

The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 -Technical Annex 1: Condition Assessment Sheets and Methodology

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Instructions

The method for assessing habitat condition is split into three main steps, all of which are 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:
- a) Condition assessments must be undertaken by a competent person, as defined in the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide.
 - b) Assessors must have access to condition sheets (see **Tabs 1-25**) and the survey cover sheet during the survey (see **SURVEY COVER SHEET** tab). These may be either digital or hard copies.
 - c) 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 DEFINITIONS** tab). Most (but not all) metric terrestrial habitat types are equivalent to Level 4 in UKHab, therefore some metric habitats encompass UKHab Level 5 sub-divisions. When classifying a habitat, the assessor should classify and record it to the most accurate and appropriate level. Although a Level 5, or equivalent habitat may need converting to a metric habitat type when using the metric, when assessing its condition the most accurate description should be used. Using professional judgement, this may include the Level 5 UKHab description as well as the Level 4 description, depending on the habitat type.
 - d) The location and extent of the habitat parcel(s) to be assessed must be mapped, either on digital or paper maps. Following conditon assessment, mapped habitat parcels should be split according to their condition.
 - e) 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 metric and indicates which condition sheet should be used for each habitat type. Some condition sheets are unique to a single habitat type; others cover a range of habitat types within the same broad habitat category.

- How to use:** locate the relevant habitat type in the first column (Habitat Type), then refer to the second column (Condition Sheet) to determine which habitat condition sheet should be used to assess that particular habitat type. The third and fourth columns (Link to sheet) contain links which can be clicked on to navigate directly to the required condition sheet, for ease of navigation. Please note the following important points:
- Some habitats are allocated a fixed condition score in the metric and do not require a condition assessment for the metric to be completed. For certain low and medium distinctiveness habitats there is a fixed option in the metric - '*Condition Assessment N/A*'; for very low distinctiveness habitats the fixed option is '*N/A - Other*'.
 - Habitats descriptions in **bold** are Priority Habitats.

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

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

- a) Only choose one condition sheet per habitat type. Once the condition sheet has been chosen, the condition assessment can be carried out on relevant sheets A or B, which are the same except that for A - information for one habitat parcel can be recorded, whereas for B - information for up to 10 habitat parcels can be recorded. Each condition sheet is set to print at A4 and can be used as a paper form.
- b) 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.
- c) 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. Assessors should refer to the habitat description links at the top of the condition sheet to ensure that the habitat type is correctly identified.
- d) 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 and condition.
- e) Some condition assessment sheets have 'essential' criteria. Essential criteria must be passed to achieve a particular condition state.
- f) Some condition assessment sheets list species that are indicative of sub-optimal condition status. These lists are not exhaustive. An assessor may exercise professional judgement and consider additional species within this category, such as those of geographical relevance. Report any high-risk non-native invasive species to the: [GB non-native species secretariat](#)
- g) Any relevant evidence for passing or failing criteria, or for a particular score, should be captured within the habitat survey target notes and or by taking photographs. Photographs and target notes should be referenced on the condition sheet.
- h) 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 when passing or failing criteria. Ensure any constraints are made clear in the 'Assessor's comments' box in the metric and associated reporting:
 - 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.
- i) 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. They should only be applied through application of professional judgement, and sound ecological evidence must be provided to justify the use of these categories. 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 outcome of 'Poor' to an adjustment to 'Fairly Good' (nor from 'Good' to 'Fairly Poor').

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

Notes on Using Condition Sheets

Additional habitat-specific instructions for non-standard condition assessment sheets are provided below:

Using the 'Woodland' condition sheet

- The Woodland condition sheet has been adapted from the 'Woodland Condition Survey' developed by the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG). All supplementary information needed to complete a Woodland condition assessment for the purpose of the metric is provided within the Woodland condition sheet.
- Instead of allocating a pass or fail to each criterion, each of the criteria within the woodland condition sheets are allocated a score. These scores are summed, and the total sum is used to assign a final condition score.

Using the 'Lakes' condition sheet

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

Using the 'Coastal' and 'Intertidal' habitat 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, and the total sum is used to assign a final condition score.

Using the 'Hedgerow' condition sheet

- 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 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 functional groups.

Habitat Type (Habitats in bold are Priority Habitats)	Condition Sheet	
Area habitats		
Broad habitat type: Cropland		
Cropland - Arable field margins cultivated annually 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	Condition Assessment N/A	
Broad habitat type: Grassland		
Grassland - Bracken		Condition Assessment N/A
Grassland - Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM		Use Wetland condition sheet (plus Ditch condition sheet for any ditches). If the area meets the definition of another high / very high distinctiveness type, record and treat as the relevant habitat type within the metric instead.
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland		Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness
Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland		
Grassland - Lowland meadows		Grassland Low distinctiveness
Grassland - Modified grassland		
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland		Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness
Grassland - Other neutral grassland		
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430)	Orchard	
Grassland - Traditional orchards		
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	
Heathland and shrub - Lowland 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 OR Ponds	
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond		
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	Urban	
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral		
Sparsely vegetated land – Tall forbs	Sparsely vegetated land	
Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats		
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	N/A - Other	
Urban - Built linear features		
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	Condition Assessment N/A	
Urban - Vegetated garden		
Broad habitat type: Wetland		
Wetland - Blanket bog	Wetland	
Wetland - Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)		
Wetland - Fens (upland and lowland)		
Wetland - Lowland raised bog		
Wetland – Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)		
Wetland - Purple moor grass and rush pastures		
Wetland – Reedbeds		
Wetland - Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)		
Broad habitat type: Woodland		
Woodland and forest - Felled	No assessment required - condition fixed at Good	
Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland	Woodland	
Woodland and forest - Lowland mixed deciduous woodland		
Woodland and forest - Native pine woodlands		
Woodland and forest - Other coniferous woodland		
Woodland and forest - Other Scot's pine woodland		
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; broadleaved		
Woodland and forest - Other woodland; mixed		
Woodland and forest - Upland birchwoods		
Woodland and forest - Upland mixed ashwoods		
Woodland and forest - Upland oakwood		
Woodland and forest - Wet woodland		
Woodland and forest - Wood-pasture and parkland	Wood-pasture and parkland	
Broad habitat type: Coastal lagoons		
Coastal lagoons - Coastal lagoons	Coastal lagoons	
Broad habitat type: Coastal saltmarsh		
Coastal saltmarsh - Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	Coastal saltmarsh	
Coastal saltmarsh - Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds		
Broad habitat type: Intertidal hard structures		
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures	Intertidal hard structures	
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial features of hard structures		
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)		
Broad habitat type: Intertidal sediment		
Intertidal sediment - Littoral coarse sediment	Intertidal sediment	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral sand		
Intertidal sediment - Littoral muddy sand		
Intertidal sediment - Littoral mud		
Intertidal sediment - Littoral mixed sediments		
Intertidal sediment - Features of littoral sediment		
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral coarse sediment		
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral mixed sediments		
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral mud		
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral muddy sand		
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral sand	Intertidal biogenic reefs	
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass		
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass - on peat, clay or chalk	Intertidal seagrass	
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	
Broad habitat type: Rocky shore		
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock		
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	
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		
Rocky shore - Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk		
Hedgerows and lines of trees habitats		
Broad habitat type: Individual trees		
Individual trees – Rural tree	Individual trees	
Individual trees – Urban tree	Hedgerow	
Broad habitat type: Hedgerows and lines of trees		
Hedgerows and lines 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		
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native 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		

Survey Cover Sheet			
Date	27/06/2023	Site name or location	Leicester Road, Markfield
Weather conditions	18 degrees, sunny, BF2	Project or development name	Land to the north of Leicester Road, Markfield
Surveyor name	Kinzie Watts, Victoria Halford	On-site or off-site	On-site
Survey reference		Reason for assessment (if not baseline condition survey)	Baseline condition survey to inform planning application and BNG assessment
Notes			
NVC surveys were carried out as part of the Ecological Impact Assessment (BG22.188.4 November 2023)			

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)														
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)														
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland Grassland - Lowland meadows Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland Grassland - Other neutral grassland Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Note Tall herb habitat that does not meet the Annex 1 definition should be recorded as 'Other neutral grassland'] [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.] Grassland - Upland acid grassland Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland Grassland - Upland hay meadows Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland														
Habitat Description														
Grassland dominating the application site - has been subdivided into different compartments owing to differences in species composition and quality														
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification														
Site name and location		Land to the north of Leicester Road, Markfield		On-site or off-site		On site								
				Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)				Habitat parcel reference										
				Northern Field	Southern Field	North-western corner								
Condition Assessment Criteria				Grid reference										
				SK 49469 10274	SK 49550 10207	SK 49422 10330								
				Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Y	Y	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 insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Y	Y	Y										
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ¹ .	Y	Y	Y										
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%.	Y	Y	Y										
E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition ² 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 species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	Y	Y										
Additional Criterion - must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types														
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	Y	N										
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		N	Y	N										
Number of criteria passed		5	6	5										
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓												
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, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		X											
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	X		X										
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)													
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score														
Notes														
Footnote 1 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.														
Footnote 2 - Species indicative of sub-optimal 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 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, by applying professional judgement.														
Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).														

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

Two hedgerows located at site boundaries. Native. Evidence of ash die back reported on site, degrading tree health.

See the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide Section 9.

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.

Site name and location

Land to the north of Leicester Road, Markfield

On-site or off-site

On site

Limitations (if applicable)

Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)

Condition Assessment Criteria

A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook¹ and Favourable Conservation Status document². For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.

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.

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

H1H2

Grid reference

SK4940010331SK4946710240

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.

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.

Y

Y

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.

N

N

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).

Y

Y

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.

Y

Y

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 *Urtica* spp., cleavers *Galium aparine* and docks *Rumex* spp. Their presence, either singly or together, does not exceed the 20% cover threshold.

N

N

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 VCA³) 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 website⁴, as well as the BSBI website⁵ where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora⁶ contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website⁷.

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.

N

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 ancient⁸), 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.

Y

Y

E3.

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

N

The hedgerow condition assessment generates a weighting (score) ranging from 1 - 3, which is used within the metric. The scores for each are set out in the tables below.

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
Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and C2 = Moderate condition).

2

Poor

Fails a total of more than 4 attributes;
OR
Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).

1

Score achieved:

Condition categories for hedgerows with 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 5 failures in total;
AND
Does not fail both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g., fails attributes A1, A2, B1, C2 and E1 = Moderate condition).

2

Poor

Fails a total of more than 5 attributes;
OR
Fails both attributes in more than one functional group (e.g. fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).

1

Score achieved:

Both Hedgerows

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type														
Habitat Type(s)														
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees.														
<u>Please see separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of Rural trees.</u>														
Habitat Description														
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 must overlap continuously. Groups of urban trees that don't match the descriptions for woodland may be assessed within this category.														
Site name and location		Land to the north of Leicester Road, Markfield		On-site or off-site		On site								
				Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)				Habitat parcel reference										
				T1										
				Grid reference										
Condition Assessment Criteria		SK 49525										Notes (such as justification)		
				Criterion passed (Yes or No)										
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).	Y												
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).	Y												
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature).	Y												
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.	N												
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	N												
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Y												
Number of criteria passed		4												
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved */✓										
Passes 5 or 6 criteria		Good (3)												
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)		X										
Passes 2 or fewer criteria		Poor (1)												
Note that 'Fairly Good and Fairly Poor' condition categories are not available for this broad habitat type.														
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score														

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type														
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type														
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												
Site name and location		Land to the north of Leicester Road, Markfield		On-site or off-site		On site								
				Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)										
Limitations (if applicable)				Habitat parcel reference										
				Central Scrub	NW corner scrub									
Condition Assessment Criteria				Grid reference										
				SK 49527 10238	SK 49384 10309									
				Criterion passed (Yes or No)								Notes (such as justification)		
A	The scrub is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description (where in its natural range). The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific scrub type.	N	N											
B	At least 80% of scrub is native, and there are at least three native woody species ¹ , with no single species comprising more than 75% of the cover (except hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i> , common juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i> , sea buckthorn <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i> or box <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> , which can be up to 100% cover).													
	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ²) shrubs are all present.	N	N											
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition ⁵ make up less than 5% of ground cover.	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.	Y	Y											
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	N	N											
Number of criteria passed		2	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)		X	X									
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score														