

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

November 2023

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:

- Condition assessments must be undertaken by a competent person (hereafter referred to as assessors), as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. They should be undertaken at the optimum time of year for the assessed habitat(s).
- Assessors must have access to condition sheets (see **Tab 1-25**) and the survey cover sheet during the survey (see **SURVEY COVER SHEET** tab). These may be either digital or hard copies.
- 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) biodiversity 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.
- 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.
- 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 biodiversity 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 biodiversity 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'.
- Habitat descriptions in **bold** are Priority Habitats.

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

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Some condition assessment sheets have 'essential' criteria. Essential criteria must be passed to achieve a particular condition state.
- Some condition assessment sheets list species that are indicative of suboptimal 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](#)
- Any relevant evidence for passing or failing criteria, or for a particular score, should be captured within the habitat survey notes and/or by taking photographs. Photographs and notes should be referenced on the condition sheet.
- 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:
 - If a definitive pass or fail cannot be assigned through baseline survey, assume the criterion is passed.
 - When monitoring post-intervention habitat, fail criteria which cannot be assessed due to survey limitations.
- 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.
 - 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 biodiversity metric is provided or referenced 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	Condition Assessment 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	
Grassland - Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM	See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide for details on recording.	
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	Condition Assessment N/A	
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 - Ornamental lake or pond		Lakes OR Ponds
Lakes - Peat lakes		Lakes
Lakes - Ponds (priority habitat)		Ponds
Lakes - Ponds (non-priority habitat)		Lakes
Lakes - Reservoirs		Use Lake condition sheet for Temporary lakes OR Pond condition sheet for Temporary ponds and pools
Lakes - Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)		
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		
Sparsely vegetated land - Ruderal/Ephemeral	Urban	
Sparsely vegetated land - Tall forbs		
Sparsely vegetated land - Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	Sparsely vegetated land	
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	Urban	
Urban - Built linear features	N/A - Other	
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	
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	Urban	
Urban - Vegetated garden	Condition Assessment N/A	
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	Wood-pasture and parkland	
Woodland and forest - 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 greenings 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 seagrass	
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		
Rocky shore - High energy littoral rock	Rocky shore	
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		
Broad habitat type: Individual trees		
Individual trees - Rural tree		Individual trees
Individual trees - Urban tree		
Hedgerows and Lines of trees habitats		
Broad habitat type: Hedgerows and lines of trees		
Hedgerows and lines of trees - Line 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	No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor	
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			
Survey date/s	27th February 2024	Site name or location	Heaton Grange, Batley
Weather conditions	Overcast	Project or development name	Heaton Grange
Surveyor name	Sam White BSc ACIEEM	On-site or off-site	On-site
Survey reference	N/A	Reason for assessment (if not baseline condition survey)	N/A
Notes			

Site or location	Condition sheets	Total number of condition sheets used, or habitat parcels	Number of parcels of each condition achieved					Notes
			Good	Fairly Good	Moderate	Fairly Poor	Poor	
	Coastal							
	Coastal lagoons							
	Coastal saltmarsh							
	Ditches							
	Grassland low distinctiveness	1						1
	Grassland medium, high, very high distinctiveness	1						1
	Heathland							
	Hedgerow							
	Individual trees	3 Sheets, 22 Parcels				22		
	Intertidal biogenic reefs							
	Intertidal hard structures							
	Intertidal seagrass							
	Intertidal sediment							
	Lakes							
	Limestone pavement							
	Line of trees	1				1		
	Orchard							
	Ponds							
	Rocky shore							
	Scrub	1				1		
	Sparsely vegetated land							
	Urban							
	Wetland							
	Woodland							
	Wood-pasture and parkland							

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			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Heaton Grange	Survey date and Surveyor name	Sam White BSc ACIEEM
Limitations (if applicable)	Time of year	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	27th February 2024 N/A
Grid reference	SE 25053 23448	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Habitat Description			
Rough grassland makes up large areas of the site. This is the habitat most affected by the limitations regarding the time of year. Some of the species present within the grassland include creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , false oat grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> , perennial ryegrass <i>Lolium perenne</i> , creeping bent <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> , creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium arvense</i> , broadleaf dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , cocksfoot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , soft ukhab – UK Habitat Classification			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	The parcel represents a good example of its habitat type, with a consistently high proportion of characteristic indicator species present relevant to the specific habitat type (and relative to Footnote 3 suboptimal species which may be listed in the UKHab description). ¹ Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	Yes	
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	Yes	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ² .	No	Damage from vehicle movements
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%.	No	Scrub is over 5%
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	Schedule 9 species present, himalayan balsam and rhododendron.
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	
Essential criterion for Good condition achieved (for non-acid grassland) (Yes or No)		No	
Number of criteria passed		2	
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)	No	
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)	No	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	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).			

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type																					
Habitat Types																					
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees. Please see separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of Rural trees.																					
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.																					
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Heaton Grange				Survey date and Surveyor name	Sam White 27th February 2024															
	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A																			
Limitations (if applicable)	Time of year.				Habitat parcel reference																
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> </table>										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Notes (such as justification)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10												
Grid reference																					
Condition Assessment Criteria				Criterion passed (Yes or No)								Notes (such as justification)									
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes							
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .			No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No								
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.			No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No								
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
Number of criteria passed				4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4								
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score			Score Achieved x/√																	
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)																				
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes								
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 ²																					

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type														
Habitat Types														
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees. Please see separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of Rural trees.														
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.														
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Heaton Grange				Survey date and Surveyor name	Sam White 27th February 2024								
	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A												
Limitations (if applicable)	Time of year.				Habitat parcel reference								Notes (such as justification)	
					11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19
Condition Assessment Criteria					Grid reference									
				Criterion passed (Yes or No)								Notes (such as justification)		
				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .				No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.				No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Number of criteria passed				4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score				Score Achieved x/√									
Passes 5 or 6 criteria	Good (3)													
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)				Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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 ²														

Condition Sheet: INDIVIDUAL TREES Habitat Type													
Habitat Types													
Individual trees – Urban trees Individual trees – Rural trees Complete a condition sheet for each tree or block of trees. Please see separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of Rural trees.													
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.													
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Heaton Grange				Survey date and Surveyor name		Sam White 27th February 2024						
					Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)		N/A						
Limitations (if applicable)	Time of year.				Habitat parcel reference								
					21	22	23	24	25	26		27	28
				Grid reference									
Condition Assessment Criteria				Criterion passed (Yes or No)						Notes (such as justification)			
A	The tree is a native species (or at least 70% within the block are native species).				Yes	Yes							
B	The tree canopy is predominantly continuous, with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide (individual trees automatically pass this criterion).				Yes	Yes							
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature) ¹ .				No	No							
D	There is little or no evidence of an adverse impact on tree health by human activities (such as vandalism, herbicide or detrimental agricultural activity). And there is no current regular pruning regime, so the trees retain >75% of expected canopy for their age range and height.				Yes	Yes							
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.				No	No							
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.				Yes	Yes							
Number of criteria passed				4	4								
Condition Assessment Result (out of 6 criteria)		Condition Assessment Score		Score Achieved x/√									
Passes 5 or 6 criteria		Good (3)											
Passes 3 or 4 criteria		Moderate (2)		Yes	Yes								
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 score²													

Condition Sheet: LINE OF TREES Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
Line of trees Line of trees – associated with bank or ditch Ecologically valuable line of trees Ecologically valuable line of trees – associated with bank or ditch			
Habitat Description			
See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook ¹ . For further clarifications please refer to the Handbook. Where ancient and veteran trees are present within the line of trees, see Footnote 2 for standing advice.			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Heaton Grange	Survey date and Surveyor name	Sam White 27th February 2024
Limitations (if applicable)	N/A	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	SE 25018 23422	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
A	At least 70% of trees are native species.	Yes	
B	Tree canopy is predominantly continuous with gaps in canopy cover making up <10% of total area and no individual gap being >5 m wide.	Yes	
C	One or more trees has veteran features and or natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates, such as presence of standing and attached deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	No	
D	There is an undisturbed naturally-vegetated strip of at least 6 m on both sides to protect the line of trees from farming and other human activities (excluding grazing). Where veteran trees are present, root protection areas should follow standing advice ² .	No	South side comprises residential gardens, which may prune overhanging trees
E	At least 95% of the trees are in a healthy condition (deadwood or veteran features valuable for wildlife are excluded from this). 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.	Yes	
		Number of criteria passed	3
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)	Yes	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Footnotes			

Condition Sheet: SCRUB Habitat Type			
Habitat Types			
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		
On-site or off-site, site name and location	Heaton Grange	Survey date and Surveyor name	Sam White 27th February 2024
Limitations (if applicable)	Time of year	Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	N/A
Grid reference	SE 25028 23454	Habitat parcel reference	N/A
Condition Assessment Criteria		Criterion passed (Yes or No)	Notes (such as justification)
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 - At least 80% of scrub is native, - There are at least three native woody species ² , - No single species comprises 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).	Yes	
B	Seedlings, saplings, young shrubs and mature (or ancient or veteran ³) shrubs are all present.	No	No mature present, scrub on the site is newly established
C	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species ⁴ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁵) and species indicative of suboptimal condition ⁶ make up less than 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.	No	No established edge
E	There are clearings, glades or rides present within the scrub, providing sheltered edges.	Yes	Clearings made by vehicle movements.
Number of criteria passed			3
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)	Yes	
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
N/A this habitat will be removed by the development.			