

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

March 2023

Natural England Joint Publication JP039

ISBN 978-1-7393362-2-6

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 condition 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 Definitions

Links to habitat classification systems used by the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 are below:

[UK Habitat Classification System definitions](#)

[EUNIS habitat definitions](#)

[Water Framework Directive Lakes Typologies](#)

Tips on using the table below:

Italics denotes habitat name in Biodiversity Metric 4.0 does not correspond exactly to that used in source classification.

Bold denotes definition is specific to Biodiversity Metric 4.0.

Biodiversity Metric 4.0 broad habitat	Biodiversity Metric 4.0 habitat	Classification where definition derived	Habitat name in source classification	Other definition or notes
Cropland	<i>Arable field margins cultivated annually</i>	UKHab	Arable field margins cultivated annually with an annual flora	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	<i>Arable field margins game bird mix</i>	UKHab	Game bird mix strips and corners; Game bird mix fields	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Arable field margins pollen and nectar	UKHab	Arable field margins pollen and nectar	
	<i>Arable field margins tussocky</i>	UKHab	Arable field margins sown with tussocky grasses	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Cereal crops	UKHab	Cereal crops	
	Winter stubble	UKHab	Winter stubble	
	Horticulture	UKHab	Horticulture	
	Intensive orchards	UKHab	Intensive orchards	
	Non-cereal crops	UKHab	Non-cereal crops	
	Temporary grass and clover leys	UKHab	Temporary grass and clover leys	
Grassland	Traditional orchards	UKHab	Traditional orchards	
	Bracken	UKHab	Bracken	
	<i>Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM</i>	Floodplain Wetland Mosaic: Metric-specific, see notes	N/A	See User Guide.
		CFGM - Definition based on Priority Habitat Inventory maps	CFGM - Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	N/A

	Lowland calcareous grassland	UKHab	Lowland calcareous grassland	
	Lowland dry acid grassland	UKHab	Lowland dry acid grassland	
	Lowland meadows	UKHab	Lowland meadows	
	Modified grassland	UKHab	Modified grassland	
	Other lowland acid grassland	UKHab	Other lowland acid grassland	
	Other neutral grassland	UKHab	Other neutral grassland	
	Tall herb communities (H6430)	Use Habitats Directive Annex 1 definition	Tall herb communities (H6430)	All Tall herb not meeting this definition should be recorded as Other neutral grassland with the relevant secondary code according to UKHab.
	Upland acid grassland	UKHab	Upland acid grassland	
	Upland calcareous grassland	UKHab	Upland calcareous grassland	
Heathland and shrub	Upland hay meadows	UKHab	Upland hay meadows	
	Blackthorn scrub	UKHab	Blackthorn scrub	
	Bramble scrub	UKHab	Bramble scrub	
	Gorse scrub	UKHab	Gorse scrub	
	Hawthorn scrub	UKHab	Hawthorn scrub	
	Hazel scrub	UKHab	Hazel scrub	
	Lowland heathland	UKHab	Lowland heathland	
	Mixed scrub	UKHab	Mixed scrub	
	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	UKHab	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	
	Rhododendron scrub	UKHab	Rhododendron scrub	
	Willow scrub	UKHab	Willow scrub	
	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	Habitats Directive Annex 1	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	All other sea buckthorn scrub should be recorded as 'Other sea buckthorn scrub'
	Other sea buckthorn scrub	UKHab	Other sea buckthorn scrub	
	Upland heathland	UKHab	Upland heathland	
Individual tree	Rural tree	Metric-specific – see User Guide	N/A	See User Guide
	Urban tree	Metric-specific – see User Guide	N/A	See User Guide
Lakes	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	UKHab	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	

	<i>Ornamental lake or pond</i>	UKHab	Artificial lake or pond	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. ≤ 2ha
	High alkalinity lakes	Water Framework Directive (WFD) Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Low alkalinity lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Marl lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Moderate alkalinity lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Peat lakes	WFD Lakes typology	N/A	≥ 2ha
	Ponds (priority habitat)	UKHab	Ponds (priority habitat)	≤ 2ha
	Ponds (non-priority habitat)	UKHab*	N/A	*Ponds which do not meet either the definition of (i) priority habitat ponds or (ii) ornamental ponds.
	Reservoirs	UKHab/WFD Lakes typology*	Reservoir	*Some larger reservoirs are covered by the WFD Lakes typology.
	<i>Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)</i>	UKHab*	Mediterranean temporary ponds (H3170)	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. *All temporary water bodies not meeting this definition should be recorded as the appropriate pond or lake habitat type.
Sparsely vegetated land	Calaminarian grasslands	UKHab	Calaminarian grasslands	
	Coastal sand dunes	UKHab	Coastal sand dunes	
	Coastal vegetated shingle	UKHab	Coastal vegetated shingle	
	Ruderal/Ephemeral	UKHab	Ruderal/ Ephemeral	
	Tall forbs	UKHab	Tall forbs	
	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	UKHab	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	
	Limestone pavement	UKHab	Limestone pavement	
	Maritime cliff and slopes	UKHab	Maritime cliff and slopes	
	Other inland rock and scree	UKHab	Other inland rock and scree	

Urban	Allotments	UKHab	Allotments	
	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	UKHab	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	
	Bioswale	UKHab	Bioswale	
	Biodiverse green roof	UKHab	Biodiverse green roof	
	Built linear features	UKHab	Built linear features	
	<i>Cemeteries and churchyards</i>	UKHab	Cemetery	
	Developed land; sealed surface	UKHab	Developed land; sealed surface	
	Extensive green roof	UKHab	Extensive green roof	
	Facade-bound green wall	UKHab	Facade-bound green wall	
	Ground based green wall	UKHab	Ground based green wall	
	Ground level planters	UKHab	Ground level planters	
	Intensive green roof	UKHab	Intensive green roof	
	Introduced shrub	UKHab	Introduced shrub	
	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	UKHab	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	
	Other green roof	UKHab	Other green roof	
	Rain garden	UKHab	Rain garden	
	<i>Actively worked sand pit quarry or open cast mine</i>	UKHab	Sand pit quarry or open cast mine	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name. This classification relates to non-vegetated working areas only.
	Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)	UKHab*	Sustainable urban drainage feature	* In the metric, this should only be used for open SuDS with vegetation and/or open water.
	Unvegetated garden	UKHab	Unvegetated garden	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Vacant or derelict land	UKHab	Vacant or derelict land	
Wetland	Bare ground	UKHab	Bare ground	
	Vegetated garden	UKHab	Vegetated garden	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Blanket bog	UKHab	Blanket bog	
	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)	UKHab	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)	

	<i>Fens (upland and lowland)</i>	UKHab	Lowland fens; Upland flushes fens and swamps; Other swamps	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Lowland raised bog	UKHab	Lowland raised bog	
	<i>Wetland – Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)</i>	EUNIS	Oceanic valley bog	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	UKHab	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	
	Reedbeds	UKHab	Reedbeds	
	<i>Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)</i>	UKHab	Transition mires and quaking bogs; lowland (H7140)	The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
Woodland and forest	Felled	UKHab	Felled	See User Guide
	Lowland beech and yew woodland	UKHab	Lowland beech and yew woodland	
	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	UKHab	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	
	Native pine woodlands	UKHab	Native pine woodlands	
	Other coniferous woodland	UKHab	Other coniferous woodland	
	Other Scot's pine woodland	UKHab	Other Scot's pine woodland	
	Other woodland; broadleaved	UKHab	Other woodland; broadleaved	
	Other woodland; mixed	UKHab	Other woodland; mixed	
	Upland birchwoods	UKHab	Upland birchwoods	
	Upland mixed ashwoods	UKHab	Upland mixed ashwoods	
	Upland oakwood	UKHab	Upland oakwood	
	Wet woodland	UKHab	Wet woodland	
	Wood-pasture and parkland	UKHab	Wood-pasture and parkland	
Coastal lagoons	<i>Coastal lagoons</i>	EUNIS	Saline coastal lagoons	
Coastal saltmarsh	<i>Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</i>	EUNIS	Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	
	<i>Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds</i>	Adapted from EUNIS		
Rocky shore	High energy littoral rock	EUNIS	High energy littoral rock	
	<i>High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	High energy littoral rock	
	Moderate energy littoral rock	EUNIS	Moderate energy littoral rock	
	<i>Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Moderate energy littoral rock	

	Low energy littoral rock	EUNIS	Low energy littoral rock	
	<i>Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Low energy littoral rock	
	Features of littoral rock	EUNIS	Features of littoral rock	
	<i>Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Features of littoral rock	
Intertidal sediment	Littoral coarse sediment	EUNIS	Littoral coarse sediment	
	<i>Littoral sand</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sand and muddy sand	
	<i>Littoral muddy sand</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sand and muddy sand	
	Littoral mud	EUNIS	Littoral mud	
	Littoral mixed sediments	EUNIS	Littoral mixed sediments	
	<i>Littoral seagrass</i>	EUNIS	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms	
	<i>Littoral seagrass on peat, clay or chalk</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate	Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms	
	<i>Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species	Littoral biogenic reefs	
	<i>Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria</i>	Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species	Littoral biogenic reefs	
	Features of littoral sediment	EUNIS	Features of littoral sediment	
	<i>Artificial littoral coarse sediment</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
	<i>Artificial littoral muddy sand</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
	<i>Artificial littoral mud</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
	<i>Artificial littoral sand</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		

	<i>Artificial littoral mixed sediments</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
	<i>Artificial littoral seagrass</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
	<i>Artificial littoral biogenic reefs</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
Intertidal Hard Structures	<i>Artificial hard structures</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
	<i>Artificial features of hard structures</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
	<i>Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)</i>	Adapted from EUNIS - see Technical Annex 2		
Hedgerows and Lines of trees	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	The definition does not match exactly as UKHab uses additional secondary codes.
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow with trees</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	The definition does not match exactly as UKHab uses additional secondary codes.
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	The definition does not match exactly as UKHab uses additional secondary codes.
	<i>Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	The definition does not match exactly as UKHab uses additional secondary codes.
	<i>Species-rich native hedgerow</i>	UKHab	Species-rich native hedgerow	
	<i>Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	The definition does not match exactly as UKHab uses additional secondary codes.
	<i>Native hedgerow with trees</i>	UKHab	Native hedgerow	The definition does not match exactly as UKHab uses additional secondary codes.
	<i>Ecologically valuable line of trees</i>	UKHab	Ecologically valuable line of trees	

	<i>Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Ecologically valuable line of trees	The definition does not match exactly as UKHab uses additional secondary codes.
	Native hedgerow	UKHab	Native hedgerow	
	Line of trees	UKHab	Line of trees	
	<i>Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch</i>	UKHab	Line of trees	The definition does not match exactly as UKHab uses additional secondary codes.
	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	UKHab	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow	
Watercourse	Priority habitat	UKHab	Rivers (priority habitat)	Highly naturally functioning stretches of rivers identified on the Priority River Habitat Map, and un-mapped stretches meeting the criteria for inclusion into the Priority River Habitat Map.
	Other rivers and streams	UKHab	Other rivers and streams	Rivers and streams that are not classified as Priority River Habitat
	Ditches	UKHab	Ditch	Artificially created linear water-conveyancing features which are less than 5m wide, and likely to retain water for more than 4 months of the year
	Canals	UKHab	Canals	An artificial body of water originally created for the purposes of navigation, whether it is currently navigable or not.
	Culvert	N/A	N/A	As defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. A covered channel or pipe designed to prevent the obstruction of a watercourse or drainage path by an artificial construction.

	Watercourse footprint	Metric-specific	N/A	Area habitat in the metric to use for mapping a watercourse area, the details of which should be put in the Watercourse module of the metric.
--	------------------------------	-----------------	-----	---

Instructions:		
The table below sets out which condition sheet to use for each habitat type. Priority Habitats (as defined in NERC Section 41) are indicated in bold text		

Habitat Type (Habitats in bold are Priority Habitats)	Condition Sheet	Link to sheet (1 habitat parcel)
Area habitats		
Broad habitat type: Cropland		
Cropland - Arable field margins cultivated annually	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
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		
Broad habitat type: Grassland		
Grassland - Bracken	Condition Assessment N/A	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.	Tab 23A
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness	Tab 6A
Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland		
Grassland - Lowland meadows		
Grassland - Modified grassland	Grassland Low distinctiveness	Tab 5A
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness	Tab 6A
Grassland - Other neutral grassland		
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430)		
Grassland - Traditional orchards	Orchard	Tab 17A
Grassland - Upland acid grassland	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness	Tab 6A
Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland		
Grassland - Upland hay meadows		
Broad habitat type: Heathland and scrub		
Heathland and shrub - Blackthorn scrub	Scrub	Tab 20A
Heathland and shrub - Bramble scrub	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Heathland and shrub - Gorse scrub	Scrub	Tab 20A
Heathland and shrub - Hawthorn scrub		
Heathland and shrub - Hazel scrub		
Heathland and shrub - Lowland heathland	Heathland	Tab 7A
Heathland and shrub - Mixed scrub	Scrub	Tab 20A
Heathland and shrub - Mountain heaths and willow scrub	Use Heathland condition sheet for Mountain heaths OR	Tab 7A
	Scrub condition sheet for Willow scrub	Tab 20A
Heathland and shrub - Rhododendron scrub	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Heathland and shrub – Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	Scrub	Tab 20A
Heathland and shrub – Other sea buckthorn scrub	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Heathland and shrub - Upland heathland	Heathland	Tab 7A
Heathland and shrub – Willow scrub	Scrub	Tab 20A
Broad habitat type: Lakes		
Lakes - Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	Lakes	Tab 14A
Lakes - High alkalinity lakes		
Lakes - Low alkalinity lakes		
Lakes - Marl lakes		
Lakes - Moderate alkalinity lakes		
Lakes - Ornamental lake or pond	Lakes OR Ponds	Tab 14A Tab 18A
Lakes - Peat lakes	Lakes	Tab 14A
Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)	Ponds	Tab 18A
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)		
Lakes - Reservoirs	Lakes	Tab 14A
Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)	Use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes OR	Tab 18A
	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	Tab 6A
Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal sand dunes	Coastal	Tab 1A
Sparsely vegetated land - Coastal vegetated shingle	Urban	Tab 22A
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral		
Sparsely vegetated land – Tall forbs		
Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	Sparsely vegetated land	Tab 21A
Sparsely vegetated land - Limestone pavement	Limestone pavement	Tab 15A
Sparsely vegetated land - Maritime cliff and slopes	Coastal	Tab 1A

Sparsely vegetated land - Other inland rock and scree	Sparsely vegetated land	Tab 21A
Broad habitat type: Urban		
Urban - Allotments	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	N/A - Other	N/A
Urban - Bioswale	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban - Biodiverse green roof	N/A - Other	N/A
Urban - Built linear features	Use Urban condition sheet as default.	Tab 22A
Urban - Cemeteries and churchyards	N/A - Other	N/A
Urban - Developed land; sealed surface	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban - Facade-bound green wall	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban - Ground based green wall	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban - Ground level planters	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban - Intensive green roof	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban - Introduced shrub	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban - Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban - Other green roof	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban - Rain garden	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban - Actively worked sand pit, quarry or open cast mine	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban - Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban - Unvegetated garden	N/A - Other	N/A
Urban – Vacant or derelict land	Urban	Tab 22A
Urban – Bare ground	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Urban - Vegetated garden	Condition Assessment N/A	N/A
Broad habitat type: Wetland		
Wetland - Blanket bog	Wetland	Tab 23A
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	N/A
Woodland and forest - Lowland beech and yew woodland	Woodland	Tab 24A
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	Tab 25A
Broad habitat type: Coastal lagoons		
Coastal lagoons - Coastal lagoons	Coastal lagoons	Tab 2A
Broad habitat type: Coastal saltmarsh		
Coastal saltmarsh - Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds	Coastal saltmarsh	Tab 3A
Coastal saltmarsh - Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds		
Broad habitat type: Intertidal hard structures		
Intertidal hard structures - Artificial hard structures	Intertidal hard structures	Tab 11A
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	Tab 13A
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 sediment - Littoral seagrass	Intertidal seagrass	Tab 12A
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass - on peat, clay or chalk		
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral seagrass		
Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels		

Intertidal sediment - Littoral biogenic reefs – Sabellaria	Intertidal biogenic reefs	Tab 10A
Intertidal sediment - Artificial littoral biogenic reefs		
Broad habitat type: Rocky shore		
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock	Rocky shore	Tab 19A
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 - 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		
Hedgerows and lines of trees habitats		
Broad habitat type: Individual trees		
Individual trees – Rural tree	Individual trees	Tab 9A
Individual trees – Urban tree		
Broad habitat type: Hedgerows and lines of trees		
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Line of trees	Line of trees	Tab 16A
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	No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor	N/A
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Native hedgerow	Hedgerow	Tab 8A
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		
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow		
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch		
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees		
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch		
Watercourse habitats		
Broad habitat type: Watercourse		
Watercourse – Ditches	Ditches	Tab 4A

text.

Link to sheet (up to 10 habitat parcels)
N/A
N/A
Tab 23B
Tab 6B
Tab 5B
Tab 6B
Tab 17B
Tab 6B
Tab 20B
N/A
Tab 20B
Tab 7B
Tab 20B
Tab 7B
Tab 20B
N/A
Tab 20B
N/A
Tab 7B
Tab 20B
Tab 14B
Tab 14B
Tab 18B
Tab 14B
Tab 18B
Tab 14B
Tab 18B
Tab 6B
Tab 1B
Tab 22B
Tab 21B
Tab 15B
Tab 1B

Tab 21B
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 22B
N/A
Tab 23B
N/A
Tab 24B
Tab 25B
Tab 2B
Tab 3B
Tab 11B
Tab 13B
Tab 12B

Tab 10B
Tab 19B
Tab 9B
Tab 16B
N/A
Tab 8B
Tab 4B

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)													
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type(s)													
Grassland - Modified grassland													
Habitat Description													
Areas of poor semi-improved grassland surround the existing wind turbines.													
ukhab – UK Habitat Classification													
Site name and location		Parkhouse Farm, Leicester		On-site or off-site	on-site								
				Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)									
Limitations (if applicable)		N/A		Habitat parcel reference									
				1 - wind turbine	2 - wind turbine								
				Grid reference									
Condition Assessment Criteria		SK 50040 03809		SK 50009 03932									
		Criterion passed (Yes or No)										Notes (such as justification)	
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m ² present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.		Yes	Yes									
	Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m ² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.												
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.		Yes	Yes									
C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area.		Yes	Yes									
	Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.												
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.		No	No									
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .		No	No									
F	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20%.		No	No									
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴).		Yes	Yes									
Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)			Yes	Yes									
Number of criteria passed			4	4									
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓										
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Good (3)											
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Moderate (2)	x	x									
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)		Poor (1)											
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score													
Add a wildflower meadow mix planting regime.													
Footnotes													
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).													

[Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab](#)