

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (medium, high and very high distinctiveness)														
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Types														
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) [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														
Two sections of other neutral grassland were present in the southeast and in the north end of the Site. Both areas of grassland were part of a larger field that was outside the red line boundary. Species within the grasslands consisted of dominant cock's foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , and Poa sp., frequent sweet vernal-grass <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> and rough meadowgrass <i>Poa trivialis</i> , occasional silverweed <i>Potentilla anserina</i> and rarely occurring dandelion <i>Taraxacum</i> spp., and hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> . The grasslands was in poor condition, having less than 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² , the grasslands also had bare ground covering more than 5% of the area.														
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification														
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site, Holywell Farm, Ratby, Holywell Farm, Desford Lane, Ratby, Leicestershire LE6 0LE	Survey date and Surveyor name	Jeff Grant, 28 April 2025											
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)												
Limitations (if applicable)	None	Habitat parcel reference												
		3072 8726	30679752											
Condition Assessment Criteria		Grid reference												
		SK 50143 05665	SK 50198 05595											
		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). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	No											
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	Yes											
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	No											
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%.	Yes	Yes											
E	Combined cover of species indicative of suboptimal condition ³ 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 ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	No	No											
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 3 and 5 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	No	No											
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)														
Number of criteria passed		No	No											
		2	2											
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x1/√												
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)													
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)	Yes	Yes											
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score														
Notes														
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).														