

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)													
Habitat type: Grassland - Modified grassland													
Habitat description: See UK Habitat Classification													
Habitat reference (e.g. G1)													
Grid reference (OS 10 figure)													
Threshold for more diverse grassland types		Threshold passed (if 3 or more passes then don't use Grassland low tab; use Grassland med, high & v high tab)											
More than 20% cover of broadleaved herbs and sedges													
More than 8 species per m2 (inc forbs, grasses, and rushes)													
1 or more grass species not sown for intensive aggricutural production is at least abundant (see footnote)													
Cover of rye grass and white clover less than 30%													
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)											
A	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.	Yes											
B	Sward height is varied (atleast 20% of sward is <7cm & at least 20% is > 7cm) (microclimates for vertebrates/invertebrates to live/breed).	No											
C	Scrub <20% of total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble may be present). <i>Patches of scrub with continuous (>90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type</i> .	Yes											
D	Physical damage <5% of total grassland area (excessive poaching, damage from machinery use/storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities)	No											
E	Bareground cover is 1% to 10%, including localised areas (e.g. concentration of rabbit warrens). Footnote 2	Yes											
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.	Yes											
G	No invasive non-native plant species3 (Schedule 9 of WCA). Footnotes 3 and 4	Yes											
Essential criteria passed (Yes or No)		No											
Number of criteria passed		5											
The grassland 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 Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ('Yes' in relevant box)											
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)												
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	Yes											
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)												
Footnotes													
Species not generally sown for intensive agicutural produciton: rye grasses, timothy, cock's foot, meadow fescue													
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .													
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).													

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)																							
Habitat type: Lowland calcareous grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland - Lowland meadows - Other lowland acid grassland - Other neutral grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Not to be confised with the Tall forbs secondary code - see UKHab guidance for details] - Upland acid grassland - Upland calcareous grassland - Upland hay meadows. Sparsley vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland.																							
Habitat description: See UK Habitat Classification																							
Habitat reference (e.g. G1)																							
Habitat type (e.g. Other neutral grassland)		Other neutral grassland (outside solar arrays)	Other neutral grassland (outside solar arrays, close to PROW																				
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)																					
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 (& 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.																						
		Yes	No																				
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is <7 cm and at least 20% is >7 cm) (microclimates for insects, birds & small mammals to live/ breed).																						
		Yes	No																				
C	Cover of bare ground is 1% to 5%, including localised areas e.g. rabbit warrens ²																						
		Yes	Yes																				
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble) is less than 5%.																						
		Yes	Yes																				
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ & physical damage (excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for < 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.																						
		Yes	No																				
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	No																				
Number of criteria passed																							
The grassland 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 Assessment	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ('Yes' in relevant box)																					
Non-acid grassland types (Result out of 6 criteria)																							
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)	Yes																					
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)		Yes																				
Footnotes																							
Footnote 1 - Professional judgement should be used alongside the UKHab description.																							
Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.																							
Footnote 3 - Species indicative of suboptimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.																							
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, by applying professional judgement.																							
Footnote 5 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).																							

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type												
Habitat type: Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub - Gorse scrub - Hawthorn scrub - Hazel scrub - Mixed scrub - Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160) - Willow scrub												
Habitat description: See UK Habitat Classification												
Habitat type (e.g. Mixed scrub)												
		Mixed Scrub										
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										
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 - >80% of scrub is native, - >3 native woody species ² , - No single species comprises >75% of the cover (except hazel, common juniper, sea buckthorn (only in its restricted native range), or box, which can be up to 100% cover).	Yes										
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No										
C	Invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) absent and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up <5% of ground cover.	Yes										
D	The scrub has a well-developed edge with scattered scrub and tall grassland and or forbs present between the scrub and adjacent habitat.	Yes										
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	No										
Number of criteria passed		3										
The scrub 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 Assessment Result (out of 5 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ("Yes" in relevant box)										
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)											
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)	Yes										
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)											
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) <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 3 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran species. Available from: <u>Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)</u> and <u>Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u> 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 <i>Alianthus altissima</i> , holm oak <i>Quercus ilex</i> , European turkey oak <i>Quercus cerris</i> , cherry laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> , snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos</i> spp., shallon <i>Gaultheria shallon</i> , American skunk cabbage <i>Lysichiton americanus</i> , buddleia <i>Buddleja</i> spp., cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster</i> spp., Spanish bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> and hybrid bluebells <i>Hyacinthoides x massartiana</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.												

Condition Sheet: WOODLAND Habitat Type

Habitat type: Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland - Native pine woodlands - Other coniferous woodland - Other Scot's pine woodland - Other woodland; broadleaved - Other woodland; mixed - Upland birchwoods - Upland mixed ashwoods - Upland oakwood - Wet woodland

Habitat description:See UK Habitat Classification

Habitat type (e.g. Lowland mixed deciduous woodland)

Other woodland:broadleaved

Ancient woodland? (see guidance tab)

No

Any ancientveteran trees? (see guidance tab)
If yes also record as individual tree (and put tree ref number here)

No

Condition Assessment Criteria

Indicator	Good (3 points)	Moderate (2 points)	Poor (1 point)	Score per indicator
A Age distribution of trees	Three age-classes ¹ present.	Two age-classes ¹ present.	One age-class ¹ present.	1
B Wild, domestic and feral herbivore damage	No significant browsing damage evident in woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in <40% of whole woodland ² .	Evidence of significant browsing pressure is present in 40% or more of whole woodland ² .	2
C Invasive plant species	No invasive species ³ present in woodland.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel not present, and other invasive species ³ <10% cover.	Rhododendron or cherry laurel present, or other invasive species ³ >10% cover.	3
D Number of native tree species	5 or more native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	3-4 native tree or shrub species ⁴ found across woodland parcel.	2 or less native tree or shrub species ⁴ across woodland parcel.	3
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 .	<50% of canopy trees and <50% of understory shrubs are native ⁵ .	3
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 .	<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 .	3
G Woodland regeneration	All 3 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 .	No classes or coppice regrowth present in woodland ⁸ .	2
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 .	Greater than 25% tree mortality and or any high-risk pest or disease present ⁹ .	3
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.	No recognisable woodland NVC plant community ¹⁰ at ground layer present.	2
J Woodland vertical structure	3 or more storeys across all survey plots, or a complex woodland ¹¹ .	Two storeys across all survey plots ¹¹ .	One or less storey across all survey plots ¹¹ .	1
K Veteran trees	Two or more veteran trees ¹² per hectare.	One veteran tree ¹² per hectare.	No veteran trees ¹² present in woodland.	1
L Amount of deadwood	50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood (see description top of page)	Between 25% and 50% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood	Less than 25% of all survey plots within the woodland parcel have deadwood	2
M Woodland disturbance	No nutrient enrichment or damaged ground evident ¹⁴ .	<1ha in total of nutrient enrichment across woodland area, and or <20% of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	1ha or more of nutrient enrichment, and or 20% or more of woodland area has damaged ground ¹⁴ .	2
Total Score (out of a possible 39)				28

The woodland 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 Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ('Yes' in relevant box)
Total score >32 (33 to 39)	Good (3)	
Total score 26 to 32	Moderate (2)	Yes
Total score <26 (13 to 25)	Poor (1)	

Footnotes

Footnotes below refer to the EWBG woodland condition assessment details: EWBG (No date). *Assessing your Woodland's Condition* [online]. Available from: [Woodland Wildlife Toolkit \(evva.org.uk\)](#)

The woodland condition assessment survey methodology is outlined in the EWBG toolkit. However the criteria on this sheet are those specific to the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and must be used when assessing woodland condition.

Footnote 1 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 1 for more information. If tree species is not a birch *Betula* sp., cherry *Prunus* sp. or *Sorbus* sp.: 0 - 20 years (Young); 21 - 150 years (Intermediate); and >150 years (Old). For birch, cherry or *Sorbus* species; 0 - 20 years = Young; 21 - 60 years =Intermediate; >60 years = Old. A recognisable age-class should be a consistent recognisable layer across the woodland or stand being assessed. Presence of a few saplings would not indicate that the woodland has an 'age-class' of young trees.

Footnote 2 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 2 for more information. Browsing pressure is considered to be significant where >20% of vegetation visible within each survey plot shows damage from any type of browsing pressure listed.

Footnote 3 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 3 for more information. Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly.

Check for the presence of all plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), particularly the following invasive non-native species: American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus*; Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*; Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*; cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*; shalton *Gaultheria shallon*; snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*; variegated yellow archangel *Lamiatrum galeobdolon subsp. argentatum*; rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*; and tree-of-heaven *Ailanthus altissima*.

Footnote 4 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 4 and Table 2 for more information. The number of different native tree or shrub species including young trees and shrubs. A list of commonly found native tree and shrub species is provided in Table 2. Not all species listed are native to all parts of the UK. Note a list of commonly found non-native tree species are also included and should be recorded if present.

Footnote 5 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 5 and for more information. The abundance of native tree species in upper (>5 m) and understorey (up to 5 m) layers including young trees and shrubs.

Footnote 6 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 6 for more information. Open space within woodland in this context is temporary open space in which trees can be expected to regenerate (for example, glades, rides, footpaths, areas of clear-fell). This differs from permanent open space where tree regeneration is not possible or desirable (for example, tarmac, buildings, rivers). Area is at least 10 m wide with less than 20% covered by shrubs or trees.

Footnote 7 – Given the increased ratio of edge habitat to woodland where the woodland is <10ha.

Footnote 8 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 8 for more information. This indicator measures regeneration potential of the woodland by considering three classes: seedlings; saplings; and young trees of 4-7 cm DBH. All three classes would fall in the 'young' category of the 'age distribution of trees' indicator, but the regeneration indicator gathers additional information by considering regeneration potential - if seedlings, saplings and young trees are all present that means natural regeneration processes are happening.

Footnote 9 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 9 for more information and Table 3 for a list of diseases and pests and their risk level.

Footnote 10 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 10 directing to NVC key for more information. The 'UKHab to NVC translation table' in the UK Habitat Classification resources may also be useful to assess this.

Footnote 11 - This criterion looks at structural diversity and is useful to understand in conjunction with the age of trees in a woodland. Vertical structure is defined as the number of canopy storeys present. Possible storey values are: 1) Upper; 2) Complex; recorded when the stand is composed of multiple tree heights that cannot easily be stratified into broad height bands (such as upper, middle or lower); 3) Middle; 4) Lower, and 5) Shrub layer. There might be no storeys where the woodland has been felled. See EWBG INDICATOR 11 for more information.

Footnote 12 - 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

EWBG INDICATOR 12 is the relevant indicator.

Footnote 13 – See EWBG method INDICATOR 13 for more information. This includes logs, large dead branches on the forest floor and stumps (<1 m tall) >20 cm diameter at narrowest point and >50 cm long. Also includes standing dead trees (>1 m tall) and also deadwood on standing live trees. Diameter is measured at the narrowest point on the stem. Minimum diameter of 20 cm.

Footnote 14 - See EWBG method INDICATOR 15 for more information. Examples of disturbance are: significant nutrient enrichment; soil compaction from trampling, machinery, animal poaching or litter.