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

Version Number: July 2025 (v1.0.2)

Instructions

The method for assessing habitat condition is split into three main steps, 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:
1) Condition assessments must be undertaken by a competent person (hereafter referred to as assessors), as defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
2) Condition assessments should be undertaken at the optimum time of year for the assessed habitat(s).
3) Assessors must have digital or hard copy access to condition sheets (see **Tabs 1-25**) and the survey cover sheet during the survey (see **SURVEY COVER SHEET** tab).
4) 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 DEF**
5) The location and extent of the habitat parcel(s) to be assessed must be mapped, either on digital or paper maps (mapped habitat parcels can later be split according to their condition).
6) 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.
1) Some condition sheets are unique to a single habitat type; others cover a range of habitat types within the same broad habitat category.
2) For each sheet there is version A and B.
   i. Sheet A can be used to record information for one habitat parcel
   ii. Sheet B can be used to record information for up two 10 habitat parcels
3) Each condition sheet is set to print at A4 and can be used as a paper form.

Step 3: Using condition sheets (Tabs 1-25)
The following instructions and points of clarification apply to most condition assessment sheets:

A) 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.
B) 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 typ
C) Some condition assessment sheets have 'essential' criteria. Essential criteria must be passed to achieve a particular condition state.
D) 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 s
   Report any high-risk non-native invasive species to the GG non-native species secretariat
E) 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
F) 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 preca
   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.
G) 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.
   ii. They should only be applied through application of professional judgement, and sound ecological evidence must be provided to justify the use of these categories.
   iii. 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
   iv. Ensure any constraints are made clear in the 'Assessor's comments' box in the metric and associated reporting.
H) 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.

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

r').

Notes on Using Condition Sheets

Additional habitat-specific instructions for

Using the 'Woodland' condition sheetThe

Using the 'Lakes' condition sheetThe Fre

Using the 'Coastal' and 'Intertidal' habitat

Using the 'Hedgerow' condition sheetThe

non-standard condition assessment sheets are provided below:
Woodland condition sheet has been adapted from the ‘Woodland Condition Survey’ developed by the England Woodland Biodiversity Group (EWBG). All supplementary information needed to comp
shwater 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 La
condition sheetsFor 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 s
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 withi

plete 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, e
ake condition sheet. The average of the HNA scores is used to assign a final condition score.
summed, and the total sum is used to assign a final condition score.
ıin 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

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.

e functional groups.

Habitat Definitions

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

UK Habitat Classification System definitions

EUNIS habitat definitions

Water Framework Directive Lakes Typologies

Annex I habitats

Most (but not all) biodiversity metric terrestrial habitat types are described to Level 4 in UKHab, th
equivalent habitat may need converting to a metric habitat type when using the metric, when ass
type.

Statutory Biodiversity Metric broad habitat	Statutory Biodiversity Metric habitat
Cropland	Arable field margins cultivated annually
	Arable field margins game bird mix
	Arable field margins pollen and nectar
	Arable field margins tussocky
	Cereal crops
	Winter stubble
	Horticulture
	Intensive orchards
	Non-cereal crops
	Temporary grass and clover leys
Grassland	Traditional orchards
	Bracken
	Floodplain wetland mosaic and CFGM
	Lowland calcareous grassland
	Lowland dry acid grassland
	Lowland meadows
	Modified grassland
	Other lowland acid grassland
	Other neutral grassland
	Tall herb communities (H6430)
	Upland acid grassland
	Upland calcareous grassland
	Upland hay meadows
Heathland and shrub	Blackthorn scrub
	Bramble scrub
	Gorse scrub
	Hawthorn scrub
	Hazel scrub
	Lowland heathland
	Mixed scrub
	Mountain heaths and willow scrub
	Rhododendron scrub
	Willow scrub
	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)
	Other sea buckthorn scrub
	Upland heathland

Individual tree	Rural tree
	Urban tree
Lakes	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies
	Ornamental lake or pond
	High alkalinity lakes
	Low alkalinity lakes
	Marl lakes
	Moderate alkalinity lakes
	Peat lakes
	Ponds (priority habitat)
	Ponds (non-priority habitat)
	Reservoirs
	Temporary lakes ponds and pools (H3170)
Sparsely vegetated land	Calaminarian grasslands
	Coastal sand dunes
	Coastal vegetated shingle
	Ruderal/Ephemeral
	Tall forbs
	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
	Limestone pavement
	Maritime cliff and slopes
	Other inland rock and scree
Urban	Allotments
	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
	Bioswale
	Biodiverse green roof
	Built linear features
	Cemeteries and churchyards
	Developed land; sealed surface
	Biodiverse green roof
	Facade-bound green wall
	Ground based green wall
	Ground level planters
	Intensive green roof
	Introduced shrub
	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
	Other green roof
	Rain garden
	Actively worked sand pit quarry or open cast mine
	Sustainable drainage system (SuDS)
	Unvegetated garden
	Vacant or derelict land
	Bare ground
	Vegetated garden
Wetland	Blanket bog
	Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)
	Fens (upland and lowland)
	Lowland raised bog
	Wetland – Oceanic valley mire [1] (D2.1)
	Purple moor grass and rush pastures
	Reedbeds
	Transition mires and quaking bogs (H7140)
	Felled
	Lowland beech and yew woodland

Woodland and forest	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
	Native pine woodlands
	Other coniferous woodland
	Other Scot's pine woodland
	Other woodland; broadleaved
	Other woodland; mixed
	Upland birchwoods
	Upland mixed ashwoods
	Upland oakwood
	Wet woodland
	Wood-pasture and parkland
Coastal lagoons	Coastal lagoons
Coastal saltmarsh	Saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
	Artificial saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
Rocky shore	High energy littoral rock
	High energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
	Moderate energy littoral rock
	Moderate energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
	Low energy littoral rock
	Low energy littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
	Features of littoral rock
	Features of littoral rock - on peat, clay or chalk
Intertidal sediment	Littoral coarse sediment
	Littoral sand
	Littoral muddy sand
	Littoral mud
	Littoral mixed sediments
	Littoral seagrass
	Littoral seagrass on peat, clay or chalk
	Littoral biogenic reefs - Mussels
	Littoral biogenic reefs - Sabellaria
	Features of littoral sediment
	Artificial littoral coarse sediment
	Artificial littoral muddy sand
	Artificial littoral mud
	Artificial littoral sand
	Artificial littoral mixed sediments
	Artificial littoral seagrass
	Artificial littoral biogenic reefs
Intertidal hard structures	Artificial hard structures
	Artificial features of hard structures
	Artificial hard structures with integrated greening of grey infrastructure (IGGI)
Hedgerows and Lines of trees	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch
	Species-rich native hedgerow with trees
	Species-rich native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch
	Native hedgerow with trees - associated with bank or ditch
	Species-rich native hedgerow
	Native hedgerow - associated with bank or ditch
	Native hedgerow with trees
	Ecologically valuable line of trees
	Ecologically valuable line of trees - associated with bank or ditch
	Native hedgerow
	Line of trees
	Line of trees - associated with bank or ditch

	Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
Watercourse	Priority habitat
	Other rivers and streams
	Ditches
	Canals
	Culvert
	Watercourse footprint

herefore some metric habitats encompass UKHa
essing its condition the most accurate descriptio

Source Material
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ab Level 5 sub-divisions. When classifying a habitat, the assessor sh
n should be used. Using professional judgement, this may include th

Classification habitat name in UKHab / EUNIS / Annex 1
Arable field margins cultivated annually
Arable field margins wild bird mix
Arable field margins pollen and nectar
Arable field margins tussocky
Cereal crops
Winter stubble
Horticulture
Intensive orchards
Non-cereal crops
Temporary grass and clover leys
Traditional orchards
Bracken
Floodplain wetland mosaic
Lowland calcareous grassland
Lowland dry acid grassland
Lowland meadows
Modified grassland
Other lowland acid grassland
Other neutral grassland
Tall herb communities (H6430)
Upland acid grassland
Upland calcareous grassland
Upland hay meadows
Blackthorn scrub
Bramble scrub
Gorse scrub
Hawthorn scrub
Hazel scrub
Lowland heathland
Mixed scrub
Mountain heaths and willow scrub
Rhododendron scrub
Willow scrub
Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)
Other sea buckthorn scrub
Upland heathland

N/A
N/A
Aquifer-fed naturally fluctuating water bodies
Ornamental lakes or ponds
N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A
Ponds (priority habitat)
Pond (non-priority)
Reservoir
Mediterranean temporary ponds (H3170)
Calaminarian grasslands
Sand dunes
Coastal vegetated shingle
Ruderal or ephemeral
Tall forbs
Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats
Limestone pavement
Maritime cliff and slopes
Other inland rock
Allotments
Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
Bioswale
Biodiverse green roof
Built linear features
Cemeteries and churchyards
Developed land; sealed surface
Biodiverse green roof
Facade-bound green wall
Ground-based green wall
Ground level planters
Intensive green roof
Introduced shrub
Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Other green roof
Rain garden
Active sand pit or quarry or open cast mine
Sustainable drainage system
Unvegetated garden
Vacant or derelict land
Bare ground
Vegetated garden
Blanket bog
Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)
Lowland fens; Upland flushes fens and swamps; Other wetlands
Lowland raised bog
Oceanic valley bog
Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
Reedbeds
Transition mires and quaking bogs - lowland (H7140) / upland
Felled
Lowland beech and yew woodland

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
Native pine woodlands
Other coniferous woodland
Other Scot’s pine woodland
Other broadleaved woodland
Other woodland; mixed
Upland birchwoods
Upland mixed ashwoods
Upland oakwood
Wet woodland
Wood-pasture and parkland
Saline coastal lagoons
Coastal saltmarshes and saline reedbeds
-
High energy littoral rock
High energy littoral rock
Moderate energy littoral rock
Moderate energy littoral rock
Low energy littoral rock
Low energy littoral rock
Features of littoral rock
Features of littoral rock
Littoral coarse sediment
Littoral sand and muddy sand
Littoral sand and muddy sand
Littoral mud
Littoral mixed sediments
Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms
Littoral sediments dominated by aquatic angiosperms
Littoral biogenic reefs
Littoral biogenic reefs
Features of littoral sediment
-
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Species-rich native hedgerow
Species-rich native hedgerow
Species-rich native hedgerow
Native hedgerow
Species-rich native hedgerow
Native hedgerow
Native hedgerow
Ecologically valuable line of trees
Ecologically valuable line of trees
Native hedgerow
Line of trees
Line of trees

Non-native and ornamental hedgerow
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hould classify and record it to the most accurate and appropriate level. Although a Level 5, or
he Level 5 UKHab description, as well as the Level 4 description, depending on the habitat

Other definition or notes
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
As defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
Record all other sea buckthorn scrub as ‘Other sea buckthorn scrub’
None
None

As defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
As defined in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
None
None
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
≥ 2ha
< 2ha
< 2ha
Some larger reservoirs are covered by the WFD Lakes typology.
Record temporary water bodies not meeting this definition as another pond or lake habitat type
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name.
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
None
None
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None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
None
None
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None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
This classification relates to non-vegetated working areas only.
None
None
None
None
None
None
None
The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
None
None
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The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
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None
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The metric habitat type differs from the UKHab name
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None
see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Adapted from EUNIS)
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
None
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None
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on substrate
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species
Subset of EUNIS habitat based on reef forming species
None
see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Adapted from EUNIS)
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see tab G1 in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric (Adapted from EUNIS)
Use combined UKHab codes
Use combined UKHab codes
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Use combined UKHab codes
None
Use combined UKHab codes
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Use combined UKHab codes
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Use combined UKHab codes

None
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. Do not use JNCC definitions to determine this Priority Habitat habita type.
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
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As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.
As detailed in the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide.

Selecting Condition Sheet Instructions:

The table below sets out which condition sheet to use for each habitat type. Locate the relevant habitat type in the first column (l
(Condition sheet) to determine which habitat condition sheet should be used to assess that particular habitat type. The third and
can be clicked on to navigate directly to the required condition sheet, for ease of navigation.

Some habitats are allocated a fixed condition score in the biodiversity metric and do not require a condition assessment for the r
medium distinctiveness habitats there is a fixed option in the metric - 'Condition Assessment N/A'; for very low distinctiveness ha

Habitat type	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 - Modified grassland	Grassland Low distinctiveness
Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland	Grassland Medium/High/Very High distinctiveness
Grassland - Other neutral grassland	
Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430)	
Grassland - Traditional orchards	Orchard
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 and shrub - Lowland heathland	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 - 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	
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 - 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 - 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 - 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	
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	Coastal saltmarsh
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 sediment - Littoral seagrass	Intertidal seagrass
Intertidal sediment - Littoral seagrass - on peat, clay or chalk	
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	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	
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
Watercourse – Culvert	No assessment required - condition fixed at Poor
Watercourse – Priority habitat, Other rivers and streams, Canals	River Condition Assessment required

(Habitat type), then refer to the second column
d fourth columns (Link to sheet) contain links which

metric to be completed. For certain low and
abitats the fixed option is 'N/A - Other'.

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

Tab 14A	Tab 14B
Tab 18A	Tab 18B
Tab 14A	Tab 14B
Tab 18A	Tab 18B
Tab 6A	Tab 6B
Tab 1A	Tab 1B
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
Tab 21A	Tab 21B
Tab 15A	Tab 15B
Tab 1A	Tab 1B
Tab 21A	Tab 21B
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 22A	Tab 22B
N/A	N/A
Tab 23A	Tab 23B
N/A	N/A
Tab 24A	Tab 24B
Tab 25A	Tab 25B
Tab 2A	Tab 2B
Tab 3A	Tab 3B

Tab 3A	Tab 3B
Tab 11A	Tab 11B
Tab 13A	Tab 13B
Tab 12A	Tab 12B
Tab 10A	Tab 10B
Tab 19A	Tab 19B
Tab 9A	Tab 9B
Tab 16A	Tab 16B
N/A	N/A
Tab 8A	Tab 8B

Tab 4A	Tab 4B
N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A

Survey Cover Sheet			
Survey date/s	14/08/2025	**Site name or location**	Land east of Woodward Court, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 0PR
Weather conditions	23C, Partly Cloudy, Dry	**Project or development name**	25566 Woodward Court, Mirfield BNGA
Surveyor name	James Storey and Arleya Baxter	**On-site or off-site**	On-site
Survey reference	1	**Reason for assessment (if not baseline condition survey)**	
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	
N/A	**Coastal**							
N/A	**Coastal lagoons**							
N/A	**Coastal saltmarsh**							
N/A	**Ditches**							
Woodward Court, Mirfield	**Grassland low distinctiveness**	1					1	
N/A	**Grassland medium, high, very high distinctiveness**							
N/A	**Heathland**							

Woodward Court, Mirfield	**Hedgerow**	2	1		1			
Woodward Court, Mirfield	**Individual trees**	6	6					
N/A	**Intertidal biogenic reefs**							
N/A	**Intertidal hard structures**							
N/A	**Intertidal seagrass**							
N/A	**Intertidal sediment**							
N/A	**Lakes**							

N/A	**Limestone pavement**							
Woodward Court, Mirfield	**Line of trees**	1			1			
N/A	**Orchard**							
N/A	**Ponds**							
N/A	**Rocky shore**							
N/A	**Scrub**							
N/A	**Sparsely vegetated land**							

N/A	**Urban**							
N/A	**Wetland**							
N/A	**Woodland**							
N/A	**Wood-pasture and parkland**							

Condition Sheet: GRASSLAND Habitat Type (low distinctiveness)			
UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Habitat Type			
Grassland - Modified grassland			
On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site, Woodward Court, Mirfield	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	14/08/2025 James Storey and Arleya Baxter
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	
Grid reference	SE 20967 21062	**Habitat parcel reference**	1
Habitat Description			

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

	Condition Assessment Criteria	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 (these may include those listed in Footnote 1). **Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition.** 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.	No	Species poor (<6 species per m2)
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	Sward height varied throughout the year due to rotation of horses (grazing).
C	Any scrub present accounts for less than 20% of the total grassland area. (Some scattered scrub such as bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. may be present). Note - patches of scrub with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Yes	No scrub present
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.	Yes	No damage evident
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens)[2].	Yes	Cover of bare ground minimal (<10%)
F	Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is less than 20%.	Yes	No bracken present
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native plant species[3] (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA[4]).	Yes	No INNS recorded
		Essential criterion achieved (Yes or No)	No
		Number of criteria passed	6

Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓	
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)		

Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)		
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	✓	

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense*, spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, common nettle *Urtica dioica*, creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, greater plantain *Plantago major*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris*.

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

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

ukhab – UK Habitat Classification

On-site or off-site, site name and location	On-site, Woodward Court, Mirfield	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	14/08/2025
Limitations (if applicable)		**Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)**	

Condition Assessment Details

A series of ten attributes, representing key physical characteristics are used for this assessment. 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.

This assessment is based on the Hedgerow Survey Handbook[1] and Favourable Conservation Status document[2]. For further clarification please refer to the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.

Best practice would be to record the species, age, spacing and other key information about all trees present along a hedgerow within the 'Habitat Description' box, as well as other key features of the hedgerow.

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**										
				H1	H2									
				Grid reference										
				SE 20905 21157	SE 21008 21146									
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. Newly laid or coppiced hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice). A newly planted hedgerow does not pass this criterion (unless it is >1.5 m height).	Yes	Yes									
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. Outgrowths (such as blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* suckers) are only included in the width estimate when they are >0.5 m in height. Laid, coppiced, cut and newly planted hedgerows are indicative of good management and pass this criterion for up to a maximum of four years (if undertaken according to good practice).	Yes	Yes									
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. Certain exceptions to this criterion are acceptable (see page 65 of the Hedgerow Survey Handbook).	Yes	Yes									

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). Access points and gates contribute to the overall 'gappiness' but are not subject to the >5 m criterion (as this is the typical size of a gate).	Yes	Yes									
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. Undisturbed ground is present for at least 90% of the hedgerow length, greater than 1 m in width and must be present along at least one side of the hedgerow. This criterion recognises the value of the hedgerow base as a boundary habitat with the capacity to support a wide range of species. Cultivation, heavily trodden footpaths, poached ground etc. can limit available habitat niches.	Yes	No									H2 has a path/track running alongside it (east)
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.	Yes	Yes									
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 WCA[3]) 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 website[4], as well as the BSBI website[5] where the 'Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora'[6] contains an up-to-date list of the status of species. For information on invasive non-native species see the GB Non-Native Secretariat website[7].	Yes	No									H2 has cherry laurel present
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. This could include evidence of pollution, piles of manure or rubble, or inappropriate management practices (for example, excessive hedgerow cutting).	Yes	No									H2 has piles of horse manure regularly thrown in
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 ancient[8]), 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.	Yes										
E2.	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.	Yes										

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

Condition categories for hedgerows without trees			**Score achieved**						
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 (for example, 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 (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1								
	Score achieved:									
Condition categories for hedgerows with trees			**Score achieved**							
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 (for example, 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 (for example, fails attributes A1, A2, B1 and B2 = Poor condition).	1								
	Score achieved:									

Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score

Footnotes

Footnote 1 – DEFRA (2007) *Hedgerow Survey Handbook. A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK.* [online] Available on:
layout (hedgelink.org.uk)

Footnote 2 – STALEY, J.T. ET AL. (2020) *Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows.* [online] Available on:
Definition of Favourable Conservation Status for Hedgerows - RP2943 (naturalengland.org.uk)

Footnote 3 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Footnote 4 – CHEFFINGS, C. M. et al. (2005) *The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain.* Species Status 7: 1-116. [online] Available on:
The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (Species Status No. 7) | JNCC Resource Hub

Footnote 5 – BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND (BSBI). *Definitions: wild, native or alien?* [online] Available on:
Definitions: wild, native or alien? – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (bsbi.org)

Footnote 6 – BSBI and Biological Records Centre (BRC) (2022) *Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora.* [online] Available on:
Acknowledgements | Online Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (brc.ac.uk)

Footnote 7 – GB NON-NATIVE SPECIES SECRETARIAT (GBNNSS) (2022) Available on:
Home » NNSS (nonnativespecies.org)

Footnote 8 – See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)
and
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Return to 'Selecting condition sheet' tab

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 the separate Line of trees condition sheet for a line of rural trees. You should only use the Line of trees condition assessment and record that habitat type in rural locations.

Habitat Description

Habitat Parcel Reference 6 relates to a group of 5 common hawthorn trees in the same condition

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 should predominantly 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	On-site Woodward Court, Mirfield	**Survey date and Surveyor name**	14/08/2025 James Storey and Arleya Baxter
		Survey reference (if relating to a wider survey)	

Limitations (if applicable)		**Habitat parcel reference**									
		1	2	3	4	5 (Group of 5	6	7			
		Grid reference									
		SE 20978	SE 20959	SE 20844	SE 2083321130	SE 20835	SE 20900	SE 20928			

	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	No				
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				
C	The tree is mature (or more than 50% within the block are mature)[1].	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes				H1,H2,H5, H6 are medium trees
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				
E	Natural ecological niches for vertebrates and invertebrates are present, such as presence of deadwood, cavities, ivy or loose bark.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
F	More than 20% of the tree canopy area is oversailing vegetation beneath.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes				
	Number of criteria passed	5	5	6	6	5	5	5				

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)										
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]

Footnotes

Footnote 1 - See gov.uk standing advice on ancient and veteran trees. Available from:
Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England (publishing.service.gov.uk)
and:
Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Footnote 2 - Enhancement of this habitat type is only possible by improving the habitat so that it meets all Criteria B, D and F. It is not possible or appropriate to enhance individual tree/s through meeting just one or two of those Criteria, nor by meeting Criteria A, C or E.

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Version
Version 1.0.0
Version 1.0.1
Version 1.0.2

Changes made
Initial draft statutory version
Individual trees tab – added wording to say *'Please see the separate Line of Trees condition sheet for rural trees. You should on* *assessment and record that habitat type in rural locations.'* Individual trees tab – Changed *'Canopies must overlap continuously'* to *'Canopies should predominantly overlap continuously'* Coastal tab – wording added to the list of 'General coastal species indicative of suboptimal condition' to say *'sea buckthorn (on* Scrub tab – wording added to Criterion A to say sea buckthorn can be 100% cover *'(only in its restricted native range)'* Instructions tab – changed date at top of sheet from 'November 2023' to 'February 2024' Habitat definitions tab – removed reference to 'see Technical Annex 2' from the table. Cells C11, C131 – C140. Hedgerow tab – 'See the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2 and UK Habitat Classification' removed, leaving just th Intertidal biogenic reefs tab – changed 'see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2' to say 'see tab G1 of the Statu Intertidal hard structures tab – changed 'see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2' to say 'see tab G1 of the Stat Intertidal seagrass tab– changed 'see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2' to say 'see tab G1 of the Statutory Bi Intertidal sediment tab– changed 'see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2' to say 'see tab G1 of the Statutory B Pond tab– removed 'For ponds (non-priority) – see the Statutory Biodiversity Metric Technical Annex 2.' Habitat Definitions tab – cell E48 – removed reference to '<2ha' for Ornamental lake or pond. Habitat Definitions tab – cell E54, E55 – changed '<=2ha', from Ponds (priority) and Ponds (non-priority) to '<2ha'. Habitat Definitions tab - row 55 – removed references to Ponds (non-priority) having a definition different to that in UKHab.
Formatting corrections to sheet 8B Reformatting of instructions and habitat definition sheets Clarification of information in the habitat definitions sheet Addition of the RCA form Amended references in habitat definition sheet

Date released
29th November 2023
12th February 2024
3rd July 2025