark.
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Other neutral grassland.
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	√	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.			

Native hedgerow and native hedgerow with trees:

Name	Code	UKHAB Definition
Native hedgerow with trees	h2a	A hedgerow with >80% canopy cover of UK native or archaeophyte woody species.
Native hedgerow with trees	h2a.11	Native hedgerows with ≥ 4 (or ≥ 3 in northern and eastern England, upland Wales and Scotland) UK-native or archaeophyte woody species in a 30m section. A linear feature ≥ 20 m long with a woody component < 5 m wide at its base, a shrub layer present and with ≥ 2 prominent trees taking their natural shape that are < 20 m apart over most of its length.

Attributes and functional groupings (A, B, C, D and E)	Criteria - the minimum requirements for 'favourable condition'	Criteria description	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)."	Yes	
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)."	Yes	
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.	Yes	

		Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook)."		
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)."	Yes	
C1. Undisturbed ground and perennial vegetation	">1 m width of undisturbed ground with perennial herbaceous vegetation for >90% of length: · Measured from outer edge of hedgerow; and · Is present on one side of the hedgerow (at least)."	"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."	No	Grassland mowed to hedge base.
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.	Yes	Docks present.
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 WCA3) 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	Yes	

		see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website ⁷ .		
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)."	Yes	

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees

Category	Category Requirements	Score Achieved x/√	
Good (3)	"No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group."	√	
Moderate (2)	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).		
Poor (1)	Fails a total of more than 4 attributes; OR Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).		

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.	No	No mature trees present
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	This criterion identifies if the trees are subject to damage which compromises the survival and health of the individual specimens.	Yes	

	damage from livestock or wild animals, pests or diseases, or human activity.			
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees				
Category	Category Requirements	Score Achieved ×/√		
Good (3)	"No more than 2 failures in total; AND No more than 1 failure in any functional group."	√		
Moderate (2)	No more than 5 failures in total; AND Does not fail both <u>attributes</u> in more than one functional group (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).			
Poor (1)	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).			

Ruderal/ Ephemeral:

Name	Code	UKHAB Definition
Ruderal/ ephemeral	u1.18	Short patchy plant associations of ruderal or ephemeral species with >5% cover and perennial grass species <75% cover.

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	Vegetation structure is varied, providing opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live, eat and breed. A single structural habitat component or vegetation type does not account for more than 80% of the total habitat area.	No	Short vegetation structure dominant.
B	The habitat parcel contains different plant species that are beneficial for wildlife, for example flowering species providing nectar sources for a range of invertebrates at different times of year.	Yes	
C	Invasive non-native plant species (listed on Schedule 9 of WCA1) and others which are to the detriment of native wildlife (using professional judgement)² cover less than 5% of the total vegetated area³. Note - to achieve Good condition, this criterion must be satisfied by a complete absence of invasive non-native species (rather than <5% cover).	Yes	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
• Passes all 3 core criteria; - AND • Meets the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Good (3)		
• Passes 2 of 3 core criteria; - OR • Passes 3 of 3 core criteria but does not meet the requirements for Good condition within criterion C.	Moderate (2)	√	
• Passes 0 or 1 of 3 core criteria.	Poor (1)		

Other Neutral Grassland:

Name	Code	UKHAB Definition
Other neutral grassland	g3c	A neutral grassland that does not meet the definition of either g3a or g3b AND that meets at least three of these four criteria: >20% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges >8 species per m² (including forbs, grasses, sedges and rushes, and excluding bryophytes) ≥1 grass species that is not generally sown for intensive agricultural production (i.e. Rye-grasses <i>Lolium spp.</i>, Timothy <i>Phleum pratense</i>, Cock's foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>, Meadow fescue <i>Festuca pratensis</i>) is at least abundant; - Cover of Rye-grasses <i>Lolium spp.</i> And White Clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>, where present, is <30%

Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	"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 Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only."	No	See criterion F
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.	Yes	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	Yes	
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>) is less than 5%.	Yes	
E	"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. If any invasive non-native plant species⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA5) are present, this criterion is automatically failed."	Yes	

Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	"There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m2 present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only."	No	9 species identified in m2 quadrat during site visit: bush vetch (<i>Vicia sepium</i>), common vetch (<i>Vicia sativa</i>), long-stalked crane's-bill (<i>Geranium columbinum</i>), Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), common bent (<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>), meadow fescue (<i>Schedonorus pratensis</i>), brome sp. (<i>Bromus sp.</i>), and geranium sp. (<i>Geranium sp.</i>)
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/√	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)		
"Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F."	Poor (1)	√	