



The UK Habitat Classification

Habitat Definitions Version 1.0

The UK Habitat Classification Working Group

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The Habitat Definitions should be read alongside other UKHab resources available for free download from the website quoted above, in particular the UK Habitat Classification workbook (xls format), the User Manual, the UKHab Field Key and recommended symbologies.

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Feedback on the contents are invited through the mechanisms identified on the website.

Section 1 – Primary Habitats



Figure 1 Primary Habitat r1a Eutrophic standing waters

g Grassland

Definition

Vegetation, not on waterlogged soils, with more than 75% cover of herbaceous species (grasses, sedges, rushes, herbs, forbs) with halophytic species absent or occasional.

Inclusions

Includes pastures and (semi-)natural grasslands not on waterlogged soils. Includes vegetation dominated by Bracken.

Exclusions

Excludes crops (see c), reedbeds (see f2e), calaminarian grasslands (see s1c), vegetation dominated by a combination of *Molinia* and *Juncus* species on waterlogged soils.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

28 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g1 g2 g3 g4

Status

Feature Type

Area

g1 Acid grassland

Definition

Vegetation dominated by grasses and herbs on a range of lime-deficient soils which have been derived from acidic bedrock or from superficial deposits such as sands and gravels. Such soils usually have a low base status, with a pH of less than 5.5.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Includes a range of types from open communities of very dry sandy soils in the lowlands, which may contain many annual species, through closed pastures on red brown earths, to damp acidic grasslands typically found on gleys and shallow peats.

Synonyms

Calcifugous swards.

Inclusions

Montane types. Vegetation with Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, except where the grassland type is clearly not acidic (see the appropriate grassland type and secondary code 12 "scattered bracken").

Exclusions

Acid grassland types on shingle habitats.

Species

The plant species assemblages that develop on acid soils are different from those that develop on neutral soils (neutral or mesotrophic grassland) and calcareous soils (calcareous or calcicolous grassland) and are characterised by the presence of a combination of calcifuge species.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

8 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g1a g1b g1c g1d

Status

Feature Type

Area

g1a Lowland dry acid grassland

Definition

Lowland acid grassland typically occurs on nutrient-poor, generally free-draining soils with pH ranging from 4 to 5.5 overlying acid rocks or superficial deposits such as sands and gravels.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Includes both enclosed and unenclosed acid grassland throughout the UK lowlands (normally below c. 300m). It covers all acid grassland managed in functional enclosures. It often occurs as an integral part of lowland heath landscapes, in parklands and locally on coastal cliffs.

Inclusions

Swards on road verges. Dry calcareous grasslands of the Breckland, north to the North Norfolk coast where *Vulpia ciliata* ssp. *ambigua* is a key component.

Exclusions

Swards in old and non-functional enclosures in the upland fringes, which are managed as free-range rough grazing in association with unenclosed tracts of upland (see g1b).

Species

Characterised by a range of plant species such as Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, Sheep`s-fescue *Festuca ovina*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Sheep`s Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, Wavy Hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, Bristle Bent *Agrostis curtisii* and Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, with presence and abundance depending on community type and locality. Dwarf shrubs such as Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* can also occur but at low abundance. Lowland acid grassland often forms a mosaic with dwarf shrub heath, the latter being covered in the separate lowland heathland action plan. Acid grasslands can have a high cover of bryophytes and parched acid grassland can be rich in lichens. Acid grassland is very variable in terms of species richness and stands can range from relatively species-poor (less than 5 species per 4m²) to species-rich (in excess of 25 species per 4m²).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g1a5 g1a6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g1a5 Inland dunes with open grasslands (H2330)

Definition

Open formations found on inland dunes with dry siliceous soils, often species-poor and with a strong representation of annuals.

Landscape and Ecological Context

There is only one place in the UK, Wangford Warren, where this habitat is found.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2330 Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g1a6 Other lowland dry acid grassland

Definition

Lowland acid grassland that does not meet the definition of g1a5 but is mesic or dry i.e. not seasonally wet or wetter.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

g1b Upland acid grassland

Definition

Acid grassland in the uplands, normally above approximately 300 metres altitude and grassland on both enclosed and unenclosed uplands.

Inclusions

Includes montane acid grassland. Swards in old and non-functional enclosures in the upland fringes, which are managed as free-range rough grazing in association with unenclosed tracts of upland.

Species

The typical constituents of upland acid grassland are Sweet Vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, Common Wood-rush *Luzula multiflora*, Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, and the mosses, Springy turf-moss *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* and Broom Moss *Dicranum scoparium*. The actual grassland type is defined by the dominant species. The abundant ‘white moors’ of the uplands are dominated by Mat-grass *Nardus stricta*. On wetter ground, Heath Rush *Juncus squarrosus* is the dominant species, although Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* and Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* are also common.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g1b5 g1b6

Status

Feature Type

Area

g1b5 Montane acid grasslands (H6150)

Definition

High montane heath habitats (moss, sedge and rush heaths) and snow bed communities which are dominated by prostrate Willows *Salix spp.*, Three-leaved Rush *Juncus trifidus*, Stiff Sedge *Carex bigelowii*, *Racomitrium*, and dwarf forb communities of Alpine Lady's-mantle *Alchemilla alpina*, and Saxifrage species.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6150 Siliceous Alpine and Boreal grassland

Inclusions

Includes moss and lichen dominated heath of mountain summits.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g1b6 Other upland acid grassland

Definition

Acid grassland in the uplands which does not include montane heath.

Exclusions

Montane heath.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

g1c Bracken

Definition

Land with Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* at >95% canopy cover at the height of the growing season.

Exclusions

Scattered patches of bracken or bracken patches <0.04 ha which are included in the broad habitat type with which they are associated (see 12). Bracken under forest or woodland canopy which are included in either w1 or w2 with secondary code 12.

Species

Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* is always dominant. Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and the bryophytes *Dicranum scoparium*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus* may also be frequent.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

g1d Other lowland acid grassland

Definition

Lowland acid grassland not meeting the definitions of g1a g1b or g1c.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

g2 Calcareous grassland

Definition

Vegetation dominated by grasses and herbs on shallow, well-drained soils which are rich in bases (principally calcium carbonate) formed by the weathering of chalk and other types of limestone or base-rich rock.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Although the base status of such soils is usually high, with a pH of above 6, it may also be more moderate and calcareous grassland communities can occur on soils with a pH as low as 5.

Synonyms

Calicolous grasslands. Chalk grasslands. Limestone grasslands.

Species

Include scattered sedges, and calcicoles typically Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta*, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Salad burnet *Sanguisorba minor*, Carline Thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, Blue Moor-grass *Sesleria albicans*, Common Rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium* and Stemless Thistle *Cirsium acaule*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

7 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g2a g2b

Status

Feature Type

Area

g2a Lowland calcareous grassland

Definition

Calcareous grasslands communities below the upper limits of agricultural enclosure.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Largely restricted to the warmer and drier climates of the southern and eastern areas of the United Kingdom.

Inclusions

Calcareous grassland on roadside verges. Calcareous grassland around Morecambe Bay in Cumbria.

Exclusions

Calcareous grassland in the unenclosed uplands (see g2b).
Calcareous grassland on the Pennines (see g2b).

Species

Indicators include Upright Brome *Bromopsis erecta*, Tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor*, Carline Thistle *Carlina vulgaris*, Stemless Thistle *Cirsium acaule*, Horseshoe Vetch *Hippocrepis comosa* and Squinancywort *Asperula cynanchica*, Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Quaking Grass *Briza media*, Crested Hair-grass *Koeleria macrantha* and Common Rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g2a5 g2a6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g2a5 Dry grasslands and scrub on chalk or limestone; lowland (H6210)

Definition

Lowland semi-natural grasslands on calcareous soils.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates [*Festuco-Brometalia*][lowland]

Species

Calcicoles, such as Meadow Oat-grass *Avenula pratensis*, Quaking-grass *Briza media*, Common Rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium*, Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor ssp. minor* and Small Scabious *Scabiosa columbaria*, are well-represented. Calcareous grasslands on shallow, sharply-draining soils comprise open swards characterised by the frequency of Mouse-ear Hawkweed *Hieracium pilosella*, Wild Thyme *Thymus praecox* and annual or biennial species such as Yellow-wort *Blackstonia perfoliata* and Thyme-leaved Sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia*. Where grazing levels are reduced, swards typically become dominated by coarse grasses, in particular, Downy Oat-grass *Avenula pubescens*, Tor-grass *Brachypodium pinnatum* and Upright Brome *Bromus erectus*. On the limestones of northern England, grasslands dominated by Blue Moor-grass *Sesleria albicans* are locally abundant. A large number of rare plants are associated with this habitat, including Purple Milk-vetch *Astragalus danicus*, Dwarf Sedge *Carex humilis*, Spotted Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris maculata*, Spring Cinquefoil *Potentilla tabernaemontani*, Pasqueflower *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, Bastard-toadflax *Thesium humifusum* and Early Gentian *Gentianella anglica*, as well as various bryophytes and lichens. The invertebrate fauna is also noteworthy, and includes rarities such as the Adonis Blue *Lysandra bellargus* and Silver-spotted Skipper *Hesperia comma*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g2a6 Dry grasslands and scrub on chalk or limestone; important orchid sites (H6210)

Definition

Lowland semi-natural grasslands on calcareous soils with populations of specific rare and scarce orchids.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Restricted in the UK to parts of England.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates [Festuco-Brometalia] [important orchid sites]

Species

The specific rare or scarce orchids are Man Orchid *Aceras anthropophorum*, Musk Orchid *Herminium monorchis*, Lizard Orchid *Himantoglossum hircinum*, Late Spider-orchid *Ophrys fuciflora*, Early Spider-orchid *Ophrys sphegodes*, Military Orchid *Orchis militaris*, Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea*, Monkey Orchid *Orchis simia* and Burnt Orchid *Orchis ustulata*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g2b Upland calcareous grassland

Definition

Upland calcareous grasslands occur on lime-rich soils situated above the upper limit of agricultural enclosure, both in the sub-montane and montane zones.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Mostly occur above 250-300 m altitude, but the habitat is also found within unenclosed moorland at lower elevations, and descends to sea level in north-west Scotland. Upland calcareous grasslands typically occur as components of habitat mosaics (including both calcicoles and acidophiles).

Species

Often species poor. Characteristic constants are Blue Moor-grass *Sesleria albicans*, Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, Limestone Bedstraw *Galium sternerii* and Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g2b5 g2b6 g2b7

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g2b5 Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands (H6170)

Definition

This habitat occurs on lime-rich soils and consists of short, often grazed, species-rich mixtures of Mountain Avens *Dryas octopetala*, arctic-alpine cushion herbs such as Alpine Lady's-mantle *Alchemilla alpina*, Alpine bistort *Persicaria vivipara* and Moss Champion *Silene acaulis*, grasses and sedges.

Landscape and Ecological Context

In the UK this habitat occurs close to sea level, as well as at high altitude.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6170 Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g2b6 Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas (H6230)

Definition

Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands tend to develop where there is flushing through base-rich strata on siliceous bedrock.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Underlying rocks may include moderately base-rich metamorphic and igneous rocks. The soils may have an acidic pH, but pH can be variable.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6230 Species-rich *Nardus* grassland on siliceous substrates in mountain areas

Exclusions

Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands on limestone.

Species

Species may include Mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and Alpine Lady's Mantle *Alchemilla alpina*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g2b7 Dry grasslands and scrub on chalk or limestone; upland (H6210)

Definition

Upland semi-natural grasslands on calcareous soils.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates [*Festuco-Brometalia*][upland]

Species

Blue Moor-grass *Sesleria caerulea*, Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Limestone Bedstraw *Galium sternerii* and Common Rock-rose *Helianthemum nummularium* are key species.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g3 Neutral grassland

Definition

Vegetation dominated by grasses and herbs on a range of neutral soils usually with a pH of between 4.5 and 6.5.

Landscape and Ecological Context

It includes enclosed dry hay meadows and pastures, together with a range of grasslands which are periodically inundated with water or permanently moist.

Synonyms

Mesotrophic grasslands.

Species

Neutral grassland communities have few diagnostic indicator species but lack strong calcicoles or calcifuges characteristic of base-rich and acid soils respectively. Neutral grassland differs from agriculturally improved grasslands (g4) by having a less lush sward, a greater range and higher cover of herbs, and usually less than 25% cover of Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

9 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g3a g3b g3c

Status

Feature Type

Area

g3a Lowland meadows

Definition

Lowland neutral meadows and pastures consist of a rich mixture of native grasses and broad-leaved herbs. They occur throughout lowland UK, often on shallow slopes or level ground with relatively deep soils that is neither strongly acidic nor lime-rich.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Most forms of neutral grassland across the enclosed lowland landscapes of the UK that have not been substantially modified. On many farms in different parts of the UK, use of particular fields for grazing pasture and hay cropping changes over time, but the characteristic plant community may persist with subtle changes in floristic composition.

Exclusions

Maritime grassland communities confined to coastal habitats (See s2a, 26), *Anthoxanthum odoratum* - *Geranium sylvaticum* grasslands (see g3b) and *Molinia* - *Juncus* pastures on waterlogged soils (see f2b).

Species

Up to 35 or more plant species may occur in a 2m X 2m sample, including grasses such as Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, and herbs such as Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum*, Primrose *Primula veris*, Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Autumn Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*, Bulbous Buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, or on flood meadows some of Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, Greater Burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*. The category corresponds to NVC Communities MG4 (*Alopecurus pratensis*-*Sanguisorba officinalis* floodplain meadow), MG5 (*Cynosurus cristatus*-*Centaurea nigra* grassland) and MG8 (*Cynosurus cristatus*-*Caltha palustris* flood-pasture).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g3a5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g3a5 Lowland hay meadows (H6510)

Definition

Species-rich hay meadows on moderately fertile soils of river and tributary floodplains.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Seasonal flooding maintains an input of nutrients.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6510 Lowland hay meadows [*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*]

Species

The category corresponds with NVC Community MG4 (*Alopecurus pratensis*-*Sanguisorba officinalis* floodplain meadow). Characteristic species are Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, Greater Burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*, Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris* and Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g3b (Upland hay meadows)

Definition

Record as g3b5 Mountain hay meadows (H6520)

Landscape and Ecological Context

Upland hay-meadows are confined to areas where non-intensive hay-meadow treatment has been applied in a sub-montane climate. They are most characteristic of brown earth soils on level to moderately sloping sites between 200m and 400m altitude. Typically found in isolated fields or groups of fields, but they are also recorded from river banks, road verges, and in woodland clearings. For the most part, in upland valleys in the north of England, with outliers in Scotland.

Species

No single grass species is consistently dominant and the most striking feature of the vegetation is generally the variety and abundance of dicotyledons, including Wood Crane`s-bill *Geranium sylvaticum*, Pignut *Conopodium majus*, Great Burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and Lady`s Mantles *Alchemilla spp.*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g3b5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g3b5 Mountain hay meadows (H6520)

Definition

Species-rich mesophile hay meadows of the montane and sub-alpine levels, mostly above 600 metres.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6520 Mountain hay meadows

Species

Usually dominated by Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and with Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Horned Pansy *Viola cornuta*, Astrantia *Astrantia major*, Caraway *Carum carvi*, Northern Hawk's-beard *Crepis mollis*, Red Campion *Silene dioica*, Bladder Campion *Silene vulgaris*, Clustered Bellflower *Campanula glomerata*, Meadow Clary *Salvia pratensis*, Dusky Crane's-bill *Geranium phaeum*, Wood Crane's-bill *Geranium sylvaticum*, Pheasant's-eye Daffodil *Narcissus poeticus*, Globeflower *Trollius europaeus*, Greater Burnet-saxifrage *Pimpinella major*, and many others.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Equivalent to Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

g3c Other neutral grassland

Definition

Neutral grassland that does not meet the definition of either g3a or g3b. Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* is likely to be present at <30% with between 9 and 15 further species (m2) also present. Many of the more species rich swards that were previously described as “semi-improved neutral grassland” will fall here, together with rank and unmanaged swards on neutral soils.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Extremely widespread in the UK lowlands.

Inclusions

Special note: many surveyors may wish to add detail to this category. Please consider using the relevant secondary codes: management (e.g. "78 - abandoned" or "80 - unmanaged" gives much information on the nature of the sward); environmental qualifiers (e.g. "117 - dry", "118 - mesic", "120 - wet", "123 - neutral grassland with calcicoles") and species features (e.g. "160 - sward type mosaic", "161 - tall or tussocky sward").

Exclusions

Species poor swards previously described as "semi-improved neutral grassland" (see g4).

Species

Grasses may include Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*, Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis* and Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*. Herbs may include Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* and Daisy *Bellis perennis*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

g3c5 g3c6 g3c7 g3c8

Status

Feature Type

Area

g3c5 *Arrhenatherum* neutral grassland

Definition

Neutral grassland with False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* dominant.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Lightly managed or unmanaged fields or road verges in lowland areas.

Species

This category is equivalent to NVC Community MG1. Total grass cover usually between 50 and 75% with abundant False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*. Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* is also constant. Forbs up to 50% cover and associated with less fertile soil e.g. Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

g3c6 *Lolium-Cynosurus* neutral grassland

Definition

Neutral grassland with a mixture of grass species, including palatable grasses such as Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne* and other grasses such as Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*.

Landscape and Ecological Context

One of the neutral grassland types typical of well-drained permanent pastures and meadows in lowland areas.

Species

This category is equivalent to NVC community MG6. Palatable grasses predominate, usually Rye Grasses *Lolium spp.*, White Clover *Trifolium repens* and Timothy *Phleum pratense* 40% or below and other grasses more prominent such as Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris*, Yellow Oat Grass *Trisetum flavescens*, Soft-brome *Bromus hordeaceus* and Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*. White Clover *Trifolium repens* and Common Mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum* are constant forbs. Wetter situations may support abundant Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* or Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Floating Sweet Grass *Glyceria fluitans*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Rough Meadow Grass *Poa trivialis*. Total grass cover usually between 50 and 75%. Forbs up to 50% cover and associated with less fertile soil eg. Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, Sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, Silverweed *Potentilla anserina*, Meadow Thistle *Cirsium palustre* and Lady's-smock *Cardamine pratensis*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

g3c7 *Deschampsia* neutral grassland

Definition

Neutral grassland with Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* the dominant grass species.

Landscape and Ecological Context

One of the neutral grassland types typical of poorly-drained permanent pastures in lowland areas.

Species

This category is equivalent to NVC community MG9. Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* abundant. Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis* and False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* may also be frequent.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

g3c8 *Holcus-Juncus* neutral grassland

Definition

Neutral grassland with Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus* and Rushes *Juncus spp.* dominant.

Landscape and Ecological Context

One of the neutral grassland types typical of poorly-drained permanent pastures in lowland areas.

Exclusions

Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pastures (see f2b).

Species

This category is equivalent to NVC community MG10. Frequent to dominant cover of rushes *Juncus spp.*, often with Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*. Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* are also constant species.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

g4 Modified grassland

Definition

Vegetation dominated by a few fast-growing grasses on fertile, neutral soils. It is frequently characterised by an abundance of Rye-grass *Lolium spp.* and White Clover *Trifolium repens*.

Species

Palatable grasses dominate mainly Rye grasses *Lolium spp.*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*. Grass cover usually over 75%. Broadleaved species restricted mainly to White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, Broad-leaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and Chickweed *Stellaria media*. Fertile but wetter situations may support occasional Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* or Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus*, Floating Sweet Grass *Glyceria fluitans*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, but accompanying species will always indicate high fertility. Species poor <9 species m⁻².

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

Status

Feature Type

Area

w Woodland and forest

Definition

Land with more than 25% cover of trees more than 5m in height.

Inclusions

Recently felled woodland (but not clear felled forestry plantations unless re-planted). Coppice. Coppice-with-standards. Lines of trees (but not hedgerows). Wet woodland. Bog woodland.

Exclusions

Hedgerows (see h2). Scrub (see h3 or 10). Clear felled forestry plantations (see w2), unless replanted.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

30 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1 w2

Status

Feature Type

Area

w1 Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland

Definition

Vegetation dominated by trees that are more than 5 m high when mature, which form a distinct, although sometimes open canopy with a canopy cover of greater than 25%. It includes stands of both native and non-native broadleaved tree species and Yew *Taxus baccata*, where the percentage cover of these trees in the stand exceeds 20% of the total cover of the trees present.

Inclusions

Ancient or recent woodland and either semi-natural or planted. Recently felled broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland where there is a clear indication that it will return to woodland. Carr (woody vegetation on fens and bog margins).

Exclusions

Hedgerows (see h2). Scrub (see h3 or 10). Woodlands that are dominated by conifer trees with less than 20% of the total cover provided by broadleaved or yew trees (see w2).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

24 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1a w1b w1c w1d w1e w1f w1g
w1h

Status

Feature Type

Area

w1a (Upland oakwood)

Definition

Record as w1a5 Western acidic oak woodland (H91A0)

Landscape and Ecological Context

It is found throughout the north and west of the UK with major concentrations in Argyll and Lochaber, Cumbria, Gwynedd, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall.

Species

Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* does not predominate (see w1b). The amount of Birch *Betula spp.* in the woods tends to increase in north-west Scotland. The range of plants found in the ground layer varies according to the underlying soil type and degree of grazing from bluebell-bramble-fern communities through grass and bracken dominated ones to healthy moss-dominated areas. Most oakwoods also contain areas of more alkaline soils, often along streams or towards the base of slopes where much richer communities occur, with Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Elm *Ulmus spp.* in the canopy, more Hazel *Corylus avellana* in the understorey and ground plants such as Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, False Brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum*, Ramsons *Allium ursinum*, Enchanter's Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*, and Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*. Elsewhere small Alder *Alnus glutinosa* stands may occur or peaty hollows covered by bog mosses *Sphagnum spp.*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1a5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1a5 Western acidic oak woodland

(H91A0)

Definition

Acidophilous Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea* woods, with low, low-branched, trees, with many ferns, mosses, lichens and evergreen bushes.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Equivalent to Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1b Upland mixed ashwoods

Definition

Woods on base-rich soils in the north and west, in most of which Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* is a major species, although locally Oak *Quercus spp.*, Birch *Betula spp.*, Elm *Ulmus spp.*, Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata* and even Hazel *Corylus avellana* may be the most abundant species.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Upland in the name reflects the abundance of this type of woodland on base-rich soils in upland Britain rather than to the altitude at which individual sites occur. Some are only just above sea level.

Exclusions

Ash woodlands on limestone pavements (see s1b).

Species

Yew *Taxus baccata* may form small groves in intimate mosaics with the other major tree species and Alder *Alnus glutinosa* may occur where there are transitions to wet woodland. Despite variations in canopy composition the ground flora remains broadly similar.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1b5 w1b6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1b5 Lime-maple woodlands of rocky slopes (H9180)

Definition

Mixed forests on coarse scree, abrupt rocky slopes or coarse colluvions of slopes, particularly on calcareous, but also on siliceous, substrates.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H9180 *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines

Species

Typical dominants are Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, Small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1b6 Other upland mixed ashwoods

Definition

Upland mixed ashwoods not meeting the definition of w1b5.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

w1c Lowland beech and yew woodland

Definition

Woodland dominated by Beech *Fagus sylvatica* in the lowlands. Spans a variety of distinctive vegetation types, reflecting differences in soil and topographical conditions. Beech can grow on both acidic and calcareous soils, although its association with Yew *Taxus baccata* tends to be most abundant on the calcareous sites. These woods are often found as intricate mosaics with other woodland communities. Promotion of high quality beech for silviculture has often led to an artificial dominance of beech.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Common in (but not confined to) the High and Low Weald, the Chilterns plateau, the New Forest, the Cotswolds and the Wye Valley.

Species

The canopy can include mixtures of Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Oak *Quercus* spp, Yew *Taxus baccata* and Whitebeam *Sorbus* spp.. Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* forms a characteristic ground layer on neutral-slightly acidic soils. Holly *Ilex aquifolium* is the main understorey species, less often Yew *Taxus baccata*, on acidic soils. Distinctive communities can be seen in beech and yew woodlands on calcareous, acidic and neutral to slightly acidic soils see external reference for full descriptions.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1c5 w1c6 w1c7 w1c8

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1c5 Beech forests on acid soils (H9120)

Definition

Beech *Fagus sylvatica* forests with holly, growing on acid soils under humid Atlantic climate.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*)

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1c6 Beech forests on neutral to rich soils (H9130)

Definition

Beech *Fagus sylvatica* forests developed on neutral or near-neutral soils.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H9130 *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests

Inclusions

Includes beech hangers.

Species

As slopes become steeper, there is a shift from relatively deep, moist and moderately base-rich soils to thin, dry and strongly base-rich profiles. There is an associated floristic gradient in the woodland understorey, with dense cover of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* on the shallowest slopes gradually being replaced by frequent Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* as the gradient increases, and then by Sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, Wall Lettuce *Mycelis muralis* and Wood Melick *Melica uniflora*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1c7 Yew-dominated woodland (H91J0)

Definition

Yew *Taxus baccata* woods with Whitebeam *Sorbus spp.* or Dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis* of dry valleys and scarps of the chalk of south-east England, very locally of the Durham Magnesium limestone, Morecambe Bay and elsewhere.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H91J0 *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles

Species

They differ from other upland mixed woodlands in their impoverished understory resulting from the intense shade cast by Yew *Taxus baccata*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1c8 Natural box scrub (H5110)

Definition

Box *Buxus sempervirens* woods on dry calcareous slopes.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Only two site sites in the UK.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H5110 Stable xerothermophilous formations with *Buxus sempervirens* on rock slopes (*Berberidion p.p.*)

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1d Wet woodland

Definition

Wet woodland occurs on poorly drained or seasonally wet soils, usually with Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Birch *Betula spp.* and Willows *Salix spp.* as the predominant tree species, but sometimes including Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Oak *Quercus spp.*, Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* and Beech *Fagus sylvatica* on the drier riparian areas.

Landscape and Ecological Context

It is found on floodplains, as successional habitat on fens, mires and bogs, along streams and hill-side flushes, in peaty hollows, along lake edges and fen marsh margins. These woodlands, sometimes known as carr, occur on a range of soil types including nutrient-rich mineral and acid, nutrient-poor organic ones. The boundaries with dryland woodland may be sharp or gradual and may change with time through succession, depending on the hydrological conditions and the treatment of the wood and its surrounding land. Therefore wet woods frequently occur in mosaic with other woodland key habitat types (e.g. with upland mixed ash or oakwoods) and with open key habitats such as fens.

Species

Dominant trees Alder *Alnus glutinosa* or Willow *Salix spp.*, often with Birch *Betula spp.*. The field layer is likely to include some of the following species: Soft-rush *Juncus effusus*, Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Cuckooflower *Cardamine pratensis*, Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*, Water Horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, Marsh Horsetail *Equisetum palustre*, Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, Marsh Cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, Greater Tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata*, Nettle *Urtica dioica* and Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1d5 w1d6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1d5 Alder woodland on floodplains

(H91E0)

Definition

Woodland dominated by Alder *Alnus glutinosa* and Willow *Salix spp.* on base-rich soils on flood plains.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Found in a range of situations from islands in river channels to low-lying wetlands alongside the channels. Also occur in the transition to drier woodland.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

Exclusions

Riparian trees outside of woodland.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1d6 Bog woodland (H91D0)

Definition

Coniferous and broad-leaved forests on a humid to wet peaty substrate, with the water level permanently high and even higher than the surrounding water table.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The water is always very poor in nutrients (raised bogs and acid fens). Bog woodlands are found mainly in Scotland, and more rarely in the New Forest and Dorset.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H91D0 Bog woodland

Species

Generally dominated by Downy Birch *Betula pubescens*, Alder Buckthorn *Frangula alnus* and Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, with species specific to bogland or, more generally, to oligotrophic environments, such as Bilberry *Vaccinium spp.*, Sphagnum spp., Sedges *Carex spp.* and Bog myrtle *Myrica gale*. Woody species often have a rich epiphytic flora.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1e Upland birchwoods

Definition

Woodlands dominated by a series of stands of Birch *Betula spp.* with constituents such as Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Willow *Salix spp.*, Juniper *Juniperus spp.* and Aspen *Populus tremula*. These woodlands differ from successional birch stands found within oakwoods and dwarf birch scrub.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Found in Scotland, Wales, the Lake District and Dartmoor. Boundaries are often diffuse and liable to change as woodlands expand and contract in response to fires and changes in grazing pressure. Refuges, such as those occurring on cliffs or rocky patches, may develop permanent tree cover that can contain richer, less mobile species.

Species

On more acidic soils, Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* is a prominent component, and Juniper *Juniperus communis* can form the underwood in the eastern highlands. Aspen *Populus tremula* grows on a variety of site types where mineral soil is present, occurring frequently within upland birchwoods as small groups and rarely as extensive stands. Only 12 stands of Aspen greater than 5 hectares are known to exist within Scotland. On all but the most acidic sites, Birch influences the soil to allow development of a grass-herb flora on sites previously dominated by dwarf shrub heath.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1f Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Definition

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland includes woodland growing on the full range of soil conditions, from very acidic to base-rich; occurs largely within enclosed landscapes, usually on sites with well-defined boundaries, at relatively low altitudes, although altitude is not a defining feature.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Includes most established semi-natural woodland in southern and eastern England, and in parts of lowland Wales and Scotland. Many are ancient woods and they include classic examples of ancient woodland in East Anglia and the East Midlands.

Species

There is great variety in the species composition of the canopy layer and the ground flora. Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* is generally the commoner oak (although Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea* may be abundant locally) and may occur with virtually all combinations of other locally native tree species.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1f5 w1f6 w1f7

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1f5 Dry oak-dominated woodland (H9190)

Definition

Ancient lowland oak woodland on acidic, sandy or gravelly substrates in the South and East of Britain.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains

Species

The ground flora is generally species-poor, and comprises calcifuge sub-shrubs such as Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Wavy Hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* and other grasses and herbs of acid soils (sometimes includes Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*), and is often invaded by Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1f6 Oak-hornbeam forests (H9160)

Definition

Forests of Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* (or *Quercus robur* and Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*), with some Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, on hydromorphic soils or soils with high water table (bottoms of valleys, depressions or in the vicinity of riparian forests).

Landscape and Ecological Context

Restricted in the UK to SE England.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H9160 Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the *Carpinion betuli*.

Species

Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, which is most abundant in Atlantic parts of Europe including the UK, is unusually rare in this Annex I type. Typical species include Great Wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*, Hairy Wood-rush *Luzula pilosa* and, locally, Southern Wood-rush *Luzula forsteri*, with Greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, Ivy *Hedera helix* and Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w1f7 Other Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Definition

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland that does not meet the definition of w1f5 or w1f6.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Likely to include woodland that is self-sown and/or recently established in either urban or rural situations.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

w1g Other woodland; broadleaved

Definition

Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland not meeting the definition of w1a to w1f.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1g6 w1g7

Status

Feature Type

Area

w1g6 Line of trees

Definition

A line of trees at least 20 metres in length with open habitat on each side.

Inclusions

Grown out hedgerows, avenues, narrow windbreaks, willows and alders along watercourses.

Exclusions

Overgrown hedgerows still capable of being laid into a stockproof hedge.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Line

w1g7 Other broadleaved woodland types

Definition

Broadleaved woodland not meeting the definition of w1g5 or w1g6.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

w1h Other woodland; mixed

Definition

A mixture of broadleaved and coniferous trees in which neither make up more than 80% of the tree cover. Mixed woodland that does not meet the definition of any other woodland types.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Likely to include woodland that is self-sown and/or recently established in either urban or rural situations.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w1h5 w1h6

Status

Feature Type

Area

w1h5 Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved

Definition

A mixture of broadleaved and coniferous trees in which broadleaf species make up between 50 and 80% of the tree cover.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

w1h6 Other woodland; mixed; mainly conifer

Definition

A mixture of broadleaved and coniferous trees in which coniferous species make up between 50 and 80% of the tree cover.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

w2 Coniferous woodland

Definition

Vegetation dominated by trees that are more than 5 m high when mature, which form a distinct, although sometimes open canopy which has a cover of greater than 20%, with stands of both native and non-native coniferous trees species (with the exception of Yew *Taxus baccata*) where the percentage cover of these trees in the stand exceeds 80% of the total cover of the trees present.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* is the only pine tree that is native to the UK, and forms native woodland only in Scotland. Semi-natural woods of Scots pine are normally called native pinewoods. The majority of coniferous woodlands in the UK are plantations of species that are either not native to the UK or to the sites on which they occur.

Inclusions

Recently felled coniferous woodland where there is a clear indication that it will return to woodland.

Exclusions

Woodlands that are made up of broadleaved, yew and conifer trees with less than 80% of the total cover provided by conifer trees.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w2a w2b w2c

Status

Feature Type

Area

w2a Native pine woodlands

Definition

Native pine woodlands are relict indigenous forests dominated by self-sown Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* which occur throughout the central and north-eastern Grampians and in the northern and western Highlands of Scotland.

Landscape and Ecological Context

They are an important western representative of the European boreal forests in which structure and succession was probably determined naturally by storms and natural fires caused by lightning. Native pinewoods occur on infertile, strongly leached, podsollic soils.

Species

Native pinewoods do not support a large diversity of plants and animals compared with some more fertile habitats. However, there is a characteristic plant and animal community which includes many rare and uncommon species. The main tree species is Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris* although Birches *Betula spp.*, Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Willows *Salix spp.*, Bird cherry *Prunus padus* are also found. Sessile oak *Quercus petraea* also occurs infrequently, mainly in the north-east of Scotland. A shrub understorey, where browsing levels are low, includes Juniper *Juniperus communis*, Aspen *Populus tremula*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*. Old or dead trees and rotting wood supports significant beetle and bryophyte communities. The field layer is characterised by acid tolerant plants like Bell heather *Erica cinerea*, Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

w2a5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w2a5 Caledonian forest (H91C0)

Definition

Relict, indigenous pine forests of Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* var. *scotica*, endemic in the central and north eastern Grampians and the northern and western Highlands of Scotland and associated Birch *Betula* spp. and Juniper *Juniperus* spp. woodlands of northern character within this area.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H91C0 Caledonian forest

Species

Mostly open with a ground layer rich in ericaceous species, such as Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and Cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*, and bryophytes, in particular *Hylocomium splendens*, and often harbouring abundant Wavy Hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*. Associated species include Creeping Lady's-tresses *Goodyera repens*, Lesser Twayblade *Listera cordata*, Coralroot Orchid *Corallorhiza trifida*, Twinflower *Linnaea borealis*, Starflower *Trientalis europaea*, Common Wintergreen *Pyrola minor*, One-flowered Wintergreen *Moneses uniflora* and Serrated Wintergreen *Orthilia secunda*. Tree species accompanying Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris* are: Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Downy Birch *Betula pubescens*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, Juniper *Juniperus communis*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Aspen *Populus tremula*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

w2b Other Scot's Pine woodland

Definition

Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris* woodland that does not meet the definition of w2a.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

w2c Other coniferous woodland

Definition

Coniferous woodland that does not meet the definition of w2a or w2b, i.e. is not dominated by Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*.

Inclusions

Includes plantations and self sown conifers, e.g. on heathland.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h Heathland and shrub

Definition

Vegetation with more than 25% cover of dwarf shrub species <1.5 metre high. or woody species up to 5m high.

Inclusions

Hedgerows of any height.

Exclusions

Lines of trees (see w1g6), scattered scrub (see 10), young trees (see 56, 57).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

30 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h1 h2 h3

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

h1 Dwarf shrub heath

Definition

Vegetation that has a greater than 25% cover of plant species from the heath family (ericoids) or Dwarf Gorse *Ulex minor*.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Dwarf shrub heath generally occurs on well-drained, nutrient-poor, acid soils. Heaths do occur on more basic soils but these are more limited in extent and can be recognised by the presence of herbs characteristic of calcareous grassland. Occurs in both the lowlands and the uplands.

Inclusions

Both dry and wet heath types. Dwarf shrub dominated vegetation in the montane zone.

Exclusions

Dwarf shrub dominated vegetation in which species characteristic of peat-forming vegetation such as cotton-grass *Eriophorum* spp. and peat-building sphagna are abundant, and [not "or" this is important] that occurs on deep peat (> 0.5 m) (see f1).

Species

Ericoids include Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bell Heather *Erica cinerea*, Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*. Includes Dwarf Gorse *Ulex minor*, Western Gorse *Ulex gallii*, Bilberry *Vaccinium* spp. Crowberry *Empetrum* spp. and Bearberry *Arctostaphylos* spp..

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

11 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h1a h1b h1c

Status

Feature Type

Area

h1a Lowland Heathland

Definition

A broadly open landscape on impoverished, acidic mineral and shallow peat soil, which is characterised by the presence of plants such as heathers and dwarf gorses, Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* and grass species such as Bristle Bent *Agrostis curtisii* and Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*.

Landscape and Ecological Context

It is generally found below 300 metres in altitude in the UK, but in more northerly latitudes the altitudinal limit is often lower. Lowland heathland can develop on drift soils and weathered flint beds over calcareous soils (limestone or chalk heath). Lowland heathland is a dynamic habitat which undergoes significant changes in different successional stages, from bare ground (e.g. after burning or tree clearing) and grassy stages, to mature, dense heath.

Inclusions

Small scale mosaic of patches dominated by dwarf shrubs and patches dominated by acid grassland (use 13 in combination with h1a or g1).

Exclusions

Grass dominated areas with less than 25% dwarf shrub cover (see g1).

Species

Areas of heathland in good condition should consist of an ericaceous layer of varying heights and structures, plus some or all of the following additional features, depending on environmental and/or management conditions; scattered and clumped trees and scrub; bracken; areas of bare ground; areas of acid grassland; lichens; gorse; wet heaths, bogs and open waters. These different stages often co-occur on a site. The presence and numbers of characteristic vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens are important indicators of habitat quality.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h1a5 h1a6 h1a7 h1a8

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1a5 Dry heaths; lowland (H4030)

Definition

European dry heaths typically occur on freely-draining, acidic to circumneutral soils with generally low nutrient content. Ericaceous dwarf-shrubs (*Calluna*, *Erica* and *Ulex*) dominate the vegetation. Dry heaths vary widely in flora according to their location and are present across much of the UK. They may be differentiated from upland types by species composition (see h1b5) and from wet heath by lack of Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H4030 European dry heaths [lowland]

Species

Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* and Gorse *Ulex spp.* dominate the vegetation. Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix* absent.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1a6 Dry coastal heaths with Cornish heath (H4040)

Definition

Coastal heaths of temperate areas with Cornish Heath *Erica vagans* and Gorse *Ulex europaeus* on well-drained soil, other than prostrate maritime formations.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Found on the Lizard peninsula.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H4040 Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with *Erica vagans*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1a7 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath; lowland (H4010)

Definition

Heathland on lowland sites with impeded drainage, often in transitional communities between other heath and bog habitats.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [lowland]

Species

Species include Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Deergrass *Trichophorum caespitosum* and Sphagnum species, impoverished swards may be dominated by Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1a8 Wet heathland with Dorset heath and cross-leaved heath (H4020)

Definition

Hygrophilous heaths of areas with a temperate oceanic climate, on semi-peaty or dried-out soils, with surface minerals in the case of peaty soils (hydromor).

Landscape and Ecological Context

Found only in 6 sites in the UK, in Dorset and Cornwall.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H4020 Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica tetralix*

Species

Sites contain Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* as well as Dorset Heath *Erica ciliaris* and Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1b Upland Heathland

Definition

Heathland vegetation occurs widely on mineral soils and thin peats (<0.5 m deep) throughout the uplands and moorlands of the UK. It is characterised by the presence of dwarf shrubs at a cover of at least 25%. Defined as lying below the alpine or montane zone (at about 600-750 m) and usually above the upper edge of enclosed agricultural land (generally at around 250-400 m, but descending to near sea-level in northern Scotland).

Exclusions

Dwarf shrub dominant vegetation on deep peat (see f1a). Heathland below the limit of agricultural enclosure (see h1a).

Species

Ericoid species with either Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and Crowberry *Empetrum spp.* see h1b5 or Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum* and Sphagnum species see h1b6.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h1b5 h1b6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1b5 Dry heaths; upland (H4030)

Definition

European dry heaths typically occur on freely-draining, acidic to circumneutral soils with generally low nutrient content.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H4030 European dry heaths [upland]

Species

Ericaceous dwarf-shrubs (Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Heaths *Erica spp.* and Gorse *Ulex spp.*) dominate the vegetation. Upland dry heaths also contain Bilberry *Vaccinium spp.* and Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1b6 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath; upland (H4010)

Definition

Heathland on upland sites with impeded drainage, often in transitional communities between other heath and bog habitats.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* [upland]

Species

Species include Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Deergrass *Trichophorum caespitosum* and *Sphagnum* species. Impoverished swards may be dominated by Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1c Mountain heaths and willow scrub

Definition

This habitat encompasses a range of natural or near-natural vegetation occurring in the montane zone, lying above or beyond the natural tree-line.

Landscape and Ecological Context

These habitats are found mostly above 600m in altitude, but in the north-west Highlands and Scottish Islands they occur to 300m or, in places, even lower. Some of the types are characteristic of exposed ridges and summits – others are restricted to sheltered situations where snow lies late. They are typically maintained by cool, windy conditions, low temperatures, extreme wind exposure, prolonged snow-cover, freeze-thaw and/or nutrient-poor (acid or calcareous) thin soils.

Inclusions

Includes dwarf-shrub heaths, grass-heaths, dwarf-herb communities, willow scrub, and snowbed communities.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

6 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h1c5 h1c6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1c5 Alpine and subalpine heaths (H4060)

Definition

Small, dwarf or prostrate shrub formations of the alpine and sub-alpine zones dominated by ericaceous species, Mountain Avens *Dryas octopetala*, dwarf junipers *Juniperus spp.*, brooms *Cytisus spp.* or greenweeds *Genista spp.*

Synonyms

Annex 1: H4060 Alpine and boreal heaths. *Dryas* heaths of the British Isles and Scandinavia.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h1c6 Mountain willow scrub (H4080)

Definition

Subarctic and boreo-alpine willow formations of the Scottish Highlands, found on moist base-rich soils on rocky mountains.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The largest continuous stand of this very local habitat type is about 0.5 ha in extent and most stands are very much smaller.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H4080 Sub-Arctic *Salix spp.* scrub

Species

Species include Downy Willow *Salix lapponum*, Whortle-leaved Willow *Salix myrsinites*, Mountain Willow *Salix arbuscula* and Woolly Willow *Salix lanata*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h2 Hedgerows

Definition

A boundary line of shrubs, provided that at one time the shrubs were stock proof and more or less continuous.

Inclusions

Includes: an earth bank or wall only where such a feature occurs in association with the hedgerow. Any bank, wall, ditch, tree or herbaceous vegetation <2m from the hedgerow centre. Gaps between trees and shrubs <20m.

Species

Plant species range from almost single species planted hedges of Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) or Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) through to rich mixtures of shrubs, trees and ground flora of ancient hedgerows.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h2a h2b

Status

Feature Type

Line

h2a Hedgerow (priority habitat)

Definition

Hedgerows consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species, where each UK country can define the list of woody species native to their respective country.

Exclusions

Climbers such as honeysuckle and bramble are recognised as integral to many hedgerows; however they require other woody plants to be present to form a distinct woody boundary feature, as such they are not included in the definition of woody species.

Species

Often a mix of shrub and tree species such as Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Ash *Fraxinus monogyna* and Oak *Quercus spp.*, interwoven with climbers like Traveller's-joy *Clematis vitalba* and Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*. Ground flora often very similar to local woodlands.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Line

h2b Other hedgerows

Definition

Hedgerows that do not consist predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Line

h3 Dense scrub

Definition

Patches of shrubs less than 5 metres tall with continuous (>90%) cover.

Inclusions

Patches with occasional trees more than 5 metres tall (see 11). Tree species less than 5m tall. Coastal scrub. Scattered Sea-buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* scrub on dunes (see h3c5).

Exclusions

Patches with shrub cover <90% (see 10). Hedgerows (see h2). Coppice (see 51). Coppice-with-standards (see 52). Recently felled woodland (see 53). Natural box scrub (see w1c8). Carr (see w1d). Mountain willow scrub (see h1c6). See also 22 and t2a8.

Species

Relevant shrubs include Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hazel (*Coryllus avellana*), Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Gorse (*Ulex spp.*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Rhododendron (*Rhododendron spp.*).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

15 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h3a h3b h3c h3d h3e h3f h3g h3h

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3a Blackthorn scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h3a5 h3a6

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3a5 West coast blackthorn scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* on the west coast of the UK.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Often forms very dense, windswept patches in exposed situations.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3a6 Other blackthorn scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* not on the west coast of the UK.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3b Hazel scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Hazel *Coryllus avellana*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h3b5 h3b6

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3b5 Atlantic hazel

Definition

Hazel *Coryllus avellana* dominated temperate rainforest that occurs on the hyperoceanic western fringe of Europe, in particular on the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland. It is considered to be a type of climax scrub.

Species

Atlantic hazelwoods are home to some of the richest assemblages of oceanic mosses, liverworts and lichens found in the whole of Europe.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3b6 Other hazel scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Hazel *Coryllus avellana* not on the west coast of the UK.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3c Sea buckthorn scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Sea buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

9 subset categories

Categories at the next level

h3c5 h3c6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h3c5 Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Sea Buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* on sand dunes.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2160 Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

h3c6 Other sea buckthorn scrub

Definition

Coastal banks with Sea Buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides*. The species is also widely planted inland.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3d Bramble scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3e Gorse scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Gorse *Ulex spp.*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3f Hawthorn scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3g Rhododendron scrub

Definition

Dense scrub with dominant Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* as the canopy layer, but not in the understorey.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

h3h Mixed scrub

Definition

Dense scrub comprising a mixture of species without a single species dominant.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

f Wetland

Definition

Any habitat that is waterlogged (water table at surface with standing water for between 50% and 70% of the year)

Exclusions

Wet woodland/Carr (see w1d). Wet habitats where the water table is always within 40cm of the surface and soil containing free water for most of the year (see g or h). Seasonally wet habitats, inundated for part of the year but becoming mesic in the summer.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

24 subset categories

Categories at the next level

f1 f2

Status

Feature Type

Area

f1 Bog

Definition

Rain fed (ombrotrophic) inundated or waterlogged habitats where peat has formed in the past.

Inclusions

Peat bogs that have been cut/harvested.

Exclusions

Soligenous or topogenous wetlands which are defined under Fen, Marsh and Swamp (see f2); these include drained agricultural peatlands such as the Fens and Somerset Levels.

Species

Key indicators for this habitat include bog forming *Sphagnum* (*Sphagnum papillosum* and *Spagnum magellanicum*).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

7 subset categories

Categories at the next level

f1a f1b

Status

Feature Type

Area

f1a Blanket bog

Definition

Blanket bogs are characterised by the presence of a peat deposit (>0.5m deep), formed from *Sphagnum* and other peat forming species, which is draped across large expanses of the landscape like a blanket. All but the steepest slopes are permanently waterlogged.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Blanket bogs are rain fed (ombrotrophic) and broadly convex, meaning that surface flow-lines diverge downslope from the crown of the bog unit.

Inclusions

Intermediate habitats around the margins of blanket bog where the major part of the bog morphology is determined by the underlying mineral terrain.

Exclusions

Blanket bog may be part of a habitat mosaic which includes upland fens, flushes and swamps (see f2c), which are fed by groundwater (minerotrophic). Intermediate habitats around the margins where the raised dome(s) of the system predominates (see f1b).

Species

Typical species include the important peat-forming species, such as Bog-mosses *Sphagnum* spp. and Cottongrasses *Eriophorum* spp., or Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* in certain circumstances, together with Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and other ericaceous species, such as Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*. Deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum* may be prominent.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

f1a5 f1a6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f1a5 Blanket bog (H7130)

Definition

As f1a where peat forming species are still dominant or abundant, notably *Sphagnum papillosum*, *Sphagnum magellanicum*, *Sphagnum tenellum* and *Sphagnum capillifolium*, Hare's-tail Cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* (dominant or scattered) and ericoid species less abundant than in f1a.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7310 Blanket Bog.

Species

Typical species include the important peat-forming species, such as bog-mosses *Sphagnum spp.* and cottongrasses *Eriophorum spp.*, or purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* in certain circumstances, together with heather *Calluna vulgaris* and other ericaceous species, such as *Erica tetralix*. Deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosus* may be prominent.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f1a6 Degraded blanket bog

Definition

As f1a, but where peat forming *Sphagnum* species have largely disappeared due to drainage of the bog (which may be obvious due to the presence of drainage channels (grips)), to be replaced typically by grasses, such as Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and sometimes to the dominance of Heather *Calluna vulgaris*.

Inclusions

Includes blanket bog where peat has been largely removed by erosion, fire or peat cutting within a larger unit of blanket bog which still retains a substantial depth of peat. Such patches are classed as part of the blanket bog and in the absence of further damage can be expected to infill with peat again over time. It is not therefore appropriate to map or manage such areas as Upland heathland.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

f1b Lowland raised bog

Definition

Characterised by the formation of a gently-curving dome which forms above ground water level, hence making them a ‘raised’ bog (dependent on rainfall). The bog surface may show fine scale variation with drier hummocks and wetter hollows. The thickness of the peat mantle varies considerably but can exceed 12m.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Lowland raised bogs develop in areas of lowland wetland vegetation established within a shallow basin, sometimes at the head of estuaries or along flood plains and may also be found along the edges of blanket bogs.

Exclusions

In areas where peatlands may have developed as raised bog but then been swallowed up in the continuous expanse of blanket bog, they should be classed as units of blanket bog (see f1a).

Species

The vegetation is dominated by *Sphagnum* species, including *Sphagnum balticum* and *Sphagnum skyense*, Cottongrass *Eriophorum* species such as Hare's-tail *Eriophorum vaginatum*, Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and, more rarely, Great Sundew *Drosera anglica* and Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

f1b5 f1b6 f1b7

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f1b5 Active raised bogs (H7110)

Definition

As f1b, where peat forming species are still present and hydromorphological features are intact, including a lagg fen surrounding the dome.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Peat depth (>1m) is often the defining feature of the habitat requiring a 'step-up' onto the rain-fed (ombrotrophic) dome .

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7110 Active raised bogs

Species

Includes plants such as the Bog-mosses *Sphagnum spp.*, Cottongrasses *Eriophorum spp.*, Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and other ericaceous plants, and the carnivorous Sundews *Drosera spp.* Under some circumstances Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* is also peat-forming.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f1b6 Degraded raised bog (H7120)

Definition

Degraded raised bogs occur where there has been widespread disruption, usually by man, to the structure and/or function of the peat body, so that the bogs are not actively peat forming. Degraded raised bogs which are ‘capable of natural regeneration’ include those where the hydrology can be repaired and where, with appropriate rehabilitation management, there is a reasonable expectation of re-establishing vegetation with peat-forming capability within 30 years.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Degradation can involve changes to the hydrology, vegetation, and physical structure of the bog, leading to desiccation, oxidation and loss of species or changes in the balance of the species composition. Causes of degradation include; fire, drainage, peat cutting, herbicide and fertiliser drift, pollution, tree planting, footfall and grazing pressure.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

Inclusions

Provided they are capable of natural regeneration, the following land-cover types are considered to fall within the definition of degraded raised bogs: Conifer plantations; Improved pasture; Scrub woodland (usually birch *Betula spp.*); Bare peat; Impoverished vegetation dominated by species including Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, Hare’s-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum* and Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, and lacking significant cover of bog-mosses, *Sphagnum* species.

Species

The relative abundance and distribution of individual species, particularly the dominance of peat forming species, including *Sphagnum*, differs from that of active raised bogs.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f1b7 Other degraded raised bog

Definition

As f1b6 but where natural regeneration is not possible within 30 years because of a complete loss of hydrological function (no longer dependent on rainfall only or raised above the water table) or species composition (no *Sphagnum* present).

Inclusions

May include land cover types as described in f1b6.

Exclusions

Agricultural fields that were formally parts of bogs are not included in this definition although technically they could be listed as "archaic bogs".

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

f2 Fen marsh and swamp

Definition

Inundated or waterlogged lowland habitats differing from bogs in that water is supplied by ground water or slow-moving rainwater and this flows through them (they are soligenous) and peat does not form.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Often associated with valleys or hollows and include a wide range of vegetation types from tall broad-leaved wetland herb formations, vegetation dominated by small sedge fens, tall wetland sedge/herb/grass fens; fen meadows and rush dominated vegetation; acid poor-fens and reedbeds to bryophyte springs and flushes .

Species

A wide range of wetland species that depend on the type of wetland. Includes Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, Bulrush *Typha latifolia*, Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus*, other sedges *Carex spp.*, rushes *Juncus spp.*, Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

16 subset categories

Categories at the next level

f2a f2b f2c f2d f2e f2f

Status

Feature Type

Area

f2a Lowland fens

Definition

Fens are wetlands which receive water and nutrients from the soil, rock and ground water as well as from rainfall. Fens are also often associated with accumulation of undecomposed waterlogged plant litter in the form of peat but not all fens form peat as vegetative matter may be decomposed.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Fens are characterised by their hydrological regime, base-richness and nutrient status (fertility). Topogenous fens are those where water movements in the peat or soil are generally vertical. They include basin fens, fens of lake margins, some forms of flood-plain fen, and the lagg fens of raised bogs. Soligenous fens, on the other hand, develop where there is distinct water movement through the system, so such movements are predominantly lateral rather than vertical, and include valley mires, springs and flushes. Rich fens are associated with water derived from base-rich rocks such as chalk and other limestones and as such are generally confined to the lowlands. Many sites of rich fen are small and scattered often now occurring as “islands” of semi natural vegetation amongst a sea of agricultural land.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

f2a5 f2a6 f2a7 f2a8

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2a5 Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (H7210)

Definition

Comprises the more species-rich examples of Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* fen, particularly those stands enriched with elements of small-sedge fen with open low-growing sedge vegetation.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Although Davall's sedge *Carex davalliana* itself is extinct in the UK, such stands occur in the following situations: (a) sites with a mixture of closed, species-poor *Cladium* beds, which at their margins have transitions to species-rich small-sedge mire vegetation; (b) sites where *Cladium* beds retain their species-richness owing to management; and (c) situations where *Cladium* fen is inherently species-rich, possibly owing to the fact that conditions do not allow the *Cladium* to grow vigorously and dominate the vegetation.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Carex davalliana*

Species

Complex mosaics with other fen types often occur, and in most cases the species-rich stands are less extensive than species-poor *Cladium* vegetation.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2a6 Hard-water springs depositing lime; lowland (H7220)

Definition

Tufa-forming spring-heads are characterised by the obvious mounds of tufa partly covered by hummocks of 'curly-wurly' brownish or yellow-orange mats of the mosses *Cratoneuron commutatum* and *Cratoneuron filicinum*. Lowland.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Tufa formation occurs where groundwater rich in calcium bicarbonate comes to the surface. It is likely to be found in association with calcareous grassland and/or where limestone and chalk outcrops occur with springs.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation [*Cratoneurion*] [Lowland]

Species

Tufa-forming spring-heads are characterised by the swelling yellow-orange mats of the mosses *Cratoneuron commutatum* and *Cratoneuron filicinum*. Many rare, lime-loving (calcicole) species live in the moss carpet, particularly arctic-alpine species, such as Bird's-eye Primrose *Primula farinosa*, Scottish Asphodel *Tofieldia pusilla*, Alpine Bartsia *Bartsia alpina* and False Sedge *Kobresia simpliciuscula*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Point

f2a7 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; lowland (H7230)

Definition

Alkaline fens consist of a complex assemblage of vegetation types characteristic of both lowland and upland sites where there is tufa (see f2a6) and/or peat formation with a high water table and a calcareous base-rich water supply. The core vegetation is mire with low-growing sedge vegetation and the habitat is usually identifiable as tussocks of Black Bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans* between wet, peaty runnels with 'brown mosses', bits of tufa often visible as well as water coming from visible seepages.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Alkaline fens may occur with various types of swamp (such as species-poor stands of Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus*), wet grasslands (particularly various types of Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* grassland) and areas rich in *Juncus* species, as well as fen carr and, especially in the uplands, wet heath and acid bogs. There is considerable variation between sites in the associated communities and the transitions that may occur dependent on the geomorphological situation in which the fen occurs. This may include: flood plain mire, valley mire, basin mire, hydroseral fen (i.e. as zones around open waterbodies) and spring fen. Another important source of ecological variation is altitude, with significant differences between lowland fens, which are rich in southern and continental species, and upland fens, which are rich in northern species.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7230 Alkaline fens [Lowland]

Species

An important source of ecological variation is altitude, with significant differences between lowland fens, which are rich in southern and continental species, and upland fens, which are rich in northern species. Jointed rush *Juncus subnodulosus* may be co-dominant with Black Bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*. Sedges such as Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata* and Dioecious Sedge *Carex dioica* may be frequent.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2a8 Transition mires and quaking bogs; lowland (H7140)

Definition

The term ‘transition mire’ relates to vegetation that in floristic composition and general ecological characteristics is transitional between acid bog and Alkaline fens, in which the surface conditions range from markedly acidic to slightly base-rich. The vegetation normally has intimate mixtures of species considered to be acidophile and others thought of as calciphile or basophile as a result of base-rich water influence upon acidic nutrient poor bogs.

Landscape and Ecological Context

In some cases the mire occupies a physically transitional location between bog and fen vegetation, as for example on the marginal lagg of raised bog or associated with certain valley and basin mires. In other cases these intermediate properties may reflect the actual process of succession, as peat accumulates in groundwater-fed fen or open water to produce rainwater-fed bog isolated from groundwater influence. Many of these systems are very wet and unstable underfoot and can therefore also be described as ‘quaking bogs’. Transition mires and quaking bogs can occur in a variety of situations, related to different geomorphological processes: in flood plain mires, valley bogs, basin mires and the lagg zone of raised bogs, and as regeneration surfaces within mires that have been cut-over for peat or areas of mineral soil influence within Blanket bogs (e.g. ladder fens in Scotland only).

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs [lowland]

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2b Purple moor grass and rush pastures

Definition

The vegetation has a distinct character and consists of various species-rich types of fen meadow and rush pasture. Rush or/and Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* dominated vegetation usually on peaty-gley soils with Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiflorus* or Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* abundant to dominant.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Purple moor-grass and rush pastures occur on both poorly drained, usually acidic soils in lowland areas of high rainfall in western Europe as well as on more base-rich soils. In the UK, they are found in south-west England, particularly in Devon, southern Wales, south-west Scotland, perhaps extending as far north as northern Argyll, and in Northern Ireland, especially Fermanagh. Nationally, these agriculturally unimproved pastures are associated with saturated valley-sides and spring lines, on poorly draining acid soils with a mixture of wet heath, rush pasture, mire and scrub, typically with low grazing intensity although they may also occur on roadsides.

Synonyms

In the west of Britain, Purple moor-grass and rush pastures have been termed Rhôs pasture. 'Rhôs' is a Welsh word meaning 'a wet, often heathy grazing pasture', often referred to as 'moors'. This term has been used widely for such grasslands in Wales but is a term also applied to this habitat in south west England. Grasslands of northern Devon and north east Cornwall, especially across the Culm Measures are also referred to as 'culm grasslands'.

Species

Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, and rushes, especially Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, are usually abundant. The species-rich types of fen meadow and rush pasture are especially NVC communities M22, M23, M24 and M26. More basic examples of the habitat may include herbs such as Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre*, Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris* where acidic examples include Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, Marsh Violet *Viola palustris*, Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis* and Cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

f2b5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2b5 Purple moor-grass meadows (H6410)

Definition

Base rich fen meadows (f2b) dominated by Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* but may include either Meadow Thistle *Cirsium dissectum* or Marsh Hawk's-beard *Crepis paludosa*.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Meadow Thistle *Cirsium dissectum* meadows are found mainly in south Wales, south-west England and Northern Ireland, a form with tall herbs in the fen systems of East Anglia, and a more widespread 'typical' form widely but locally distributed in southern Britain. Marsh Hawk's-beard *Crepis paludosa* types are found locally in wet grasslands and fens in uplands and upland margins of northern England and north Wales, and as small scattered stands throughout Scotland as far north as Moray.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous; peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils [*Molinia caeruleae*]

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2c Upland flushes, fens and swamps

Definition

Inundated or waterlogged upland habitats differing from bogs in that water is supplied by ground water or slow-moving rainwater and this flows through them (they are soligenous) and peat does not form.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Often associated with valleys or hollows and include a wide range of vegetation types from tall broad-leaved wetland herb formations, vegetation dominated by small sedge fens, tall wetland sedge/herb/grass fens; fen meadows and rush dominated vegetation; acid poor-fens and reedbeds to bryophyte springs and flushes .

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

9 subset categories

Categories at the next level

f2c5 f2c6 f2c7 f2c9

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

f2c5 Alpine pioneer formations (H7240)

Definition

A type of high altitude flush mire. The characteristic plant communities colonise open substrates that are constantly flushed by surface seepage of cold, base-rich water.

Landscape and Ecological Context

They are small (often point features), amongst the few remaining natural plant communities in the UK, and are maintained by harsh climatic and soil conditions. There is variation in this habitat because of differences in altitude, geographic location, length of snow-lie, nature of the substrate, and the amount of water flushing the communities.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7240 Alpine pioneer formations of *Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae*

Species

The habitat is characterised by the presence of a number of rare species. These include Scorched Alpine-sedge *Carex atrofusca*, Bristle sedge *Carex microglochin*, Alpine Rush *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*, Chestnut Rush *Juncus castaneus*, Two-flowered Rush *Juncus biglumis*, Three-flowered Rush *Juncus triglumis*, False Sedge *Kobresia simpliciuscula* and Scottish Asphodel *Tofieldia pusilla*. More common species also characteristic of the habitat include: Yellow sedges *Carex demissa*, *Carex lepidocarpa* and *Carex oederi*, Carnation Sedge *Carex panicea*, Flea Sedge *Carex pulicaris*, Russet Sedge *Carex saxatilis*, Jointed Rush *Juncus articulatus*, Common Butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, Yellow Mountain Saxifrage *Saxifraga aizoides*, Alpine Bistort *Persicaria vivipara*, Alpine Meadow-rue *Thalictrum alpinum* and the moss *Blindia acuta*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2c6 Hard-water springs depositing lime; upland (H7220)

Definition

Tufa-forming spring-heads are characterised by the obvious mounds of tufa partly covered by hummocks of 'curly-wurly' brownish or yellow-orange mats of the mosses *Cratoneuron commutatum* and *Cratoneuron filicinum*. Upland.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Tufa formation occurs where groundwater rich in calcium bicarbonate comes to the surface. It is likely to be found in association with calcareous grassland and/or where limestone and chalk outcrops occur with springs, particularly in the uplands of northern England and the Scottish Highlands.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7220 Petrifying springs with tufa formation [*Cratoneurion*] [Upland]

Species

Many rare, lime-loving (calcicole) species live in the moss carpet, particularly arctic-alpine species, such as Bird's-eye Primrose *Primula farinosa*, Scottish Asphodel *Tofieldia pusilla*, Alpine Bartsia *Bartsia alpina* and False Sedge *Kobresia simpliciuscula*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Point

f2c7 Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; upland (H7230)

Definition

Alkaline fens may occur with various types of swamp (such as species-poor stands of Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus*), wet grasslands (particularly various types of Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* grassland) and areas rich in *Juncus* species, as well as fen carr and, especially in the uplands, wet heath and acid bogs. There is considerable variation between sites in the associated communities and the transitions that may occur dependent on the geomorphological situation in which the fen occurs. This may include: flood plain mire, valley mire, basin mire, hydrosere fen (i.e. as zones around open waterbodies) and spring fen. Another important source of ecological variation is altitude, with significant differences between lowland fens, which are rich in southern and continental species, and upland fens, which are rich in northern species.

Synonyms

EU Habitats Directive Annex 1: H7230 Alkaline fens.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

Not found

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area Line Point

f2c8 Transition mires and quaking bogs; upland (H7140)

Definition

The term ‘transition mire’ relates to vegetation that in floristic composition and general ecological characteristics is transitional between acid bog and Alkaline fens, in which the surface conditions range from markedly acidic to slightly base-rich. The vegetation normally has intimate mixtures of species considered to be acidophile and others thought of as calciphile or basophile as a result of base-rich water influence upon acidic nutrient poor bogs.

Landscape and Ecological Context

In some cases the mire occupies a physically transitional location between bog and fen vegetation, as for example on the marginal lagg of raised bog or associated with certain valley and basin mires. In other cases these intermediate properties may reflect the actual process of succession, as peat accumulates in groundwater-fed fen or open water to produce rainwater-fed bog isolated from groundwater influence. Many of these systems are very wet and unstable underfoot and can therefore also be described as ‘quaking bogs’. Transition mires and quaking bogs can occur in a variety of situations, related to different geomorphological processes: in flood plain mires, valley bogs, basin mires and the lagg zone of raised bogs, and as regeneration surfaces within mires that have been cut-over for peat or areas of mineral soil influence within Blanket bogs (e.g. ladder fens in Scotland only).

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs [upland]

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2d Aquatic marginal vegetation

Definition

Vegetation fringing open water often developed as a narrow (< 0.5m wide or < 0.25ha in extent) part of a hydrosere between standing water and upslope vegetation.

Species

Species include Valerian *Valeriana officinalis*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Hemlock Water Dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, Marsh Woundwort *Stachys palustris* and Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

f2e Reedbeds

Definition

Wetlands dominated by stands of the Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, with the water table at or above ground level for most of the year.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Reedbeds tend to incorporate areas of open water and ditches, and small areas of wet grassland and carr woodland may be associated with them.

Inclusions

Reedbeds with a saline influence including saline tolerant species e.g. *Atriplex spp* (use secondary code 138).

Exclusions

Similar habitats dominated by species such as *Schoenoplectus*, *Typha* and *Phalaris* fall into a category of 'other swamps' f2f.

Species

Reedbeds may be differentiated from aquatic marginal vegetation (f2d) by the presence of a wider range of species.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

f2f Other swamps

Definition

Swamps other than reedbeds (see f2e)

Species

Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea* likely to be constant, with Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Common Couch *Elytrigia repens* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c Cropland

Definition

Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats.

Inclusions

Includes ploughed land, intensive orchards.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

c1

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1 Arable and horticulture

Definition

Arable cropland (including perennial, woody crops, and intensively managed, commercial orchards), commercial horticultural land (such as nurseries, commercial vegetable plots and commercial flower growing areas), freshly-ploughed land, annual leys, rotational set-aside and fallow.

Inclusions

Cereal field margins and field boundaries. Sown grasslands less than one year old.

Exclusions

Domestic gardens and allotments (see u, 230, 910)

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

17 subset categories

Categories at the next level

c1a c1b c1c c1d c1e c1f

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1a Arable field margins

Definition

Herbaceous strips or blocks around arable fields that are managed specifically to provide benefits for wildlife. The arable field must be in a crop rotation which includes an arable crop, even if in certain years the field is in temporary grass, set-aside or fallow.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Arable field margins are usually sited on the outer 2-12m margin of the arable field, although when planted as blocks they occasionally extend further into the field centre.

Exclusions

Single payment cross-compliance margins are considered as part of the boundary habitat and are not part of the arable field margin habitat.

Species

Grasses likely to include Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Smooth Meadow Grass *Poa pratensis*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Yellow Oat Grass *Trisetum flavescens* but some sites may have a high cover of sown mixtures of legumes such as Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Alsike Clover *Trifolium hybridum* and Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

9 subset categories

Categories at the next level

c1a5 c1a6 c1a7 c1a8

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

c1a5 Arable margins sown with tussocky grasses

Definition

Grass margins around arable fields sown with tussocky grasses such as Cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata* and Timothy *Phleum pratense*, of particular value for ground-nesting birds and overwintering insects.

Species

Grasses likely to include Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Smooth Meadow Grass *Poa pratensis*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1a6 Arable margins sown with wild flowers or a pollen and nectar mix

Definition

Grass margins around arable fields sown with wildflowers, of particular value for nectar-feeding insects.

Species

Grasses likely to include Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Smooth Meadow Grass *Poa pratensis*, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Crested Dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and Yellow Oat Grass *Trisetum flavescens* but with high cover of sown mixtures of legumes such as Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Alsike Clover *Trifolium hybridum* and Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1a7 Arable margins cultivated annually with an annual flora

Definition

Margins around arable fields cultivated annually to conserve rare flora.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1a8 Game bird mix strips and corners

Definition

Wild bird cover crops planted in blocks, corners or strips and left unharvested for seed to benefit farmland birds.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1b Temporary grass and clover leys

Definition

Temporary grass or legumes in rotation with grain or tilled crops, usually as a soil conservation measure.

Species

Likely dominants include rye grass *Lolium perenne*, white clover *Trifolium repens* and red clover *Trifolium pratense*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1c Cereal crops

Definition

Crops in the cereal group of domesticated grasses: wheat, barley, oats, maize.

Species

Flora other than the cereal crop dependent on the herbicide applied but may include Common Field-speedwell *Veronica persica*, Knotgrass *Polygonum aviculare*, Night-flowering Catchfly *Silene noctiflora*, Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas*, Fat-hen *Chenopodium album*, Grey Field-speedwell *Veronica polita*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera* and Cleavers *Galium aparine*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

c1c5 c1c6 c1c7

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1c5 Winter stubble

Definition

Arable crops left in the ground over winter after harvesting.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1c6 Game bird mix fields

Definition

Whole fields planted with game bird mix seeds.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1c7 Other cereal crops

Definition

Cereal crops not meeting the definition of c1c5 or c1c6.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1d Non-cereal crops

Definition

Crops other than those defined in c1c.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

16 subset categories

Categories at the next level

c1d5 c1d6 c1d7

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1d5 Miscanthus

Definition

Miscanthus (elephant grass) fields, often grown for biofuel.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1d6 Short-rotation coppice

Definition

Land planted with fast-growing broadleaves, such as willow and ash, for biofuel harvesting on short rotation, normally less than 10 years.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1d7 Vineyards

Definition

Land planted with grape vines.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1d8 Other non-cereal crops

Definition

Non-cereal crops not meeting the definition of c1d5, c1d6 or c1d7.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1e Intensive orchards

Definition

Orchards with a ground cover which is intensively managed (treated with herbicide, and heavily mown), usually improved grassland, and often with young tree stock and dwarf varieties.

Inclusions

Nut and hop plantations.

Exclusions

Traditonal orchards (see 21).

Species

Typical species between the bare ground strips controlled by herbicides include Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Dandelion *Taraxacum sp.*, Buttercup *Ranunculus spp.*, Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cut-leaved Crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum*, Field Forget-me-not *Mysotis arvensis*, Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* and Lesser Burdock *Arctium minus*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

c1f Horticulture

Definition

Commercial horticultural land, such as nurseries, vegetable plots and flower beds.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

u Urban

Definition

Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats

Inclusions

Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats in rural areas.

Exclusions

Grasslands, woodlands, heathlands, wetlands, rivers, lakes, sparsely vegetated land in urban areas.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

8 subset categories

Categories at the next level

u1

Status

Feature Type

Area or Point

u1 Built-up areas and gardens

Definition

Urban and rural settlements, farm buildings, caravan parks and other man-made built structures such as industrial estates, retail parks, waste and derelict ground, urban parkland and urban transport infrastructure.

Inclusions

Allotments and most gardens

Exclusions

Mappable patches of other ecosystems that fall within an urban area.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

8 subset categories

Categories at the next level

u1a u1b u1c u1d u1e

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

u1a Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

Definition

Each of the following five criteria must be met. (1) Open mosaic habitat at least 0.25 ha in size. (2) Known history of disturbance or evidence that soil has been removed or severely modified by previous use(s). Extraneous materials/substrates such as industrial spoil may have been added. (3) Site contains some vegetation. This will comprise early successional communities consisting mainly of stress-tolerant species (e.g. indicative of low nutrient status or drought). Early successional communities are composed of (a) annuals, or (b) mosses/liverworts, or (c) lichens, or (d) ruderals, or (e) inundation species, or (f) open grassland, or (g) flower-rich grassland, or (h) heathland. (4) Contains unvegetated, loose bare substrate and pools may be present. (5) The site shows spatial variation, forming a mosaic of one or more of early successional communities (a)–(h) above (criterion 3) plus bare substrate, within 0.25 ha.

Species

Typical species of the main communities include the following. Annual communities – Thyme-leaved Sandwort *Arenaria serpyllifolia* subsp. *serpyllifolia*, Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea*, Fairy Flax *Linum catharticum* or Hare's-foot Clover *Trifolium arvense*. Moss/liverwort communities - *Brachythecium rutabulum*, *Dicranum scoparium* or *Hypnum cupressiforme*, *Lophocolea heterophylla* or *Ptilidium ciliare*. Ruderal communities – Wild Carrot *Daucus carota*, Common Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina* or Weld *Reseda luteola*. Inundation communities - Marsh Foxtail *Alopecurus geniculatus*, Toad rush *Juncus bufonius*, Redshank *Persicaria maculosa* or Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*. Open grassland communities – Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, or Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*. g Flower-rich grassland - Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Common Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris* or Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*. h Heathland communities – Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Wavy Hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

u1b Developed land; sealed surface

Definition

Soil surface sealed with impervious materials as a result of urban development and infrastructure construction.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

u1b5 u1b6

Status

Feature Type

Area

u1b5 Buildings

Definition

A relatively permanent enclosed construction over a plot of land, having a roof and usually windows and often more than one level, used for any of a wide variety of activities, as living, entertaining, or manufacturing.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area or Point

u1b6 Other developed land

Definition

Developed land not meeting the definition of u1b5.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

u1c Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface

Definition

Land cleared for development, infrastructure construction or other purpose, currently unvegetated, but the soil surface is not sealed with impervious materials.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

u1d Suburban/ mosaic of developed/ natural surface

Definition

Small-scale mosaic of developed and natural surfaces, as in housing and gardens in suburban areas.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

u1e Built linear features

Definition

Roads, railways, walls, fences, surfaced paths.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Line

s Sparsely vegetated land

Definition

Unvegetated, disturbed (regularly or drastically periodically) or sparsely vegetated habitats (permanently or periodically naturally unvegetated areas) inhabited by stress tolerating vegetation.

Inclusions

Includes inland rock, supralittoral rock (sea-cliffs) supralittoral sediment (mud, sand and shingle) and coastal habitats (including dunes).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

28 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s1 s2 s3

Status

Feature Type

Area

s1 Inland rock

Definition

Natural and artificial exposed rock surfaces which are mappable, such as inland cliffs, caves, and screes and limestone pavements, as well as various forms of excavations and waste tips such as quarries and quarry waste.

Inclusions

Plant communities that colonise the cracks and fissures of rock faces. Certain types of tall herb and fern vegetation, which as a result of grazing are much reduced in extent and confined to areas inaccessible to grazing, such as cliff faces and ledges.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

11 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s1a s1b s1c s1d

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

s1a Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats

Definition

This habitat covers a wide range of rock types, varying from acidic to highly calcareous.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The habitat occurs throughout the uplands, and is particularly characteristic of high altitudes, but is also found at low altitudes notably in northern Scotland.

Inclusions

Includes mountain summit boulder fields.

Exclusions

Coastal cliff and ledge habitats (see s2a).

Species

Natural rock exposures support a wide range of communities. Scree habitats are typically dominated by Parsley Fern *Cryptogramma crispa* and other ferns, lichens and bryophytes. On cliff ledges, tall herbs such as Roseroot *Sedum rosea* and Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris* are generally abundant. Chasmophytic vegetation (in rock crevices) is usually dominated by ferns such as Green Spleenwort *Asplenium viride* and small herbs such as Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus* and Saxifrages *Saxifraga spp.*. Bryophytes and lichens also occur in crevices but are able to flourish on the open rock surfaces where there is a lack of competition from vascular plants.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

5 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s1a5 s1a6 s1a7 s1a8 s1a9

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1a5 Acidic scree (H8110)

Definition

Scree habitats consist of rock fragments covering the frost-shattered summits of mountains or accumulating on slopes below cliffs. Siliceous screes are made up of siliceous rocks such as quartzite, granite and sandstone.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H8110 Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels

Species

Typical species include Sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, Fir clubmoss *Huperzia selago* and Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* around habitat fringes. Woolly fringe moss *Racomitrium lanuginosum* is extensive in the north-west highlands.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1a6 Base-rich scree (H8120)

Definition

Scree habitats consist of rock fragments covering the frost-shattered summits of mountains or accumulating on slopes below cliffs. Calcareous and calcshist scree consist of base-rich rocks including limestone, calcareous-schists and the more basic igneous rocks.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H8120 Calcareous and calcshist scree of the montane to alpine levels.

Species

Typical species include Purple saxifrage *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, Holly-fern *Polystichum lonchitis* and Alpine meadow-grass *Poa alpina*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1a7 Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks

(H8210)

Definition

Vegetation of fissures of limestone cliffs.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H8210 Calcareous rocky slopes and crevices (with chasmophytic vegetation)

Species

This habitat is characterised by bryophytes such as *Tortella tortuosa*, *Anoetangium aestivum* and *Ctenidium molluscum*. Associated vascular plants include Brittle Bladder-fern *Cystopteris fragilis*, Green Spleenwort *Asplenium viride* and Glaucous Meadow-grass *Poa glauca*. Flora also includes arctic alpiners like Alpine Woodsia *Woodsia alpina* and Tufted Saxifrage *Saxifraga cespitosa* and Birdsfoot Sedge *Carex ornithopoda* in Northern England.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1a8 Plants in crevices in acid rocks

(H8220)

Definition

Chasmophytic vegetation consists of plant communities that colonise the cracks and fissures of rock faces. The type of plant community that develops is largely determined by the base-status of the rock face. Siliceous communities develop on acid rocks and are more common than s1a7 communities.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H8220 Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation

Species

The habitat type typically comprises mixtures of bryophytes, such as *Amphidium mougeotii* and *Racomitrium spp.*, and vascular plants, such as Wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa* and Fir clubmoss *Huperzia selago*. Locations in northern Scotland also include Alpine Speedwell *Veronica alpina* and Highland Cudweed *Gnaphalium norvegicum*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1a9 Tall herb communities (H6430)

Definition

Wet and nitrophilous tall herb edge communities, along water courses and woodland borders in montane areas where they are mainly found on ungrazed mountain ledges, extending out in very lightly grazed situations.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Restricted to base-rich substrates and somewhat sheltered situations. This is one of the few near-natural habitats remaining in Britain and frequently occurs in intimate mosaics with other Annex I habitat types (e.g. g3b5 Mountain hay meadows and h1c6 Mountain willow scrub) in these ungrazed, or very lightly grazed, situations. It provides a refuge for rare, grazing-sensitive, montane plants.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6430 Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels

Exclusions

Closely related vegetation types, such as the hay meadows of the Pennines, see g3b5 Mountain hay meadows (H6520).

Species

Typical species include Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmeria*, Roseroot *Sedum rosea*, Wood Cranesbill *Geranium sylvaticum*, Great Woodrush *Luzula sylvatica*, Water Avens *Geum rivale* and Globe-flower *Trollius europaeus*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1b (Limestone pavement)

Definition

Outcrops of rock, typically horizontal or gently inclined, although a few are steeply inclined. The surface has been dissolved by water over millions of years into ‘paving blocks’, known as clints, with a complex reticulate pattern of crevices, known as grikes, between them. Record as s1b5 Limestone pavements (H8240)

Landscape and Ecological Context

Limestone pavements are a scarce and non-renewable resource. They were exposed by the scouring action of ice sheets during the ice age which ended some 10,000 years ago. Since then water action has widened the cracks in the pavements to form a complex pattern of crevices known as grikes between which are massive blocks of worn limestone called clints. Limestone pavements are of both geological and biological importance. The vegetation is rich in vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens and varies according to geographical location, altitude, rock type and the presence or absence of grazing animals. Limestone pavement vegetation may also contain unusual combinations of plants, with woodland and wood-edge species well-represented in the sheltered grikes. The clints support plants of rocky habitats or are often unvegetated. In the absence of grazing scrub may develop. In oceanic areas scrub over limestone pavement is important for epiphytes.

Species

Complex and rich vegetation mosaic of different communities. The fissures contain shade-tolerant vascular plants such as Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum* and Rustyback *Ceterach officinarum* as well as herbaceous species typical of calcareous woodland such as Hart's Tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium*; the small pockets of soil are occupied by grassland or heath and shrub vegetation.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s1b5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1b5 Limestone pavements (H8240)

Definition

Outcrops of rock, typically horizontal or gently inclined, although a few are steeply inclined. The surface has been dissolved by water over millions of years into ‘paving blocks’, known as clints, with a complex reticulate pattern of crevices, known as grikes, between them.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H8240 Limestone pavement

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Equivalent to Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1c Calaminarian grasslands

Definition

Calaminarian grasslands include a range of semi-natural and anthropogenic sparsely vegetated habitats on substrates characterised by high levels of heavy metals such as lead, chromium and copper, or other unusual minerals.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Associated with outcrops of serpentine and river gravels rich in heavy metals, as well as with artificial mine workings and spoil heaps. Seral succession is slowed or arrested by the toxicity of the substrate.

Species

Open-structured plant communities composed of ruderal/metallophyte species of lichens, bryophytes and vascular plants, such as Spring Sandwort *Minuartia verna*, Alpine Pennycress *Thlaspi arvense*, and genetically adapted races of species such as Thrift *Armeria maritima* and Bladder Campion *Silene maritima*. Notable species include Forked Spleenwort *Asplenium septentrionale*, *Ditrichum cornubicum*, *Marsupella profunda*, *Cephaloziella nicholsonii* and *Ditrichum plumbicola*. In northern parts of the UK there are local populations of boreal species which characterise these habitat conditions in Scandinavia, such as Scottish Sandwort *Arenaria norvegica* and the endemic Shetland Mouse-ear *Cerastium nigrescens*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s1c5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1c5 Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals (H6130)

Definition

Generally open natural or semi-natural grasslands 1) on natural rock outcrops, rich in heavy metals (e.g. zinc, lead), 2) river gravels and shingles, 3) on old terrils or spoil heaps around mines.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia Calaminariae*

Species

These open grasslands are characterised by a highly specialised flora, with subspecies and ecotypes adapted to heavy metals. The vegetation is typically species-poor but contains a number of species principally found in this habitat, most notably Spring Sandwort *Minuartia verna* and Alpine Penny-cress *Thlaspi caerulescens*. There is a genetically-adapted range of other species, such as Sheep's Fescue *Festuca ovina*, Bladder Campion *Silene vulgaris*, Sea Campion *Silene uniflora* and Thrift *Armeria maritima*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s1d Other inland rock and scree

Definition

Inland rock and scree habitats not meeting the definition of s1a s1b or s1c.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

Status

Feature Type

Area

s2 Supralittoral Rock

Definition

The region of rocky shore including cliffs and slopes immediately above the highest water level, and subject to wetting by spray/wave splash (also called the splash zone). Features that may be present include vertical rock, boulders, gullies, ledges and pools, depending on the wave exposure of the site and its geology.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The habitat is widespread around the UK coastline.

Species

The habitat supports salt-tolerant species characterised by green algae *Enteromorpha* and *Cladophora*, yellow and grey lichens. e.g. *Caloplaca marina*, *Xanthoria parietina* and *Lecanora spp*, littorinid molluscs and acarid mites.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s2a

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

s2a Maritime cliff and slopes

Definition

The junction between land and sea where a break in slope is formed by slippage or erosion by the sea. On the seaward side, the habitat extends to the limit of the supralittoral zone and so includes the splash zone lichens.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The habitat occurs on most of the British shoreline, except between the Thames and Humber Estuaries. In the North it consists of hard rock communities, in the South of hard rock communities and dry calcareous cliffs.

Exclusions

Heathland on maritime cliffs and slopes (see 27).

Species

Exposure to wind and salt spray is a key determinant of vegetation type, plus the geology of the cliff or slope. Vegetated cliff species include Sea Campion *Silene maritima*, Thrift *Armeria maritima*, Rock Samphire *Crithmum maritimum*, Buck's Horn Plantain *Plantago maritima*, and high frequency of Red Fescue *Festuca rubra ssp pruinosa* - the densely salt-tolerant ecotype, and Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, perhaps also Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum capillus-veneris*. Lichen-dominated cliffs support yellow and grey lichens. The habitat also provides an important breeding ground for a range of seabirds.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s2a5 s2a6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

s2a5 Vegetated sea cliffs (H1230)

Definition

Vegetated sea cliffs are steep slopes fringing hard or soft coasts, created by past or present marine erosion, and supporting a wide diversity of vegetation types with variable maritime influence.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Exposure to the sea is a key determinant of the type of sea cliff vegetation. In the UK exposure is greatest on the south-west and northern coasts. The long fetch associated with these coasts generates high waves and swell, and the prevailing winds help deliver salt spray to the cliff face and cliff tops. However, the degree to which this affects the salinity of cliff-top vegetation also depends on the amount of rainfall, with high rainfall areas, such as north-west Scotland, being less saline or maritime than drier areas such as south-east England. Exposure is another important factor. The most exposed areas support maritime vegetation dominated by a range of salt-tolerant plants. More sheltered cliffs support communities closely related to those found on similar substrates inland, such as grassland and heath, with only a minor maritime element in the flora. In northern Scotland, species may include Scottish Primrose *Primula scotica*, whereas in southern areas heath species (such as Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and Spring Squill *Scilla verna*) may be more prevalent.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic coast

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

s2a6 Soft rock sea cliffs

Definition

Sea cliffs of rocks that are relatively easily eroded, characterised by slumped cliff faces that gradually become vegetated. May include a range of habitat types including grasslands, scrub and reedbed.

Species

Typical species tend to be early successional.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

s3 Supralittoral Sediment

Definition

The region of shore immediately above the highest water level, and subject to wetting by spray/wave splash (also called the splash zone).

Inclusions

Includes shingles, sand dunes and beaches.

Species

Salt-tolerant species are the characteristic colonisers of this habitat and the species present are strongly influenced by sediment size as well as degree of wave exposure of the shore.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

12 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s3a s3b

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

s3a Coastal sand dunes

Definition

Sand covered shorelines created by the action of wind and often colonised and stabilised by communities of coarse maritime grasses.

Species

Marram *Ammophila arenaria* is the characteristic maritime grass. Characteristic vascular plants include the Sea Sandwort *Honckenya peploides*, Saltwort *Salsola kali*, and Sea Beet *Beta maritima*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

7 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s3a3 s3a4 s3a5 s3a6 s3a7 s3a8 s3a9

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s3a3 Humid dune slacks (H2190)

Definition

Humid depressions of dune systems.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Humid dune slacks occur on calcareous sand, where the slack vegetation is similar to that of small sedge mires (mires with low-growing sedges), or on acidic dunes where the vegetation may have affinities to wet heath. Vegetation is very variable dependent on the characteristics of the particular dune system.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2190 Humid dune slacks

Species

May include Creeping Willow *Salix repens*, *Calliargon cuspidata*, *Campyllum stellatum* and Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*. Rarer species include Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*, Fen Orchid *Liparis loeselii*, and Round-leaved Wintergreen *Pyrola rotundifolia*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s3a4 Dunes with juniper thickets (H2550)

Definition

Stands are usually very small and are intimately mixed with other Annex I habitat types, including dune grassland and heath. There is complete range from discrete stands to more scattered and occasional individuals, which occur within habitat types defined as fixed dunes.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2550 Coastal dunes with *Juniperus spp.*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s3a5 Embryonic shifting dunes (H2110)

Definition

Formations of the coast representing the first stages of dune construction, constituted by ripples or raised sand surfaces of the upper beach or by a seaward fringe at the foot of the tall dunes.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

Species

Typical species include Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*, Lyme Grass *Leymus arenaria* and Sand Couch *Elymus farctus*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s3a6 Shifting dunes with marram (H2120)

Definition

Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Marram *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes') encompassing most of the vegetation of unstable dunes where there is active sand movement. Under these conditions sand-binding Marram *Ammophila arenaria* is always a prominent feature.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ["white dunes"]

Species

Where sand accretion is extremely rapid the vegetation may consist only of Marram *Ammophila arenaria*. As rates of sand deposition decline the marram is joined by more species, first by other specialised dune plants, then by less specialised grasses, drought-tolerant annuals and a restricted number of specialised bryophytes such as the moss *Tortula ruralis ssp. ruraliformis*. Towards the seaward edge salt-tolerant plants such as Sea Sandwort *Honckenya peploides* may be prominent, along with the sand-binding Sand Couch *Elytrigia juncea*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s3a7 Dune grassland (H2130)

Definition

Fixed dunes, stabilised and colonised by more or less closed perennial grasslands and abundant carpets of lichens and mosses.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Fixed dune vegetation occurs mainly on the largest dune systems, being those that have the width to allow it to develop. It typically occurs inland off the zone dominated by Marram, *Ammophila arenaria*, on coastal dunes.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ["grey dunes"]

Species

The herbaceous vegetation of fixed dunes exhibits considerable variation. The most widespread type is Atlantic dune grassland, consisting of a short sward characterised by Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* and typically rich in species of calcareous substrates. In northern Scotland, Scottish Primrose *Primula scotica* can occur; in the south, several orchid species are found, including Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, and a rich variety of other species. In south-west England and in Wales Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus* often dominates this type of vegetation. A taller type of dune grassland vegetation, in which Bloody Crane's-bill *Geranium sanguineum* is prominent, is particularly characteristic of north-east England. In areas with a drier and more continental climate, such as Norfolk, and where the substrate is more acidic, the fixed dune vegetation is rich in lichens.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s3a8 Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry (H2140)

Definition

Decalcified fixed dunes with Crowberry *Empetrum nigrum* represent the later, more mature, stages of the well-marked successional sequence characteristic of sand dunes.

Landscape and Ecological Context

These are found only in north-east Scotland in wet base poor conditions where they occur within mosaics and may be particularly hard to differentiate from s3a9, which is also a type of dune heath.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2140 Decalcified fixed dunes with *Empetrum nigrum*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s3a9 Coastal dune heathland (H2150)

Definition

Like s3a8 this habitat type occurs on mature, stable dunes where the initial calcium carbonate content of the dune sand is low, so that they become quite acidic.

Landscape and Ecological Context

They are more widespread than s3a8 being found at a few sites around the coast of the UK, but, where found with s3a8, may form part of a continuous mosaic of dune heath habitats.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes

Species

Characteristic species include Heather *Calluna vulgaris* and Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria* in the east and Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* in the west.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

s3b Coastal vegetated shingle

Definition

Vegetated shingle beaches above the reach of storm waves.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Shingle is defined as sediment with particle sizes in the range 2-200 mm. It is a globally restricted coastal sediment type with few occurrences outside north-west Europe, Japan and New Zealand. Shingle beaches are widely distributed round the coast of the UK, where they develop in high energy environments. In England and Wales it is estimated that 30% of the coastline is fringed by shingle. However most of this length consists of simple fringing beaches within the reach of storm waves, where the shingle remains mobile and vegetation is restricted to temporary and mobile strandline communities.

Species

Halophytes and species tolerant of maritime exposure and other more wide ranging species such as Curled Dock *Rumex crispus*, Sea-kale *Crambe maritima*, Sea-poppy *Glaucium flavum*, Sea-campion *Silene uniflora*, Sea-beet *Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima*, Sea-pea *Lathyrus japonicus* and Bristly Ox-tongue *Picris echioides*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

s3b5 s3b6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

s3b5 Perennial vegetation on coastal shingle (H1220)

Definition

Perennial vegetation of the upper beaches of great shingle banks, formed by Sea-kale *Crambe maritima*, Sea Sandwort *Honckenya peploides* and other perennial species.

Landscape and Ecological Context

A wide range of vegetation types may be found on large shingle structures inland of the upper beach. On more mature, stable, shingle coastal forms of grassland, heath and scrub vegetation may develop. Some areas of unusual vegetation dominated by lichens and bryophytes are found on more mature shingle.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1220 Perennial vegetation of shingle banks

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

s3b6 Annual vegetation of drift lines

(H1210)

Definition

Formations of annuals or representatives of annuals and perennials, occupying accumulations of drift material and gravel rich in nitrogenous organic matter

Landscape and Ecological Context

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

r Rivers and lakes

Definition

Inland surface waters (freshwater ecosystems).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

28 subset categories

Categories at the next level

r1 r2

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

r1 Standing open water and canals

Definition

Natural systems such as lakes, meres and pools, as well as man-made waters such as reservoirs, canals, ponds and gravel pits.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Standing waters are usually classified according to their nutrient status and this can change naturally over time or as a result of pollution. There are three main types of standing waters, namely: oligotrophic (nutrient-poor), eutrophic (nutrient-rich), and mesotrophic (intermediate). These lake types exist along an environmental gradient and intermediate types occur. Other types of standing water include dystrophic (highly acidic, peat-stained water), marl lakes, brackish-water lakes, turloughs and other temporary water bodies.

Inclusions

Includes the open water zone (which may contain submerged, free-floating or floating-leaved vegetation) and water fringe vegetation. Ditches with open water for at least the majority of the year.

Exclusions

Coastal saline lagoons (see t2g5). Marginal emergent vegetation that is greater than 5 m wide. Mappable adjacent wetland or wet woodland habitat.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

10 subset categories

Categories at the next level

r1a r1b r1c r1d r1e

Status

Feature Type

Area or Point

r1a Eutrophic standing waters

Definition

Water bodies that are highly productive because plant nutrients are plentiful, either naturally or as a result of artificial enrichment, characterised by algal blooms and dark anaerobic mud, rich in organic matter.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Eutrophic waters are most typical of hard water areas of the lowlands of southern and eastern Britain, but they also occur in the north and west, especially near the coast.

Species

Typical species of naturally enriched water bodies include Common Reed *Phragmites australis* or Bulrush *Typha spp.*, and beds of floating-leaved species such as Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea*. Submerged species may include Fennel-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* and Spiked Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*. Plants indicative of artificially enriched eutrophic habitats include species of Pondweeds *Potamogeton spp.* (e.g. *Potamogeton crispus*), Stoneworts *Chara spp.*, Duckweeds *Lemna spp.* and Water Starworts *Callitriche spp.*. In their natural state eutrophic waters have high biodiversity. Planktonic algae and zooplankton are abundant in the water column, submerged vegetation is diverse and numerous species of invertebrate and fish are present. Plant assemblages differ according to geographical area and nutrient concentration but Fennel-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton pectinatus* and Spiked Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum* are characteristic throughout the UK.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

r1a5 r1a6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

r1a5 Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs (H3150)

Definition

Lakes and ponds with mostly dirty grey to blue-green, more or less turbid, waters, particularly rich in dissolved bases (pH usually > 7).

Landscape and Ecological Context

Natural eutrophic lakes have moderately high background nutrient levels resulting in higher natural productivity than other lakes, and are typically species-rich. They are typically found within catchments with sedimentary rocks in unglaciated south and east lowlands, e.g. Norfolk and Suffolk Broads, also Shropshire and Cheshire meres.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation

Species

Typical species include Pondweeds *Potamogeton spp.*, Spiked Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Yellow Water-lily *Nuphar lutea*, and occasionally associations of Stoneworts *Chara spp.*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

r1a6 Other eutrophic standing waters

Definition

Eutrophic standing waters that do not meet the definition of any of the Annex 1 types.

Inclusions

Ornamental lakes, flooded gravel pits.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

r1b Mesotrophic lakes

Definition

Mesotrophic lakes (i.e. those in the middle of the trophic range) are characterised by having a narrow range of nutrients, the main indicative ones being inorganic nitrogen (N) and total phosphorus (P).

Landscape and Ecological Context

Relatively infrequent in the UK and largely confined to the margins of upland areas in the north and west. Typically, mesotrophic lakes have nutrient levels of 0.3-0.65 mgNI-1 and 0.01-0.03 mgPI-1. Whilst such levels simplify the complex interaction between plant nutrients and the hydrological and physical characteristics of individual lakes (for instance, virtually all available nutrients are `locked up` in algae during the growing season), they serve to show the sensitivity of the trophic state to artificially increased levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. Thus, this is an increasingly rare type of lake.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

r1b5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

r1b5 Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes lochs and pools (H3140)

Definition

Chara lakes are typically hard water, low nutrient systems whose ecology is driven by dense lawns of Stoneworts (*Chara spp.*), usually covering muddy marl (calcium carbonate) deposits. They are characterised by high pH, low nutrient levels and very clear water.

Synonyms

Chara Lakes. Annex 1: H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara spp.*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

r1c Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes

Definition

Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes are water bodies mainly more than 2 ha in size which are characterised by their low nutrient levels and low productivity.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Their catchments usually occur on hard, acid rocks, most often in the uplands. This habitat type encompasses a wide range of size and depth, and includes the largest and deepest water bodies in the UK. Oligotrophic lakes usually have very clear water, whilst some examples with dystrophic characteristics have peat-stained waters. Good examples may support some of the least disturbed aquatic assemblages in the UK.

Species

Characteristic plankton, zoobenthos, macrophyte and fish communities occur, including several restricted species and species of economic importance. Fish communities, generally dominated by salmonids, may include Arctic Charr *Salvelinus alpinus* and Salmon *Coregonus spp.* A number of benthic and planktonic invertebrates, found only in oligotrophic lakes, are possibly glacial relicts. Macrophytes are typically sparse, with species such as Shoreweed *Littorella uniflora* and Quillwort *Isoetes spp.* Shores are typically stony, and emergent vegetation is generally restricted to sheltered bays, where species such as Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata* and Common Club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris* may be found.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

5 subset categories

Categories at the next level

r1c5 r1c6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

r1c5 Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation (H3130)

Definition

Aquatic to amphibious short perennial vegetation, oligotrophic to mesotrophic, of lake, pond and pool banks and water-land interfaces.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or the *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea*

Species

Amphibious short annual vegetation, pioneer of land interface zones of lakes, pools and ponds with nutrient poor soils, or which grows during periodic drying of these standing waters.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

r1c6 Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sand (H3110)

Definition

Shallow oligotrophic waters with few minerals and base poor, with an aquatic to amphibious low perennial vegetation, on oligotrophic soils of lake and pond banks (sometimes on peaty soils).

Landscape and Ecological Context

Synonyms

Annex 1: H3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (*Littorelletea uniflorae*)

Species

This vegetation consists of one or more zones, dominated by Shoreweed *Littorella uniflora*, Water Lobelia *Lobelia dortmanna* or Quillworts *Isoetes spp.*, although not all zones may not be found at a given site.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

r1d Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies

Definition

This habitat category consists of natural water bodies which have an intrinsic regime of extreme fluctuation in water level, with periods of complete or almost complete drying out as part of the natural cycle. They have no inflow or outflow streams at the surface, except at times of very high water level, when temporary out-flows may develop. Instead, they are directly connected to the underlying groundwater system and periodically empty and are recharged via swallow holes or smaller openings in their beds.

Landscape and Ecological Context

There are two known variants of the habitat in the UK: turloughs, found over Carboniferous limestone in Northern Ireland and Wales, and fluctuating meres, which occur over chalk in the Norfolk Breckland. Turloughs are distinguished by winter flooding and a dry floor, apart from small residual pools, in summer. Under one definition, a water body qualifies as a turlough only if winter flooding exceeds a depth of 0.5m. There may be underground connections between neighbouring turloughs. The fluctuating meres of Norfolk do not have a regular annual rhythm of emptying and recharge. Instead, there is a complex pattern of drying out and refilling, sometimes with a stretch of several years during which a mere may remain dry, followed by a prolonged period when water is constantly present, although its depth may vary from a few centimetres to 6 metres. The water level in both turloughs and meres reflects the height of the water table, which periodically rises above the surface of the bed. The response to groundwater fluctuations in turloughs is rapid, whereas that in the meres is highly lagged, with each mere having an individual periodicity.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

r1e Canals

Definition

An artificial watercourse for inland navigation or irrigation.

Exclusions

Excludes towpaths and other land between the canalside and the nearest field boundary.

Species

Pondweeds *Potamogeton* spp., Unbranched Bur-reed *Sparganium emersum*, Arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, Canadian Waterweed *Elodea canadensis*, Nutall's Waterweed *Elodea nuttallii*, Rigid Hornwort *Ceratophyllum demersum*, Common Duckweed *Lemna minor* and Ivy-leaved Duckweed *Lemna trisulca* are all widespread in canals.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

r2 Rivers and streams

Definition

Rivers and streams from bank top to bank top, or, where there are no distinctive banks or banks are never overtopped, it includes the extent of the mean annual flood.

Inclusions

Includes: the open channel (which may contain submerged, free-floating or floating-leaved vegetation) water fringe vegetation and exposed sediments and shingle banks.

Exclusions

Adjacent wetland habitats.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

5 subset categories

Categories at the next level

r2a r2b

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

r2a Rivers (priority habitat)

Definition

River water bodies qualify as priority habitat either because they are considered to be near-natural, or because they fulfil one or more specific criteria relating to BAP priority species or to particular habitat types. Only the relatively few river water bodies defined as being at 'high status' under the Water Framework Directive are included as near natural. The list of qualifying criteria is as follows: 1. Riverine water bodies of high hydromorphological/ecological status. Statutory agencies have developed criteria and rules to identify such water bodies. 2. Headwaters. A stream must be a watercourse within 2.5 km of its furthest source as marked with a blue line on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps at a scale of 1:50,000. Note that each tributary of a river will have its own headwater, so there will be more than one (sometimes many more) per catchment. 3. Occurrence of Annex 1 habitat r2a5. 4. Chalk Rivers (see 144) 5. Active shingle rivers (see 139) 6. Areas/Sites of Special Scientific Interest designated for river species, riverine features or fluvial geomorphology. 7. Species criteria as defined in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat Description for Rivers, 2011, accessed through the JNCC website (see Species section below for flora indicators).

Exclusions

Headwaters which have been significantly altered from their natural state. Canals. Ditches.

Species

Presence of one or more of the following Vascular Plant species confirms the river as a Priority Habitat river: Coral-necklace *Illecebrum verticillatum*, Floating Water-plantain *Luronium natans*, Grass-wrack Pondweed *Potamogeton compressus* and Triangular Club-rush *Schoenoplectus triqueteter*. Twelve bryophytes and four lichens also qualify individually. Presence of Tubular Water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*, Greater Water Parsnip *Sium latifolium* and Marsh Stitchwort *Stellaria palustris* can contribute to a mixed flora and fauna score.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

r2a5 r2a6

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

r2a5 Rivers with floating vegetation

(H3260)

Definition

This habitat type is characterised by the abundance of Water-crowfoots *Ranunculus spp.*, subgenus *Batrachium* (River Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus fluitans*, Stream Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus ssp. penicillatus*, *Ranunculus penicillatus ssp. pseudofluitans*, and Pond Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus* and its hybrids). Floating mats of these white-flowered species are characteristic of river channels in early to mid-summer.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H3260 Mesotrophic vegetation of slow-flowing rivers

Species

There are several variants of this habitat in the UK, depending on geology and river type. In each, *Ranunculus* species are associated with a different assemblage of other aquatic plants, such as Water-cress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*, Water-starworts *Callitriche spp.*, Water-parsnips *Sium latifolium* and *Berula erecta*, Water-milfoils *Myriophyllum spp.* and Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*. In some rivers, the cover of these species may exceed that of *Ranunculus* species. Three main sub-types are defined by substrate and the dominant species within the *Ranunculus* community.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

r2a6 Other priority habitat rivers

Definition

Priority habitat rivers without floating vegetation (i.e. not meeting the definition of r2a5)

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

r2b Other rivers and streams

Definition

Rivers and streams not meeting the criteria for r2a.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

Status

Feature Type

Area or Line

t Marine inlets and transitional waters

Definition

Pelagic habitats: Low/reduced salinity water (of lagoons); Variable salinity water (of coastal wetlands, estuaries and other transitional waters); Marine salinity water (of other inlets); Benthic habitats: Littoral rock and biogenic reef; Littoral sediment
Shallow sublittoral rock and biogenic reef; Shallow sublittoral sediment.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 2

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

16 subset categories

Categories at the next level

t1 t2

Status

Feature Type

Area

t1 Littoral Rock

Definition

The geology and wave exposure of the shore influence the form, which can be as varied as vertical rock, shore platforms, boulder shores, or rocky reefs surrounded by areas of sediment. These two factors are also major influences on the associated marine communities. Relatively soft rock such as chalk and limestone can support boring species whereas colonisation of basalt and granite is limited to the rock surfaces. In all cases there is a distinct zonation of species down the shore which principally reflects the degree of immersion and emersion by the tide.

Species

The littoral fringe is encrusted with the lichen *Verrucaria maura*, the red alga *Porphyra umbilicalis*, or by sparsely distributed barnacles. If there are pools present these are likely to be colonised by coralline crusts and the red alga *Corallina officinalis*. The eulittoral (mid shore) zone is usually dominated by mussels *Mytilus edulis* and barnacles, while the lower shore may have a dense red algal turf. Deep pools in this zone can contain fucoids and kelps. At the sublittoral fringe, where conditions can also be severe, a typical coloniser is the kelp *Alaria esculenta* amongst a dense band of small mussels.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

6 subset categories

Categories at the next level

t1a t1b t1c t1d t1e t1f

Status

Feature Type

Area

t1a Intertidal chalk

Definition

The erosion of chalk exposures on the coast has resulted in the formation of vertical cliffs and gently- sloping intertidal platforms with a range of micro-habitats of biological importance.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Coastal exposures of chalk are rare in Europe, with those occurring on the southern and eastern coasts of England accounting for the greatest proportion (57%).

Species

Supralittoral and littoral fringe chalk cliffs and sea caves support various algal communities unique to this soft rock type. Orange, brownish or blackish gelatinous bands of algae, composed of an assemblage of *Haptophyceae* species such as *Apistonema spp.*, *Pleurochrysis carterae* and the orange *Chrysofila lamellosa*, but other genera and species of *Chrysophyceae*, *Haptophyceae* and *Prasinophyceae* are likely to be present as well. The lower littoral fringe may be characterised by a dense mat of green algae *Enteromorpha spp.* and Sea Lettuce *Ulva lactuca*. Lower down the shore in the eulittoral the generally soft nature of the chalk results in the presence of a characteristic flora and fauna, notably 'rock-boring' invertebrates such as piddocks, overlain by mostly algal-dominated communities (fucoids and red algal turfs).

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t1b *Sabellaria alveolata* reefs

Definition

Sabellaria alveolata reefs are formed by the honeycomb worm *Sabellaria alveolata*, a polychaete which constructs tubes in tightly packed masses with a distinctive honeycomb-like appearance. These reefs can be up to 30 or even 50 cm thick and take the form of hummocks, sheets or more massive formations.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Reefs are mainly found on the bottom third of the shore, but may reach mean high water of neap tides and extend into the shallow subtidal in places. They do not seem to penetrate far into low salinity areas. Reefs form on a variety of hard substrata, from pebbles to bedrock, in areas with a good supply of suspended sand grains from which the animals form their tubes, and include areas of sediment when an attachment has been established. The larvae are strongly stimulated to settle by the presence of existing colonies or their dead remains. *Sabellaria alveolata* has a very variable recruitment and the cover in any one area may vary greatly over a number of years, although in the long term reefs tend mainly to be found on the same shores.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t1c Intertidal underboulder communities

Definition

Areas of intertidal boulders (greater than 256 mm diameter) that support a diverse underboulder community.

Landscape and Ecological Context

This habitat is found from the mid-shore down to the extreme lower shore. The underboulder habitat, along with fissures, crevices and any interstitial spaces between adjacent boulders, form a series of microhabitats that add greatly to the biodiversity of a shore. The presence of boulders on a shore may also lead to local modification to wave exposure, current strength and levels of trapped organic matter in the area surrounding the boulders themselves. Altering the physical environment in this way results in an enhancement to the immediate biodiversity beyond the boulders themselves. This habitat can occur on a variety of substrata (including bedrock, mixed rock and sediment or mud), but there needs to be a sufficient gap on the underside of the boulder to support an underboulder community. The richest underboulder communities are often found where there is running seawater (for instance, from pools or lagoons emptying after the tide has fallen).

Exclusions

Boulders with a limited underboulder community, as may occur, for example, where boulders are embedded in sediment, in low salinity conditions, and where boulders experience high levels of mobility and scour.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t1d Estuarine rocky habitats

Definition

This habitat encompasses rocky habitats in estuaries, extending from supralittoral lichens down to the subtidal circalittoral. Estuarine rocky habitats incorporate substrata types such as bedrock and stable boulders. Generally rias, fjords and fjards are the most relevant types of inlet for rocky estuarine habitats.

Species

Depending on the extent and heterogeneity of the substrate, there can be a wide variety of community types associated with estuarine rocky habitats. The extent of rocky habitat in estuaries can range from a narrow strip restricted to the top of the shore to littoral reef structures extending to the subtidal, particularly in rias. Similarly, the topography of estuarine rocky shores varies from flat and gently sloping to rugged reefs and large boulders with many microhabitats.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t1e Splash zone with lichens

Definition

Cliffs and rocks of the supralittoral spray zone, mostly occupied by lichens such as *Caloplaca spp.* and *Verrucaria spp.*

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

t1f Other littoral rock

Definition

Littoral rock not meeting the definition of t1a t1b t1c t1d or t1e.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

t2 Littoral Sediment

Definition

Areas of littoral sediment are widespread around the UK forming features such as beaches, sand banks, and intertidal mudflats. A large proportion of this habitat occurs in estuaries and inlets where it can cover extensive areas. Significant but smaller areas of littoral sediment also occur at the head of inlets and sea lochs. Beaches, which tend to be composed of sandier material, develop in more exposed situations and are also widely distributed. Sand flats are more common in northern and western parts of the country and finer grained flats are more common in southern and eastern areas. Muddy sediments usually occur in sheltered areas, especially estuaries.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The marine communities found in areas of littoral sediment vary depending on the sediment type, sediment mobility, and salinity of the overlying water. Mobile gravels and sands, for example, tend to be highly impoverished, whereas sheltered areas with mixed sediments can support very rich communities. There is also zonation of species down the shore which principally reflects the degree of immersion and emersion by the tide. In general tidal flats are low in species diversity by they often support very dense populations of invertebrates so that the overall biomass of the area can be extremely high.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 3

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

14 subset categories

Categories at the next level

t2a t2b t2c t2d t2e t2f t2g t2h

Status

Feature Type

Area

t2a Coastal saltmarsh

Definition

Coastal saltmarshes comprise the upper, vegetated portions of intertidal mudflats, lying approximately between mean high water neap tides and mean high water spring tides. The lower limit of saltmarsh is defined as the lower limit of pioneer saltmarsh vegetation (but excluding Sea-grass *Zostera* beds) and the upper limit as one metre above the level of highest astronomical tides to take in transitional zones.

Synonyms

Also known as "merse" in Scotland.

Species

Saltmarsh vegetation consists of a limited number of halophytic (salt tolerant) species adapted to regular immersion by the tides. A natural saltmarsh system shows a clear zonation according to the frequency of inundation. At the lowest level the pioneer glassworts *Salicornia spp* can withstand immersion by as many as 600 tides per year, while transitional species of the upper marsh can only withstand occasional inundation. The communities of stabilised saltmarsh can be divided into species-poor low-mid marsh, and the more diverse communities of the mid-upper marsh. On traditionally grazed sites, saltmarsh vegetation is shorter and dominated by grasses. At the upper tidal limits, true saltmarsh communities are replaced by driftline, swamp or transitional communities which can only withstand occasional inundation.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

12 subset categories

Categories at the next level

t2a5 t2a6 t2a7 t2a8

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2a5 Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand (H1310)

Definition

Formations composed mostly or predominantly of annuals, in particular *Chenopodiaceae* of the genus *Salicornia* (Glassworts) or grasses, colonising periodically inundated muds and sands of marine or interior salt marshes.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2a6 Cord-grass swards (H1320)

Definition

Native and naturalised non-native Cord-grass species *Spartina* spp. on mud and sand flats.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1320 *Spartina* swards [*Spartinion maritimae*]

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2a7 Atlantic salt meadows (H1330)

Definition

Atlantic salt meadows develop when halophytic vegetation colonises soft intertidal sediments of mud and sand in areas protected from strong wave action. This vegetation forms the middle and upper reaches of saltmarshes, where tidal inundation still occurs.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1330 Atlantic salt meadows [*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*]

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2a8 Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub

(H1420)

Definition

Scrubby, halophilous vegetation develops in the uppermost levels of saltmarshes often where there is a transition from saltmarsh to dunes or in some cases where dunes overlie shingle. The form that most closely resembles the scrub vegetation of the Mediterranean is restricted to the south and south-east of England and is formed predominantly of bushes of Shrubby Sea-blite *Suaeda vera* and Sea Purslane *Atriplex portulacoides*.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1420 Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2b Blue mussel beds on sediment

Definition

This habitat includes intertidal and subtidal beds of the Blue Mussel *Mytilus edulis* on a variety of sediment types and in a range of conditions from open coasts to estuaries, marine inlets and deeper offshore habitats.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Blue mussel beds plays an important part of a healthy functioning marine ecosystem, having a role in coastal sediment dynamics, acting as a food source for over-wintering waders, and providing an enhanced area of biodiversity in an otherwise sediment-dominated environment.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2c Seagrass beds [*Zostera noltii*]

Definition

Mid and upper shore wave-sheltered muddy fine sand or sandy mud with Dwarf Eelgrass *Zostera noltei* at an abundance of frequent or above.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2d Intertidal mudflats

Definition

Sedimentary intertidal habitats created by deposition in low energy coastal environments, particularly estuaries and other sheltered areas.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Their sediment consists mostly of silts and clays with a high organic content. Towards the mouths of estuaries where salinity and wave energy are higher the proportion of sand increases. Mudflats are intimately linked by physical processes to, and may be dependent on, other coastal habitats such as soft cliffs and saltmarshes. They commonly appear in the natural sequence of habitats between subtidal channels and vegetated saltmarshes. In large estuaries they may be several kilometres wide and commonly form the largest part of the intertidal area of estuaries. However, in many places they have been much reduced by land claim.

Species

The surface of the sediment is often apparently devoid of vegetation, although mats of benthic microalgae diatoms and euglenoids are common. Under nutrient-rich conditions, there may be mats of the macroalgae *Enteromorpha spp.* or *Ulva spp.* In areas of lowered salinity characteristic macroinvertebrate fauna species are Common Cockle *Cerastoderma edule*, Sandhopper *Corophium volutator*, Laver Spire Shell *Hydrobia ulvae*, Ragworm *Hediste diversicolor* and, when salinity is low, large numbers of oligochaete annelids principally *Tubificoides spp.* With a slight increase in the proportion of sand, the polychaetes Catworm *Nephtys hombergii* and Lugworm *Arenicola marina* occur. In slightly coarser areas, Seagrass *Zostera spp.* beds may develop. Where stones and shells provide an initial attachment for byssus threads, beds of the Blue Mussel *Mytilus edulis* occur and accrete material through faecal deposition. Occasional stones or shells may also provide suitable attachment for stands of furoid macroalgae such as *Fucus vesiculosus* or *Fucus spiralis*.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Basic and Professional

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

t2d5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2d5 Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

(H1140)

Definition

Sands and muds of the coasts of the oceans, their connected seas and associated lagoons, not covered by sea water at low tide.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2e Sheltered muddy gravels

Definition

Sheltered muddy gravel habitats occur principally in estuaries, rias and sea lochs, in areas protected from wave action and strong tidal streams.

Species

In fully marine conditions on the lower shore this habitat can be extremely species-rich because the complex nature of the substratum supports a high diversity of both infauna and epifauna. However, good quality examples of this habitat are very scarce. Polychaetes and bivalve molluscs are normally dominant and the most varied, but representatives of most marine phyla can be present. The fauna is often characterised by a large range in body size. As one moves into an estuary, with a consequent reduction in salinity, there is a marked reduction in species richness. Low salinity (mid to upper estuarine) muddy gravels have a lower, but distinctive, species diversity.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2f Peat and clay exposures with piddocks

Definition

This habitat includes littoral and sublittoral examples of peat and clay exposures, both of which are soft enough to allow them to be bored by a variety of piddocks, particularly *Pholas dactylus*, *Barnea candida* and *Barnea parva*.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Peat and clay exposures with either existing or historical evidence of piddock activity are unusual communities of limited extent, adding to the biodiversity interest where they occur. These unique and fragile habitats are irreplaceable, arising from former lake bed sediments and ancient forested peatland (or ‘submerged forests’). Depending on erosion at the site, both clay and peat can occur together or independently of each other.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2g (Saline lagoons)

Definition

Record as t2g5 Saline lagoons (H1150)

Landscape and Ecological Context

The largest lagoon in the UK is in excess of 800 hectares (Loch of Stenness) although the rest are much smaller and some may be less than one hectare. Lagoons can contain a variety of substrata, often soft sediments which in turn may support tasselweeds and stoneworts as well as filamentous green and brown algae. In addition lagoons contain invertebrates rarely found elsewhere. They also provide important habitat for waterfowl, marshland birds and seabirds.

Species

The flora and invertebrate fauna present can be divided into three main components: those that are essentially freshwater in origin, those that are marine/brackish species and those that are more specialist lagoonal species. The presence of certain indigenous and specialist plants and animals make this habitat important to the UK's overall biodiversity.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

1 subset categories

Categories at the next level

t2g5

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

t2g5 Saline lagoons (H1150)

Definition

Lagoons in the UK are essentially bodies, natural or artificial, of saline water partially separated from the adjacent sea. They retain a proportion of their seawater at low tide and may develop as brackish, full saline or hyper-saline water bodies.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The largest lagoon in the UK is in excess of 800 hectares (Loch of Stenness) although the rest are much smaller and some may be less than one hectare. Lagoons can contain a variety of substrata, often soft sediments which in turn may support tasselweeds and stoneworts as well as filamentous green and brown algae. In addition lagoons contain invertebrates rarely found elsewhere. They also provide important habitat for waterfowl, marshland birds and seabirds.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1150 Coastal lagoons. Tidal lagoons.

Species

The flora and invertebrate fauna present can be divided into three main components: those that are essentially freshwater in origin, those that are marine/brackish species and those that are more specialist lagoonal species. The presence of certain indigenous and specialist plants and animals make this habitat important to the UK's overall biodiversity.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 5

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

Status

Equivalent to Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area Line Point

t2h Beach

Definition

Sand or pebble intertidal sediment.

Position in the Classification

Primary

Level 4

Edition

Professional Only

More detailed categories available

0 subset categories

Categories at the next level

None

Status

Feature Type

Area

Section 2 – Secondary Codes



Figure 2 Secondary code 60 - Sheep grazed

10 Scattered scrub

Definition

Non-woodland habitats that include patches of scattered scrub, each below 0.04ha., with an overall cover of <90%.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h f u s

Feature Type

Area

11 Scattered trees

Definition

Non-woodland habitats that include trees growing at low density, with canopy cover <20%.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

12 Scattered bracken

Definition

Habitats with Bracken, *Pteridium aquilinum*, at < 95% canopy cover at the height of the growing season.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h u s

Feature Type

Area

13 Scattered dwarf shrubs

Definition

Small scale mosaic of patches dominated by dwarf shrubs and patches dominated by acid grassland, with each type failing to meet separate mappable size.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h

Feature Type

Area

14 Scattered rushes

Definition

Rushes (*Juncus spp.*) at low density in vegetation such as grassland or heathland.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h f

Feature Type

Area

15 Rushes dominant

Definition

Habitat with a significant component of *Juncus* species.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h f

Feature Type

Area

16 Tall herb

Definition

Stands of tall perennial or biennial dicotyledons, such as Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and Japanese Knotweed *Reynoutria japonica*.

Inclusions

Includes non-wooded stands of species such as Lemon-scented fern *Oreopteris limbosperma*, Lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, Dryopteris species or Great Wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica*.

Exclusions

Excludes upland species-rich ledges (see s1a9).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

17 Ruderal/ ephemeral

Definition

Short patchy plant associations typical of unmanaged areas in arable landscape, derelict urban sites, quarries and railway ballast.

Species

The vegetation usually lacks a clear dominant species, but consists of a mixture of low-growing (usually <25cm) plants such as Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens* White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Black Medick *Medicago lupulina*, Colt's-foot *Tussilago farfara*, Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* and groundsels/ragworts *Senecio spp.*, or of taller species such as Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium* or Melilot *Melilotus* species and can include low abundance of Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*, Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare* and Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

18 Calcareous - acidic mosaic

Definition

A small-scale mosaic of vegetation types with predominance of calcicole and calcifugous species.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h

Feature Type

Area

19 Ponds (Priority Habitat)

Definition

Permanent and seasonal standing water bodies up to 2 ha in extent which meet one or more of the following criteria: (1) Habitats of international importance: Ponds that meet criteria under Annex I of the Habitats Directive. (2) Species of high conservation importance: Ponds supporting Red Data Book species, UK BAP species, species fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 5 and 8, Habitats Directive Annex II species, a Nationally Scarce wetland plant species, or three Nationally Scarce aquatic invertebrate species. (3) Exceptional assemblages of key biotic groups: Ponds supporting exceptional populations or numbers of key species. Based on (i) criteria specified in guidelines for the selection of biological SSSIs (currently amphibians and dragonflies only), and (ii) exceptionally rich sites for plants or invertebrates (i.e. supporting >30 wetland plant species or >50 aquatic macroinvertebrate species) (4) Ponds of high ecological quality: Ponds classified in the top PSYM category (“high”) for ecological quality (i.e. having a PSYM score >75%). [PSYM (the Predictive SYstem for Multimetrics) is a method for assessing the biological quality of still waters in England and Wales; plant species and-or invertebrate families are surveyed using a standard method; the PSYM model makes predictions for the site based on environmental data and using a minimally impaired pond dataset; comparison of the prediction and observed data gives a % score for ponds quality]. (5) Other important ponds: Individual ponds or groups of ponds with a limited geographic distribution recognised as important because of their age, rarity of type or landscape context e.g. pingos, dune slack ponds, machair ponds.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Point

20 Wood-pasture and parkland

Definition

Wood-pasture and parkland are mosaic habitats valued for their trees, especially veteran and ancient trees, and the plants and animals that they support. Wood-pasture and parkland habitats display at least some of the following characteristics (see context for additional qualifying characteristics): (1) Open grown trees, some of which are ancient or veteran and may be hollow and support significant amounts of dead and decaying timber. If managed, the ancient or veteran trees have generally been pollarded, although wood-pastures may incorporate other forms of tree management. The trees often exhibit a browse line at the maximum height that browsing animals can reach. (2) Scrub as individual plants or clumps, in some instances providing tree protection or opportunities for tree regeneration. (3) Evidence of past land use for extensive agriculture and transhumance systems (where livestock are moved between lowland in winter and upland or mountain grazing in the summer). Abandoned wood-pastures in the uplands are remnants of a lost land-use system which is still extant in many parts of continental Europe. These wood-pastures contain open grown veteran trees (often pollards) which may in some instances now be within a matrix of secondary woodland or scrub that has developed by regeneration and/or planting in the absence of grazing animals. (4) Wood-pasture or parkland that has been converted to other land uses such as arable fields, forestry and amenity land, but where surviving veteran trees are of nature conservation interest. Some of the characteristic wood-pasture and parkland species may be surviving this change in state in the short term while the veteran trees remain alive. Sites may contain ancient pollards (e.g. Hatfield Forest) and other less usual tree forms, which result from trees being managed for timber, fodder and other products in the presence of grazing animals.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Some sites have origins in medieval hunting forests (which may not have been completely treed) and emparkments, wooded commons, or pastures with trees in them. Many of these sites were later developed as landscaped parks creating a rich legacy of layers of designed landscapes and archaeological features also of historic importance. A range of native species usually predominates amongst the oldest trees but there may be non-native trees which have been planted or regenerated naturally.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

21 Traditional orchards

Definition

Habitat structure rather than vegetation type, topography or soils, is the defining feature of the habitat. Traditional orchards are structurally and ecologically similar to wood-pasture and parkland, with open-grown trees set in herbaceous vegetation, but are generally distinguished from these priority habitat complexes by the following characteristics: the species composition of the trees, these being primarily in the family Rosaceae; the usually denser arrangement of the trees; the small scale of individual habitat patches; the wider dispersion and greater frequency of occurrence of habitat patches in the countryside.

Inclusions

Traditional orchards include plantings for nuts, principally hazel nuts, but also walnuts.

Species

Species in the orchard field layer vary with soil type, current management and management history. Most frequently the field layer will be neutral grassland, on the spectrum of species-richness from Lowland Meadows to Modified Grassland. Localised areas of species typical of past disturbance and nutrient enrichment are typical. Traditional orchards on acid grassland and calcareous grassland are less common.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

22 Juniper on heaths or calcareous grasslands (H5130)

Definition

The relationship between Juniper *Juniperus communis* stands and other types of vegetation is complex. In some cases the stands have no characteristics to separate them from typical examples of heath or calcareous grassland vegetation, except for the abundance of juniper. These are often relatively recent stands. However, at some sites, particularly where the juniper has been present for a longer period, a more distinctive assemblage of species occurs. Here the juniper is associated with other shrubs, shade-tolerant herbs, grazing-sensitive tall herbs, bryophytes and ferns.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The main ecological variation occurs between stands on calcareous substrates (principally chalk and limestone but sometimes calcareous drift) and those found on acid substrates. Calcareous types are mainly found in the southern part of the UK, while acid types are mainly found in northern areas. However, both calcareous and acid types can be found on the same sites in northern England and Scotland.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H5130 *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands.

Species

In northern England and Scotland this vegetation is typically dominated by Juniper *Juniperus communis*, with Downy Birch *Betula pubescens* and Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* often scattered throughout. The understorey is rich in acidophilous species, such as Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*, Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile* and Hairy Wood-rush *Luzula pilosa*. Species with a northern distribution, including Chickweed Wintergreen *Trientalis europaea*, Twinflower *Linnaea borealis* and Lesser Twayblade *Listera cordata*, occur locally. In southern England on thin calcareous soils where juniper is not dominant the scrub contains a rich assemblage of other shrubs, mainly of the family *Rosaceae*.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

23 Caves not open to the public (H8310)

Definition

Caves not open to the public, including their water bodies and streams, hosting specialised or high endemic species, or that are of paramount importance for the conservation of Annex II species (e.g. bats, amphibians).

Synonyms

Annex 1: H8310 Caves not open to the public.

Species

Caves lack natural illumination, and therefore support species which are adapted to living in the dark. Microclimatic conditions vary widely within and between caves, and this determines the composition of the fauna and flora. Many species feed on detritus derived from the surface; others are carnivorous. Cave-dwelling species (cavernicoles) in the UK include bacteria, algae, fungi and various groups of invertebrates (e.g. insects, spiders and crustaceans). Characteristic troglobites and trogloniles include *Porrhoma rosenhaueri* (a blind cave spider), *Trechus micros* (a ground beetle), *Niphargus glenneyi* (an amphipod, only known from Devon in the UK), and *Arrhopalites pygmaeus* (a springtail). Some caves are important hibernation sites for bat species.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h s t

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Point

24 Depressions on peat substrates (H7150)

Definition

Depressions on peat substrates occur in complex mosaics with lowland wet heath and valley mire vegetation, in transition mires, on the margins of bog pools and hollows in both raised and blanket bogs and in artificially disturbed areas such as along footpaths and trackways and in old peat-cuttings and abandoned ditches.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion.

Species

The vegetation is typically very open, usually characterised by an abundance of White Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, often with well-developed algal mats, the bog moss *Sphagnum denticulatum*, Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* and, in relatively base-rich sites, brown mosses such as *Drepanocladus revolvens* and *Scorpidium scorpioides*. The Nationally scarce species Brown Beak-sedge *Rhynchospora fusca* and Marsh Clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata* also occur.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h f

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

25 Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh

Definition

Grazing marsh is defined as periodically inundated pasture, or meadow with ditches which maintain the water levels, containing standing brackish or fresh water.

Inclusions

Sites may contain seasonal water-filled hollows and permanent ponds with emergent swamp communities.

Exclusions

Extensive areas of tall fen species like reeds.

Species

The ditches are especially rich in plants and invertebrates.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f r

Status

Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

26 Machair (H21A0)

Definition

Machair is a distinctive type of coastal grassland found in the north and west of Scotland, and in western Ireland. It is associated with calcareous sand, blown inland by very strong prevailing winds from beaches and mobile dunes.

Landscape and Ecological Context

In its strict sense, 'machair' refers to a relatively flat and low lying sand plain formed by dry and wet (seasonally waterlogged) short-turf grasslands above impermeable bedrock, a habitat termed 'machair grassland'. However, machair can also cover the beach zone, mobile and semi-fixed foredunes, dune slacks, fens, swamps, lochs (some of them brackish), saltmarsh, and sand blanketing adjacent hillslopes, together forming the 'machair system'. It is also often associated with an inland transition to heath and mire termed 'blackland' which can include sand-affected peatland.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H21A0 Machairs. The Gaelic word Machair is the only name for this major habitat type in Britain.

Species

Traditional agriculture sustains a rich and varied dune and arable weed flora. Some of the arable weed species are now largely restricted in the UK to these traditionally managed areas. The habitat type also supports large breeding bird populations and is particularly important for waders and Corncrake *Crex crex*.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

27 Heathland on maritime cliffs and slopes

Definition

Habitat that meets definitions of both Dwarf shrub heath (h1) and Maritime Cliffs and Slopes (s2a)

Species

Dwarf shrubs include Western Gorse *Ulex gallii* and Dwarf Gorse *Ulex minor*, Heathers *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica spp.* and Bilberry *Vaccinium spp.*

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h s

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Feature Type

Area

28 Dunes with creeping willow (H2170)

Definition

This habitat type comprises dunes or parts of dunes where Creeping Willow *Salix repens ssp. argentea* is dominant, forming prominent, low scrubby growth.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Creeping willow is found on dunes throughout the UK. It grows predominantly in and around dune slacks, though on some sites it may spread up the drier ridges.

Synonyms

Annex 1: 2170 Dunes with *Salix repens ssp. argentea* (*Salicion arenariae*).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h s

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

29 Inland saltmarshes (H1340)

Definition

Non-coastal sites supporting saltmarsh vegetation.

Landscape and Ecological Context

The Annex I type comprises anthropogenic stands found, for example, in former salt-working sites, as well as natural or near-natural forms. Inland salt meadows are a rare habitat type, having declined dramatically in the past 50 years in all areas where it occurs. The destruction of much of the natural habitat can be traced back to early salt-production activities.

Synonyms

Annex 1: 1340 Inland Salt Meadow.

Species

In the UK this vegetation corresponds to NVC types SM16 *Festuca rubra* salt-marsh community and SM23 *Spergularia marina* – *Puccinellia distans* saltmarsh community.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f s

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

30 Estuaries (H1130)

Definition

Downstream part of a river valley, subject to the tide and extending from the limit of brackish waters. River estuaries are coastal inlets where, unlike 'large shallow inlets and bays' there is generally a substantial freshwater influence. The mixing of freshwater and sea water and the reduced current flows in the shelter of the estuary lead to deposition of fine sediments, often forming extensive intertidal sand and mud flats. Where the tidal currents are faster than flood tides, most sediments deposit to form a delta at the mouth of the estuary.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1130 Estuaries

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r t

Status

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

31 Large shallow inlets and bays (H1160)

Definition

Large shallow inlets and bays are large indentations of the coast, generally more sheltered from wave action than the open coast. They are relatively shallow (with water less than 30m over most of the area), and, in contrast to estuaries (see 30), generally have much lower freshwater influence. In the UK, three main sub-types can be identified that meet the Annex I definition: (1) Embayment. A type of marine inlet where the line of the coast typically follows a concave sweep between rocky headlands, sometimes with only a narrow entrance to the embayment. (2) Fjordic sea loch. A series of shallow basins connected to the sea via shallow, sometimes intertidal, sills. Fjords are found in areas of low-lying ground which have been subject to glacial scouring. They have a highly irregular outline, no main channel and lack the high relief and U-shaped cross-section of fjordic sea lochs. (3) Ria. A drowned river valley in an area of high relief; most have resulted from the post-glacial rise in relative sea level.

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1160 Large shallow inlets and bays. In Scotland the Ria sub-type is called a voe.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

t (+marine)

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area

32 Reefs (H1170)

Definition

Reefs are rocky marine habitats or biological concretions that rise from the seabed. They are generally subtidal but may extend as an unbroken transition into the intertidal zone, where they are exposed to the air at low tide. Intertidal areas are only included within this Annex I type where they are connected to subtidal reefs. Reefs are very variable in form and in the communities that they support. Two main types of reef can be recognised: those where animal and plant communities develop on rock or stable boulders and cobbles, and those where structure is created by the animals themselves (biogenic reefs).

Synonyms

Annex 1: H1170 Reefs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

t (+marine)

Status

Subset of Priority Habitat

Annex 1 Habitat

Feature Type

Area or Line

33 Ancient woodland site

Definition

England and Wales definition: land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1600AD. Scotland definition: land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750AD. Northern Ireland definition: “long-established woodland” - land that has been continuously wooded since the first comprehensive maps of Ireland were produced in 1830-44.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Ancient woodland sites can include a) fragments of woodland in inaccessible areas (cliff, gorges etc), b) ancient high forest (mainly pine and birch in Scotland), c) relicts of wood pasture (unenclosed woodland in former medieval forests, old deer parks and wooded commons), d) ancient coppice woods.

Inclusions

The tree and shrub layer is composed of species native to the site derived from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth from individuals which were themselves derived from natural regeneration (Ancient semi-natural woodland - use codes 33 and 37). If an ancient woodland site has been replanted then use codes 33 and 36 - Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site, or "PAWS").

Exclusions

Land that was an ancient woodland site in the recent past but has now been converted to a non-woodland land-use.

Species

A number of ancient woodland indicator plant species lists have been published. These may be regionally specific within the UK. The presence of several indicator species may help to identify an ancient woodland site. The following species are the most frequently used indicators: Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Ramsons *Allium ursinum*, Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*, Wood Sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, Wild Service *Sorbus torminalis*, Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata* and Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c u s

Feature Type

Area

34 Arable reversion grassland

Definition

Grassland that has its origins on reverted arable land, primarily through agri-environment scheme incentives in the late 20th and early 21st century. Targets, in terms of improved or species-rich, and methods - re-seeding or encouraging natural regeneration through long term set-aside - have varied according to context. All types are included here.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g

Feature Type

Area

35 Biodiversity offset

Definition

Habitat created or restored to compensate for unavoidable residual impacts on habitats or species arising from development following appropriate adherence to the mitigation hierarchy.

Inclusions

Includes registered Habitat Banks. Includes habitats designed for the benefit of species. Includes schemes delivered by landowners, local authorities, developers and NGOs.

Exclusions

Excludes mitigation measures delivered within development sites.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r t

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

36 Plantation

Definition

Obviously planted trees which are predominantly even-aged, of uniform density and similar forms, normally occurring in rows.

Inclusions

Includes wooded ornamental gardens and arboretum collections.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

37 Semi-natural woodland

Definition

Composed of trees which are usually uneven-aged, of mixed density and forms, and which occur in natural groupings.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

38 Secondary woodland

Definition

Woodlands that have regrown on abandoned or neglected ground that had previously been used for agriculture, grazing or development of towns, villages, industry and roads.

Exclusions

Excludes plantations.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

39 Freshwater - man-made

Definition

Freshwater bodies that have been dug by humans.

Inclusions

Includes artificial ponds, fishing lakes, water-filled sand and gravel pits, ornamental lakes, fen drains and ditches (especially in Coastal Floodplain and Grazing Marsh).

Exclusions

Excludes: reservoirs (see 1040) and canals (see r1e).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

40 Freshwater - heavily modified

Definition

A water course modified in situ by regrading, resectioning/reprofiling (including dams, weirs, and fords), alteration of its longitudinal profile, open culverting, bank reinforcement or protection (revetment, piling, gabions, rip-rap, etc.), canalisation, embankment, or by other river-engineering work which permanently or quasipermanently alters the profile of the channel. These modifications affect the cross-sectional and longitudinal profile of the channel but do not significantly affect the plan view profile of the channel.

Exclusions

Excludes standing water bodies, such as ponds or lakes (use 39 or 41).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

Feature Type

Area Line Point

41 Freshwater - natural

Definition

Freshwater bodies of natural origin.

Inclusions

Includes natural ponds, lakes, streams, rivers.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

42 Castle/ historic building

Definition

Unoccupied castles, monuments, follies, heritage properties and historical ruins.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

43 Recreated habitat

Definition

Habitat, such as heathland, wetland, wildlife grassland and others, that has been deliberately established on land not occupied by that habitat category at the time when recreation occurs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h

Feature Type

Area

44 Landfill

Definition

Areas where domestic and industrial waste are buried with interspersed layers of soil or clay. This secondary code can be applied to both working and closed landfill sites (may have a soil cap and covering grassland). This secondary code may often be used with code 43.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h u s

Feature Type

Area

45 Canalside

Definition

Land, typically including a towpath, between the aquatic habitat of the canal and the boundary of the canal corridor.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h u s

Feature Type

Area or Line

46 Railside

Definition

Land including embankments and cuttings between the rail track and the boundary of the rail corridor.

Exclusions

Excludes the rail track, rail infrastructure and buildings (see 107).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h u s

Feature Type

Area or Line

47 Native

Definition

Predominantly species which are within their natural past or present distribution.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

48 Non-native

Definition

Predominantly species which have been introduced by human action outside their past or present distribution.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

49 Veteran Trees

Definition

A tree, usually in the second or mature stage of its life, with important wildlife and habitat features including; hollowing or associated decay fungi, holes, wounds and large dead branches. It will generally include old trees but also younger, middle aged trees where premature aging characteristics are present.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

51 Coppice

Definition

Crops of marketable broadleaved species that have at least 2 stems per stool and are either being worked or are capable of being worked on rotation. With the exception of hazel coppice more than half the stems should be capable of producing 1 m timber lengths of good form.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

52 Coppice with standards

Definition

Two-storey stands where the overstorey consists of at least 25 stems per ha that are older than the understorey of worked coppice by at least one coppice rotation.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

53 Felled

Definition

Woodland areas that have been felled or stands where the stocking has been reduced to less than 20% and where it is expected that these areas will be replanted.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

54 Ground prepared for planting

Definition

Land recently converted from some other land use to woodland and will show plough furrows or mounding but the new planting (if present) cannot yet be discerned.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

55 High forest

Definition

All woodland except stands managed as Coppice or Coppice-with-Standards with, or with the potential to achieve, a tree cover of more than 20%. Some stands have the potential to produce sawlogs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

56 Young trees - planted

Definition

Areas where planting is clearly visible, but the trees cannot yet be allocated between Conifer and Broadleaved due to their immaturity. These areas can be on either land new to woodland or where a felled crop has been replaced.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

57 Young trees - self-set

Definition

Tree seedlings or saplings of natural regeneration origin.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

58 Grazed

Definition

Managed by farm livestock, including exotic species.

Exclusions

Excludes habitat exclusively grazed by wild animals.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area

59 Cattle grazed

Definition

Managed by cattle - direct evidence of animals or their signs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area

60 Sheep grazed

Definition

Managed by sheep - direct evidence of animals or their signs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area

61 Horse grazed

Definition

Managed by horses - direct evidence of animals or their signs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area

62 Other grazed

Definition

Managed by livestock other than cattle, sheep or horses; e.g. goats, pigs, donkeys, farmed deer or exotic animals such as llamas/ alpacas.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area

63 Burnt

Definition

Evidence of deliberate or accidental burning of vegetation (e.g. dwarf-shrubs, grass, bracken, gorse) that has consumed within the current year or season all or most of the above-ground biomass.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area

64 Mown

Definition

Mechanised cutting of grass, bracken, tall-herbs or dwarf-shrubs, including flailing.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h f s

Feature Type

Area

65 Hay

Definition

Mechanised cutting or scything of grassland followed by sun-drying and collection of the cut material.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h s

Feature Type

Area

66 Frequently mown

Definition

Frequent mechanised cutting of grass as in garden lawns, golf-course fairways and urban parks managed as short grassland.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g s

Feature Type

Area

67 Dry stone wall

Definition

A wall consisting of stones without mortar or cement.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c u s

Feature Type

Line

68 Mortared wall

Definition

An upright construction of stone, bricks or masonry with mortar.

Exclusions

Excludes walls in primary habitats assigned to Urban.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c u s

Feature Type

Line

69 Fence

Definition

A linear barrier usually comprising wire with wooden or metal posts.

Inclusions

Includes post and rail fences.

Exclusions

Excludes walls.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Line

70 Hedgebank

Definition

Earthbank with a more or less continuous hedgerow along its top.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Line

71 Earthbank

Definition

Banks that at one time may have had a hedge along the top but where the hedge is now absent. The bank has a slope on both sides.

Exclusions

Excludes archaeological features such as strip lynchets.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Line

72 Stone-faced bank

Definition

A stone-faced bank with or without a hedge along its top.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Line

73 Bare ground

Definition

Any type of bare soil or other unvegetated substrate. Link only with vegetated primary habitats that surround or are adjacent to much of the bare ground patch.

Exclusions

Excludes bare ground defined by their unvegetated state e.g. Intertidal mud.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area

74 Ploughed

Definition

Agricultural land that has been cultivated and has not yet re-vegetated.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

c

Feature Type

Area

75 Active Management

Definition

The habitat is being actively managed now. Record the management with a secondary code.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

76 Recent Management

Definition

The habitat is not being actively managed now but there is evidence of recent management within the last three years. Record the type of recent management, if possible, with a secondary code.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

77 Neglected

Definition

The habitat is not being actively managed now and is likely to have been unmanaged for 3 to 10 years. Record the type of previous management, if possible, with a secondary code.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

78 Abandoned

Definition

The habitat is not being actively managed now and is likely to have been unmanaged for at least 10 years. Record the type of previous management, if possible, with a secondary code.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

79 Ancient management

Definition

There is evidence of former use, at least 50 years ago.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

80 Unmanaged

Definition

There is no evidence of any management at any time.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

81 Flailed hedgerow

Definition

Hedgerow managed by mechanical flail in the last 3 years.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h

Feature Type

Line

82 Laid hedgerow

Definition

Hedgerow managed by traditional laying (layering).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h

Feature Type

Line

83 Grip

Definition

Small drainage channels across moorland or floodmeadows that help remove surface water but not affecting soil water.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h f

Feature Type

Line or Point

84 Grip blocking

Definition

Bund or dam that prevents surface water entering (or rarely leaving) a grip.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h f

Feature Type

Point

85 Cutover peat

Definition

Areas of bog where peat has been 'mined' leaving bare peat and/or pools often with a face (> 20cm) marking where digging ceased.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h f r

Feature Type

Area

86 Accessible natural greenspace

Definition

Greenspace, natural and semi-natural, including rivers and lakes, that is accessible to the public at all times.

Inclusions

"Greenspace" includes habitats g (except g4), h (except h2), w, f, s and t, including these habitats within an urban landscape. Urban habitats are only included if u1a or they also have appropriate secondary codes. "Accessible" means places that are available for the general public to use free of charge and without time restrictions, although some sites may be closed to the public overnight and there may be fees for parking a vehicle.

Exclusions

Greenspace excludes intensive farmland and the built environment.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

Feature Type

Area or Line

87 Airport

Definition

Used for take-off and landing of planes, including the associated site infrastructure for passengers and freight. Associated industry should be recorded separately (see 96).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

88 Barn

Definition

A building of wood, stone or brick construction, or other traditional building materials, currently or formerly used in connection with farming, not used as a residence or other human living space.

Exclusions

Excludes modern agricultural buildings of steel construction.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area or Point

89 Car Park

Definition

Surfaced or unsurfaced area used predominantly for parking of vehicles.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

90 Commercial building

Definition

Any part of a city or town in which the primary land use is commercial activities (e.g. shops, offices, theatres, restaurants).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

91 Development site

Definition

Land where site works have started in preparation for development, but the construction phase of the development project is not yet complete.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area

92 Educational building

Definition

Buildings where education is the primary land-use.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Synonyms

Inclusions

Includes nurseries, schools, colleges, universities, field study centres used for education.

Exclusions

Excludes greenspace around buildings, such as playing fields (see 710) and educational nature reserves.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

93 Fish farm

Definition

Places devoted to the operation of fish hatcheries and fish farms in inshore and fresh water areas.

Exclusions

Excludes shellfish production. Excludes intensive angling lakes and intensive netting in estuaries.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f c u s r t

Feature Type

Area

94 Green lane

Definition

An unsurfaced track vegetated underfoot, often enclosed by hedges. May or may not be a public right of way.

Exclusions

Excludes unsurfaced tracks where the majority of the track width is unvegetated.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h

Feature Type

Area or Line

95 Grouse moor

Definition

Moorland managed primarily for the purposes of grouse rearing and shooting.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f h

Feature Type

Area

96 Industrial building

Definition

Buildings used for heavy or light industry.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

97 Industrial/ Retail building

Definition

Land that is used for a mixture of industry, business and retail purposes, such as industrial estates and business parks.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

98 Institutional building

Definition

Buildings used by an institution, an organization founded for a religious, educational, professional, or social purpose.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

99 Nature reserve

Definition

Statutory and non-statutory nature reserves designated or managed by government agencies, local authorities or NGOs.

Exclusions

Excludes private nature reserves where management responsibility lies with a private landowner.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line

100 Oil/gas drilling or extraction

Definition

Exploration or extraction site for onshore or off-shore oil or gas.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Point

101 Open cast mining

Definition

Mineral extraction, such as coal, mined at the surface.

Inclusions

Includes sand, gravel and marl pits. Includes all site infrastructure and spoil heaps.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c u s r

Feature Type

Area

102 Mine

Definition

Mineral extraction, such as coal, mined underground.

Inclusions

The surface expression of mining activity. Includes all site infrastructure and spoil heaps.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c u s r

Feature Type

Point

103 Permanent agricultural grassland

Definition

Grassland used for agriculture that has not been ploughed and re-seeded for at least five years.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g

Feature Type

Area

104 Port/ marina

Definition

A harbour, on the coast or tidal river, sheltering naval, fishing, container or recreational boats or ships.

Exclusions

Excludes water sports facilities not involving boats. Excludes river, lake and canal boating facilities.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

t

Feature Type

Area

105 Quarry - hard rock

Definition

A large, deep pit, from which stone has been extracted.

Exclusions

Excludes sand, gravel and marl pits.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

Feature Type

Area

106 Quarry - sand and gravel

Definition

Open mining for materials occurring as small grain sizes, such as sand and gravel.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

Feature Type

Area

107 Railway

Definition

The rail track of an active railway, rail infrastructure and buildings.

Exclusions

Excludes station car parks. Excludes vegetated areas between the rail track and railway fence (see 46).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line

108 Reservoir

Definition

An artificial water body created by a dam, for public water supply or irrigation purposes.

Inclusions

Includes drawdown zones.

Exclusions

Excludes the dam. Excludes fishing lakes, industrial lagoons, gravel pits, quarry pools.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area

109 Residential

Definition

Buildings used permanently or intermittently for human living.

Inclusions

Includes hotels, guest houses, holiday chalets, residential institutions.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area

110 Retail

Definition

Shops selling direct to the public.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area

111 Road

Definition

Transport route with a metalled tarmac or concrete surface.

Inclusions

Includes private estate roads. Includes pavements and other sealed surface roadside land.

Exclusions

Excludes RUPPs (Roads Used as A Public Path) and BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic) if unsurfaced (see 94). Excludes cycleways where separate from a highway (see 421). Excludes the "soft estate" - verges and other vegetated roadside land (see 431).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line

112 Ruined building

Definition

A building that is no longer used for its previous purpose because of physical damage or decay e.g. with an open roof.

Exclusions

Excludes ruined barns (see 88).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

113 Sea wall

Definition

Stone structures on the coast designed for sea defence.

Inclusions

Includes large boulders where placed for sea defence.

Exclusions

Excludes wooden groynes.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line

114 Solar panel array

Definition

An arrangement of ground-mounted or floating solar photovoltaic panels designed for renewable electricity generation.

Exclusions

Solar panels mounted on the roofs of buildings.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h c u s

Feature Type

Area or Point

115 Track

Definition

A route, more or less defined and approximately of vehicle width, used as transport by vehicle, on foot, cycle or horse, unsurfaced, or surfaced as a cycleway separate from a highway.

Inclusions

Includes the track verges.

Exclusions

Excludes roads, paths of less than vehicle width.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area or Line

116 Wind farm

Definition

A cluster of onshore or offshore wind turbines designed for renewable electricity generation.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

117 Dry

Definition

Water table < 100 cm of the surface, water available only during some periods

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c s

Feature Type

Area

118 Mesic

Definition

Water table 40-100 cm of the surface, available water during most of the non-summer period, may dry out during the mid-summer period.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c u s

Feature Type

Area

119 Seasonally wet

Definition

Water table variable at the surface and waterlogged for the winter months or spring flooding season, becoming wet or mesic during the summer period.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

120 Wet

Definition

Water table within 40 cm of the surface and soil containing free water for most of the year.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

121 Waterlogged

Definition

Soils or vegetation saturated with water.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

122 Inundation vegetation

Definition

Frequently inundated vegetation, the water table distinctly above the level of the substrate for most of the year.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f s r

Feature Type

Area

123 Neutral grassland with calcicoles

Definition

Grassland that is neutral in overall composition but with a distinct element of species characteristic of calcareous soils.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g

Feature Type

Area

124 Cave open to the public

Definition

The surface expression of caves, coastal or inland.

Exclusions

Excludes "Caves not open to the public" Annex 1 habitat (see 23).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h s

Feature Type

Point

125 Soil erosion

Definition

The displacement of a field's topsoil by the natural physical forces of water and wind or through forces associated with farming activities such as tillage.

Inclusions

Includes both human and natural erosion.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c f s

Feature Type

Point

126 Snow patch

Definition

Snow field lying into the spring or early summer where surrounding land is snow-free.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h f s

Feature Type

Point

127 Peat

Definition

Land with any depth of surface peat, bare or vegetated.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c s

Feature Type

Area

128 Spring

Definition

Gushing or trickling springs and the vegetation associated with them. Included are springs arising from a point source which seep at or over the surface and are not immediately channelised.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c s r

Feature Type

Line or Point

129 Flush

Definition

Lines of water flow not forming streams – wetland vegetation indicators present.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Line

130 Ecotone

Definition

Transitional area between two different ecosystems, such as a forest and a grassland, with species characteristic of each and often some restricted to the zone.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

Feature Type

Area or Line

131 Tidal river

Definition

A river whose flow and level are influenced by tides and vegetation is affected by saltwater.

Exclusions

Excludes estuaries (see 30).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

132 Nutrient-poor substrate

Definition

Terrestrial or aquatic habitat with markedly low levels of macronutrients – nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area

133 Nutrient-enriched substrate

Definition

A surface, such as stream bottom, soil, tree bark or rock, with locally higher levels of nutrients, such as nitrates.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area

134 Base-rich substrate

Definition

Soil, water, tree bark or rock with high levels of calcium or magnesium ions.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area

135 Acidic substrate

Definition

Soil, water, tree bark or rock with high levels of hydrogen ions.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area

136 Compacted substrate

Definition

Soils with increased bulk density and lower porosity, in farmed or urban environments, usually caused by use of heavy machinery or development.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area

137 Ridge and furrow

Definition

An archaeological pattern of ridges and troughs created by a system of ploughing used in Europe during the Middle Ages, typical of the open field system.

Synonyms

Also known as Rig (or rigg) and furrow, mostly in the North East of England and Scotland.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w

Feature Type

Area

138 Saline influence

Definition

A habitat close to the sea showing some effects of saltwater or spray, with vegetation including halophytic species.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

Feature Type

Area

139 Active shingle rivers

Definition

This habitat comprises those rivers which have significant reaches composed of a gravel or pebble bed material (with grain sizes in the range 2–256 mm), sometimes with discrete sandy reaches or deposits (0.064–2 mm diameter) in areas of lower slope and having characteristic suites of features generated by the processes of erosion, sediment transport, deposition, and storage. Their headwaters are usually in upland areas which generate high-energy discharges, resulting in intermittent sediment movement. Average bed sediment size usually declines downstream (with the downstream reduction in underlying gradient and stream power) generating a commensurate change in habitat.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

140 Anthills

Definition

Mounds of soil, usually at least part-vegetated, in grassland, created by ants.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w

Feature Type

Area or Point

141 Backwaters

Definition

An area of water that is connected to a river but is not affected by its current.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

142 Base-rich water

Definition

Water with relatively high levels of dissolved calcium and magnesium.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f r

Feature Type

Line

143 Coarse woody debris in-channel

Definition

Entire trees, branches or root plates that have fallen into watercourses. Often spans the entire width of smaller streams to accumulate into 'debris dams', whilst in main rivers wood collects in backwaters, shallows or wooded margins.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Line or Point

144 Chalk rivers

Definition

Chalk rivers have a characteristic plant community, often dominated in mid-channel by River Water Crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus* var. *pseudofluitans* and Starworts *Callitriche obtusangula* and *Callitriche platycarpa*, and along the edges by Watercress *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* and Lesser Waterparsnip *Berula erecta*. They have low banks which support a range of water-loving plants.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

145 Complex woody structure

Definition

Woodland habitat with a wide range of structural types such as shrubs, understorey, mature and senescent trees.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

146 Exposed riverine sediments

Definition

Mounds of sediment which have recently been deposited in any channel of flowing water and then subsequently exposed by reduced water levels, including shoals, bars, berms, spits, sandbanks and shingle banks.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Line or Point

147 Fallen dead wood abundant

Definition

Fallen dead wood in woodland at least 40m³ per hectare.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

148 Flower forage abundant

Definition

Wildflower rich brownfields in urban areas or open habitats in agricultural landscapes providing important forage for bees, bumblebees or other invertebrates.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Basic and Professional

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area

149 Gravel beds

Definition

A river bed comprising clastic material of at least 2mm in diameter, including pebbles and cobbles. Characteristic of montane and upland valleys.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

150 High humidity levels

Definition

Areas with a microclimate of permanently high humidity, as in a constricted valley around a watercourse, likely to be conducive to invertebrate and epiphytic species.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

Feature Type

Area

151 Landslips

Definition

An area of active or recent soil movement down a slope.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Area or Line

152 Large hollows or cavities

Definition

Semi-enclosed cavities which have naturally formed in the trunk or branch of a tree. Predominantly found in old trees, living or dead.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s

Feature Type

Point

153 Mudbanks

Definition

A submerged or partly submerged bank of mud along a shore or in a river.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

154 Open grown trees

Definition

Trees that have grown with little or no competition from neighbouring trees, developing a full crown.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Point

155 Riffles

Definition

An area of river or stream characterised by shallow depths with fast, turbulent water.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

156 Rock outcrop

Definition

Rock outcrops or large boulders (> 3m wide and/or high) not large enough to be mapped as an area feature (< 0.04ha).

Exclusions

Excludes limestone pavements (see s1b5), cliffs or scree (see s1).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area or Point

157 Shallow pools

Definition

An area of slow current within a faster current of freshwater, of modest depth.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f c u s r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

158 Shelter from wave action

Definition

A section of shore facing away from the open sea and protected from heavy wave action.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

t

Feature Type

Area or Line

159 Standing dead wood abundant

Definition

More than 20 standing dead trees (snags) per hectare, some of which are larger than 40cm diameter.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area

160 Sward type mosaic

Definition

A grassland site with a mosaic of sward types such as short grazed/mown, tall flower-rich, tussocky.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g

Feature Type

Area

161 Tall or tussocky sward

Definition

Tall swards, with or without occasional tussocks, providing nectar, pollen, foodplants, seeds, dead seed heads and prey items for invertebrates and certain bird species.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g

Feature Type

Area

162 Temporary water bodies

Definition

Water bodies containing water normally for less than four months each year.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area

163 Unobstructed river system

Definition

River systems allowing completely free movement of fish from source to mouth with no artificial obstructions such as dams and weirs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

164 Wet moss lawns

Definition

Areas where moss is the dominant ground cover in wet situations.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

165 Waterfall

Definition

A cascade of water falling from a height, formed when a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep incline.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

C

Feature Type

Line or Point

166 Woodland open space

Definition

Rides, glades, power lines completely surrounded by woodland.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area or Line

167 Topogenous

Definition

High water tables are maintained principally by the topography of the site, with mainly vertical water movement through peat and soil.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

168 Soligenous

Definition

High water tables are maintained principally by lateral water movement.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

169 Rich fen

Definition

Wetlands fed by mineral-enriched calcareous waters (pH 5 or more).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

170 Poor fen

Definition

Wetlands fed by water derived from base-poor rock such as sandstones and granites.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

171 Fertile fen

Definition

Nutrient enriched fen that is dominated by species of eutrophic conditions.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area Line Point

172 Infertile fen

Definition

Fen with no signs of eutrophication and with species not associated with high fertility.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area Line Point

173 Swamp

Definition

Species-poor wetland vegetation types, each dominated by often tall or bulky monocotyledons and with a usually ill-defined understorey element or none.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

174 Tall fen

Definition

Wetlands consisting largely of Common Reed *Phragmites australis* or Great Fen-sedge *Cladium mariscus* stands mixed with herbaceous dicotyledons such as Milk Parsley *Peucedanum palustre*, Hemp-agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum* or Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*; some examples are maintained by mowing and thus the phyognomy can be highly variable.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

175 Small sedge fen

Definition

Wetlands with the smaller sedges such as Dioecious Sedge *Carex dioica*, Tawny Sedge *Carex hostiana*, Common Sedge *Carex nigra*, Long-stalked Yellow-sedge *Carex viridula subsp. brachyrrhyncha* and Carnation Sedge *Carex panicea*, and maybe sedge allies such as Few-flowered Spike-rush *Eleocharis quinqueflora* and Flat-sedge *Blasmus compressus*, usually in association with extensive bryophyte cover, and formed in areas of lower fertility.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

176 Bryophyte dominated

Definition

Wetlands in which a wide range of bryophytes may form continuous carpets, the species assemblages being determined by the base-status, rather than fertility (which is generally very low), of the water supplying the fen, and generally consists either of 'brown-moss' carpets comprising species such as *Palustriella commutata*, *Campylium stellatum*, *Scorpidium revolvens* and *Scorpidium scorpioides* in base-enriched conditions or *Sphagnum* swards in more acidic conditions.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

177 Open water fen

Definition

Fens formed by rafts of vegetation colonising open water and then sinking to form a layer of peat.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

178 Transition fen

Definition

Transition fens develop around a body of open water. The proportion of open water is large. The fen may consist of an encroaching stand of reeds and sedges, or may develop as an expanding floating raft of vegetation.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

179 Basin fen

Definition

Wetlands that have developed in a flooded basin with a limited through-flow of water. The lake may infill by gradual successional encroachment by open-water transition fen, or may become enclosed first by a 'Schwingmoor' layer and then infill with detritus sinking downwards from the 'Schwingmoor' layer.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

180 Flood plain fen

Definition

Flood-plain fen develops on the waterlogged, periodically-inundated flood-plain of a river system. Although the river channel and leveés contain the river for most of the time, flood-events allow the river to spread across the flood-plain, leaving much standing water, waterlogged ground and riverine deposits as it recedes back into its channel.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

181 Basin raised bog lagg fen

Definition

Basin raised bog lagg fen represents the minerotrophic transition zone surrounding a basin-raised bog, where bog waters and groundwater mix.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

182 Flood plain raised bog lagg fen

Definition

This type represents the minerotrophic transition zone surrounding a flood-plain raised bog, where bog waters and groundwater mix.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

183 Spring fen

Definition

Spring fen often represents a rather small feature of some tens of metres in length, where groundwater emerges and often gives rise to a moss-dominated mound of vegetation.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

184 Surface flow spring fen

Definition

A surface flow spring fen often represents a much larger feature than a simple spring fen (which may still form a relatively small mound at the head of this system). The emerging spring water flows across the ground surface downslope, sometimes for considerable distances, giving rise to fen peat formation which is usually highly linear in plan view, forming pale bands or fingers running downslope.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

185 Percolation spring fen

Definition

This type of fen develops when the water emerging from a simple spring becomes engulfed in extensive growth of bryophytes – either *Sphagnum* or ‘brown mosses’ – leaving no trace of moving water on the surface because it all now percolates downslope through the mass of bryophyte litter and peat which has accumulated.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

186 Surface flush or rill or soakaway

Definition

This represents a relatively narrow zone of water collection and transport, often representing the upper reaches of what will eventually become small stream-lines.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area or Point

187 Valley fen

Definition

A valley fen in some ways is a diminished version of a flood-plain fen, in that the central watercourse is not a river but a small stream or seepage-line, and it rarely if ever floods across the shallow valley system. Consequently the vegetation zone a little set back from the water-course is often base-poor and somewhat stagnant, leading to development of habitat very similar to bog, but still minerotrophic.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

188 Ladder fen

Definition

A ladder fen is a particular form of valley fen, but one in which shallow bog-pool patterns run across the line of water seepage rather than parallel with it, as is the case with a typical valley fen.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

Section 3 – Green Infrastructure Section



Figure 3 Green Infrastructure Secondary Code 210 - Urban Park

200 Parks and gardens

Definition

Areas of land designed, constructed, managed and maintained for casual leisure and recreation. Normally enclosed.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

More detailed categories available

1

Categories at the next level

210 220 230

Feature Type

Area

210 Urban park

Definition

Traditional public open space laid out formally for leisure and recreation. Often, but not exclusively, owned by the Local Authority.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

More detailed categories available

5 subset categories

Categories at the next level

211 212 213 214

Feature Type

Area

211 Pocket park

Definition

Small, < 1ha, urban park. Few, if any, facilities – typically just play equipment and maybe benches. Few natural features – just a small grassed area with a few shade trees.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

212 Neighbourhood park

Definition

1 - 5ha urban park. Limited number of sports facilities. Play equipment, picnic sites, barbeque facilities and green-space set aside for organised sport. Larger areas of lawn, a field or two for organised sports and plantings of ornamental vegetation with shade trees. Some areas of impermeable surface.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

213 Community park

Definition

5 - 10ha urban park. Some active recreation or organised sports facilities. May include community centre. Large areas of managed landscape, abundant lawn, shade trees and ornamental vegetation. Larger areas of impermeable surface.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

214 District park

Definition

10 - 15ha urban park. Many sports facilities. Community centre, sports fields for football, soccer basketball courts, tennis courts etc. Generous areas of managed landscape abundant lawn, shade trees and ornamental vegetation. Several grassed areas dedicated to organised sports. Several areas of impermeable surface.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

215 Regional park

Definition

25+ ha. urban park. Range of facilities e.g. large scale recreational activities – field sports, archery, canoeing, nature trails etc. Abundant natural features, mixture of managed landscapes and endemic vegetation. Much lower percentage of park is comprised of impermeable surfaces.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

220 Country park

Definition

Large areas set aside for informal countryside recreation near or within towns or cities. Few managed features and few, if any, facilities.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

230 Garden

Definition

Land within the curtilage of a residential property, managed for leisure, visual amenity, wildlife or food production, or unmanaged.

Inclusions

Includes detached garages, greenhouses, polytunnels, sheds, communal amenity areas, pathways, drives and small or large patches of regularly mown grass.

Exclusions

Excludes the food production or grazed parts of smallholdings and crofts. Excludes mappable habitat patches of other habitats (but not "regularly mown grass" within gardens). Excludes formal and walled gardens. Excludes rain gardens.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

231 232

Feature Type

Area

231 Vegetated garden

Definition

Garden that is principally vegetated, for example with large areas of grass and flower beds.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

232 Un-vegetated garden

Definition

Garden that is principally un-vegetated, for example with large areas of paving or decking.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area

300 Natural and semi-natural open space

Definition

Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r t

More detailed categories available

18 subset categories

Categories at the next level

310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380

Feature Type

Area

310 Grasslands

Definition

Vegetation with more than 75% cover of herbaceous species (grasses, sedges, rushes, herbs, forbs (mosses or lichens) with wetland tall-herbs/ sedges and halophytic species absent or occasional.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g

Feature Type

Area Line Point

320 Heathland

Definition

Vegetation with more than 25% cover of dwarf shrub species < 1.5 metre high.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h

Feature Type

Area

330 Scrub

Definition

Vegetation dominated by more or less closed canopy shrubs up to 5 metres in height.

Exclusions

Excludes coppiced woodland, young plantations, hedgerows.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h f s r t

Feature Type

Area

340 Woodland

Definition

Areas where more than 20% of the land is closed canopy tree cover.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

341 342 343

Feature Type

Area

341 Woodland; broadleaved

Definition

Woodland containing more than 80% by area of broadleaved species.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

342 Woodland; mixed

Definition

A combination of broadleaved and coniferous species where each category occupies at least 20% of the canopy by area.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

343 Woodland; coniferous

Definition

Woodland containing more than 80% by area of coniferous species.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w

Feature Type

Area

350 Abandoned ruderal and derelict areas

Definition

Areas which have been disturbed by previous development or land use but are now abandoned. They will contain open mosaic habitat in the early stages of natural succession.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

351 352

Feature Type

Area

351 Vacant/derelict land

Definition

Land which has been disturbed by previous development or use but has no current land use.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area

352 Disused quarry

Definition

Areas that remain after quarrying ceases but where no new land use has been initiated. May be water-filled, but are not necessarily so.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

S

Feature Type

Area

360 Fresh water body

Definition

Expanses of fresh water. Does not include water courses or reservoirs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

361 362

Feature Type

Area or Point

361 Natural lake or pond

Definition

Enclosed natural standing water bodies containing non-saline water with (semi)natural aquatic communities and natural banks.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Point

362 Artificial lake or pond

Definition

Enclosed artificial standing water bodies containing non-saline water with (semi)natural aquatic communities and artificial/managed banks.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Point

370 Wetlands

Definition

Areas with soil permanently or periodically saturated with water and characteristic flora and fauna. Both tidal and non-tidal.

Inclusions

Includes bogs, fens and marshes.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f

Feature Type

Area

380 Coastal

Definition

Areas in the marginal zone between the sea and the land. Extends to areas exposed at low tide.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

t

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

381 382 383 384

Feature Type

Area

381 Beaches and sand dunes

Definition

Areas covered by sparsely vegetated sand, shaped by wind or water.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

t

Feature Type

Area

382 Foreshore/rocks

Definition

Areas on the foreshore with pebbles, cobbles or rocks.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

t

Feature Type

Area

383 Tidal water

Definition

Open water with mixing of saline and fresh-water, for example an estuary.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

t

Feature Type

Area

384 Open saline water

Definition

Areas of unenclosed saline water.

Inclusions

Includes the sea and harbours.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

(marine)

Feature Type

Area

400 Green corridors

Definition

Linear open space features which aid the movement of humans and wildlife.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

More detailed categories available

9 subset categories

Categories at the next level

410 420 430

Feature Type

Area or Line

410 Watercourse

Definition

Channels of running water.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

411 412

Feature Type

Area or Line

411 Natural watercourse

Definition

Natural running water channels, including rivers, springs, streams and temporary water courses, with natural riverbeds and substrate.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

412 Artificial watercourse

Definition

Artificial running water channels, such as canals, with man-made substrate.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

420 Green access route

Definition

Accessible linear open space which provides opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

421 422

Feature Type

Area or Line

421 Walking/cycling route

Definition

Accessible open space such as that associated with disused railway lines and paths.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s

Feature Type

Area or Line

422 Riparian routes

Definition

Canal towpaths, accessible river corridors and the associated open space.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area or Line

430 Transport route open space

Definition

Linear open space along road and rail corridors.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

431 432

Feature Type

Area or Line

431 Road island/verge

Definition

Land alongside roads and in the middle of roundabouts. Will usually be managed by the Local Authority or Highways Authority.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

Feature Type

Area or Line

432 Railway corridor

Definition

Land alongside active railways, within railway fencing.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f s r

Feature Type

Area or Line

500 Outdoor sports facilities

Definition

Areas managed specifically for the enjoyment of outdoor sports.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

More detailed categories available

12 subset categories

Categories at the next level

510 520 530 540 550 560 570 580

Feature Type

Area

510 Sports pitches

Definition

Flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces used for a range of outdoor sports, i.e. football, rugby and hockey and, in the summer, for cricket. They often have changing rooms and pavilions.

Inclusions

Includes athletics tracks.

Exclusions

Excludes sports pitches on educational land (see 710, 711, 712).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

511 512

Feature Type

Area

511 Natural sports pitches

Definition

Sport pitches where the pitch surfaces are natural: they are formed by the suitable preparation of natural areas of land, such as grass.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

Feature Type

Area

512 Artificial sports pitches

Definition

Sports pitches where the pitch surfaces are artificial: they are constructed with a variety of man-made materials (such as timber boards, synthetic products or bituminous products).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area

520 Recreation ground

Definition

An area of mown grass used primarily for informal, unorganised ball games and similar activities (including dog walking).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

Feature Type

Area

530 Ball courts

Definition

Areas managed for playing ball sports such as tennis, netball and basketball.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

531 532

Feature Type

Area

531 Natural ball court

Definition

Ball court with natural surface, e.g. grass. Surface will be permeable.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

Feature Type

Area

532 Artificial ball court

Definition

Ball courts with artificial surface, e.g. tarmac. Surface will be impermeable.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area

540 Golf course

Definition

Land enclosed and used for golf.

Inclusions

Includes golf ranges. Includes all land, including semi-natural habitats, within the golf course boundary.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

Feature Type

Area

550 Race course

Definition

Area used for horse racing.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

Feature Type

Area

560 Bowling green

Definition

Land managed for playing lawn bowls.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

Feature Type

Area

570 Equestrian centre

Definition

Any land used for intensive horse keeping and riding, but not extensive horse grazing which should be recorded as pasture.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

Feature Type

Area

580 Other recreational

Definition

Land used for any sports not covered by categories above, as well as major sports stadiums which are not generally bookable.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g u

Feature Type

Area

600 Provision for play and fitness

Definition

Open spaces designed primarily for play and fitness.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

1

Categories at the next level

610 620 630 640

Feature Type

Area

610 Children’s Play Space

Definition

A site set aside mainly for children containing the usual paraphernalia of swings, slides and roundabouts.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

611 612

Feature Type

Area or Point

611 Children's Play Space; natural

Definition

A site set aside mainly for children containing the usual paraphernalia of swings, slides and roundabouts but on a soft surface such as grass or sand.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

612 Children's Play Space; non-permeable

Definition

A site set aside mainly for children containing the usual paraphernalia of swings, slides and roundabouts but on a tarmac or rubberised surface.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

620 Outdoor gym

Definition

Area of all-weather gym machines or fitness trails.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

621 622

Feature Type

Area or Point

621 Natural outdoor gym

Definition

An outdoor gym where the surface is primarily permeable, e.g. grass.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

622 Non-permeable outdoor gym

Definition

An outdoor gym where the surface is primarily non-permeable, e.g. tarmac.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

630 Adventure playground

Definition

A play area for children or adults in a supervised environment.
Boundaries and entrances are secure.

Inclusions

Includes aerial assault courses.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

631 632

Feature Type

Area or Point

631 Natural adventure playground

Definition

Adventure playground where the surface is primarily permeable, e.g. grass.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

632 Non-permeable adventure playground

Definition

Adventure playground where the surface is primarily non-permeable, e.g. tarmac.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

640 Youth area

Definition

An area for specifically designed for teenagers, including skateboard parks and other more informal areas such as ‘hanging out’ areas and teenage shelters.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

700 Open space around premises

Definition

Unenclosed, landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons. Land usually consists of expanses of grass, scattered trees, hedgerows and shrubs.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

More detailed categories available

7 subset categories

Categories at the next level

710 720 730 740

Feature Type

Area

710 Educational premises open space

Definition

School, college or university grounds and field study centres where education is the primary function.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

711 712 713

Feature Type

Area

711 Natural educational sports pitches

Definition

Sport pitches on educational land where the pitch surfaces are natural: they are formed by the suitable preparation of natural areas of land (such as grass).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

712 Artificial educational sports pitches

Definition

Sports pitches on educational land where the pitch surfaces are artificial: they are constructed with a variety of man-made materials (such as timber boards, synthetic products or bituminous products).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area

713 Other educational open space

Definition

Other open space around educational premises.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

720 Municipal premises open space

Definition

Green space in the grounds of municipal institutions including hospitals and nursing homes and police stations.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

730 Commercial premises open space

Definition

Green space associated with commercial and industrial premises.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

740 Housing estate open space

Definition

Communal amenity space around housing estates and community centres.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u s r

Feature Type

Area

800 Cemeteries and churchyards

Definition

Areas of open space associated with religious institutions.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

810 820

Feature Type

Area

810 Cemetery

Definition

Land outside the confines of a church or place of worship used as a place of burial.

Inclusions

Includes land associated with crematoriums, burial grounds and memorial sites.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h u

Feature Type

Area

820 Churchyard

Definition

Land encompassed within the walled boundary of a church or other place of worship.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h u

Feature Type

Area

900 Small-scale food growing

Definition

Areas of land used for, primarily, non-commercial food growing.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g c

More detailed categories available

4 subset categories

Categories at the next level

910 920 930 940

Feature Type

Area

910 Allotments

Definition

Land used for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables with numerous plots rented to local people.

Inclusions

Includes Community Gardens and City Farms.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

c

Feature Type

Area

920 Orchard

Definition

Areas populated with fruit or nut bearing trees, can be publicly or privately owned, could be for commercial selling or local community use.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g c

Feature Type

Area

930 City farm

Definition

Areas that are generally managed and maintained as a small farm by the local population. They contain livestock and planting and are normally restricted in their access.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g c

Feature Type

Area

940 Community garden

Definition

An area that is generally managed and maintained by the local population, primarily for food growing. They are usually restricted in their access. May be temporary in nature.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

C

Feature Type

Area

1000 Productive spaces

Definition

Open space managed for the production of goods or commodities.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h c u s r

More detailed categories available

5 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1010 1020 1030 1040 1050

Feature Type

Area

1010 Agricultural land

Definition

Land dedicated to commercial farming.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h c

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1011 1012 1013

Feature Type

Area

1011 Pasture or meadow

Definition

Land used for grazing or managed as a meadow.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g h

Feature Type

Area

1012 Arable land

Definition

Regularly ploughed arable land for crop production.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

c

Feature Type

Area

1013 Agroforestry

Definition

Land devoted to dedicated forestry or biofuels like short rotation coppice.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

w c

Feature Type

Area

1020 Nursery/horticulture

Definition

This includes commercial retail nurseries.

Inclusions

Horticulture includes areas of permanent glasshouses.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

c

Feature Type

Area

1030 Sand pit quarry or open cast mine

Definition

Sites used for resource extraction with top soil and vegetation removed.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h s

Feature Type

Area or Point

1040 Reservoirs

Definition

An artificial water body created by a dam for water supply or irrigation purposes.

Inclusions

Includes drawdown zones.

Exclusions

Excludes the dam. Excludes fishing lakes, industrial lagoons, gravel pits, quarry pools.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

r

Feature Type

Area Line Point

1050 Fish farms

Definition

Places devoted to the operation of fish hatcheries and fish farms in inshore and fresh water areas.

Exclusions

Excludes shellfish production. Excludes intensive angling lakes and intensive netting in estuaries.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

f g r m

Feature Type

Area Line Point

1100 Urban greening

Definition

Greening elements located within the urban infrastructure.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u r

More detailed categories available

19 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1110 1120 1130 1140 1150 1160
1170 1180

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1110 Green roof

Definition

A roof or deck onto which vegetation is intentionally grown or habitats for wildlife are established.

Synonyms

Also known as a living roof.

Inclusions

Includes all of the following types of green roof recognised by the construction industry: Lightweight extensive; Super lightweight; Extensive; Semi-intensive; Intensive roof gardens/podium decks; Biodiverse/wildlife (extensive). Includes Brown roofs (see 1113).

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f u

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1111 1112 1113

Feature Type

Area or Point

1111 Extensive green roof

Definition

Roof vegetation on thin substrate with little or no irrigation and management. Vegetation established either artificially by seeding or planting or natural: mosses, succulents, few herbs and grasses.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f u

Feature Type

Area or Point

1112 Intensive green roof

Definition

Roof vegetation on thick substrate with irrigation and management. Vegetation established either artificially by seeding or planting or naturally: perennials, grasses, small trees, rooftop farming.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f u

Feature Type

Area or Point

1113 Brown roof

Definition

Roof vegetation on a mixture of rubble or gravel taken from the neighbourhood.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f u

Feature Type

Area or Point

1120 Green wall

Definition

A partially or fully vegetated wall with its own growing medium, usually designed as new greenspace in an urban area.

Synonyms

Also known as a green facade or vertical garden.

Exclusions

Excludes green facades in which vegetation such as ivy is rooted in the ground.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1121 1122

Feature Type

Line or Point

1121 Ground based green wall

Definition

Ground based climbing plants intended for ornamental (and sometimes food production) purposes.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Line or Point

1122 Façade-bound green wall

Definition

Plants growing in façade-bound substrate, e.g. containers or textile-systems.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Line or Point

1130 Balcony green

Definition

Plants on balconies and terraces, planted mostly in pots.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1140 Ground level planters

Definition

Plants in pots or other planters at ground level.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1150 Flower bed

Definition

Area periodically managed and planted with garden plants.
Weeded and often with areas of bare soil, compost or mulch.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

1160 Introduced shrub

Definition

Non-native tall phanerophytes, mid phanerophytes or low phanerophytes planted in a garden or park setting e.g. winter jasmine.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

1170 Tree

Definition

Planted forest phanerophyte at any stage of growth e.g. Oak or Ash but not Hawthorn or Hazel.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

3 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1171 1172 1173

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1171 Mature tree

Definition

An individual, planted, mature tree.

Landscape and Ecological Context

Synonyms

Includes trees planted along the side of a road, usually located on the pavement edge in tree pits.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1172 Young tree

Definition

An individual, planted, young tree.

Synonyms

Includes trees planted along the side of a road, usually located on the pavement edge in tree pits.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1173 Tree avenue/alley

Definition

A collection of trees planted along roads or paths.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line

1180 Hedgerow

Definition

A boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide, and where any gaps between the trees or shrub species are less than 20m wide.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

h

Feature Type

Line

1190 Sustainable urban drainage feature

Definition

Elements designed to manage surface water to aid in reducing flooding and increasing water quality.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f u r

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1191 1192

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1191 Bioswale

Definition

Vegetated and gently sloped feature designed to manage water runoff, filter pollutants, and increase rainwater infiltration.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f u

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1192 Rain garden

Definition

Shallow depression planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses, located near a runoff source like a downspout, driveway or sump pump to capture rainwater runoff and stop the water from reaching the sewer system.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g f u

Feature Type

Area or Point

1200 Other functional open space

Definition

Areas of green or grey space providing some kind of recreation or ecosystem service function.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u r

More detailed categories available

7 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1210 1220 1230

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1210 Other natural functional greenspace

Definition

This could be anything that does not fit any of the above categories, where the space is primarily natural, such as sewage works with extensive sludge drying areas and water works with extensive filter beds.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

g w h f u r

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1220 Civic spaces

Definition

Open spaces providing a setting for civic buildings, such as town halls, and opportunities for open air markets, demonstrations and civic events. Normally in town or city centres.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1221 1222

Feature Type

Area or Point

1221 Permeable civic spaces

Definition

Hard surfaced areas where the paving allows for either porous or allows for the infiltration of water through the surface.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

1222 Non-permeable civic spaces

Definition

Hard surfaced areas of impermeable paving.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Point

1230 Other hard surfaced areas

Definition

Tarmac areas or paved open spaces, not generally used for recreation, for example an airfield runway.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

More detailed categories available

2 subset categories

Categories at the next level

1231 1232

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1231 Permeable paving

Definition

Hard surfaced areas where the paving allows for either porous or allows for the infiltration of water through the surface.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

1232 Non-permeable paving

Definition

Hard surfaced areas of impermeable paving.

Position in the Classification

Secondary

Edition

Professional Only

Allowed Level 2 Primary Habitats

u

Feature Type

Area or Line or Point

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