Plants Survey – habitat descriptions

Habitat	*Code*	*Description*	*Management cat.*
Broadleaved woodland	BW	May contain up to 10% conifer.	
Coniferous woodland	CW	May contain up to 10% broadleaved.	
Mixed woodland	MW	A woodland containing more than 10% conifer or 10% broadleaved.	
Hedge	H		
Hedges with trees	HT		
Scrub	Sc	Vegetation dominated by locally native shrubs, usually less than 5m tall, occasionally with a few scattered trees *e.g. Hazel, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Bramble, Common Gorse and shrub willow species*. Stands of young trees or stump regrowth less than 5m high, where these represent more than 50% of the immature canopy.	
Grassland and marsh *Please use this broad category if you are unsure of the type of grassland.*	G	This includes all areas of herbaceous vegetation dominated by grasses. It also includes certain wet communities containing some reed and sedge species and other marsh plants. Grasslands containing greater than 25% cover of Heather species, Bilberry and Gorse are classed as heathland.	• Un-grazed • Grazed (cattle) • Grazed (sheep) • Grazed (horses) • Grazed (other stock) • Recently cut grass • Hay crop
Improved grassland	IG	Fertilised (including muck spreading) or heavily grazed land dominated by bright green, lush grass (not as obvious in winter), including abundant perennial rye-grass. Improved grasslands are typically either managed as pasture or mown regularly for silage production They are not species rich, typical flowering plants include white clover, creeping buttercup. Creeping thistle, nettle and dock are often present. Improved does not mean that it is better or more species rich; in respect of biodiversity, it is species poor.	
Neutral grassland	NG	The following are indicator species when they are frequent or abundant: Birds-foot Trefoil, Common Knapweed, Yellow Rattle, Crested Dog's-tail, Sweet Vernal-grass, Meadow Fescue and Tall Fescue. Species poor neutral grassland will contain fewer species. These may include: Meadow Foxtail, False Oat-grass, Yorkshire Fog, Cock's Foot, Soft Rush and Hard Rush.	
Acid grassland	AG	Indicator species include: Wavy Hair-grass, Matt Grass, Heath Rush, Heath Bedstraw, Sheep's Sorrel, Tormentil and fine leaved Fescue and Bent grasses.	

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Calcareous grassland	CG	This is not a natural habitat type in the Carbon Landscape Project area; therefore, if it is found it is likely to be indicative of human / industrial activity. Indicator species include: Fairy Flax, Mouse-eared Hawkweed, Thyme.	• Un-grazed • Grazed (cattle) • Grazed (sheep) • Grazed (horses) • Grazed (other stock) • Recently cut grass • Hay crop
Marsh / marshy grassland	MG	This covers a range of wet grassland vegetation, including Wet Meadows containing Reeds, Sedges and plants such as Meadowsweet, Valerian, Hemp Agrimony and Marsh Marigold. If the water table is very distinctly above the ground level at most times, refer to the swamp habitat category. If Sphagnum moss is abundant, record as Mire.	
Arable / cultivated	A	Cropland, horticultural land, including crops managed for silage.	
Tall ruderal herb	TR	This category comprises stands of tall perennial or biennial plants, usually more than 25cm high.	
Ephemeral / short perennial	ESP	Short, patchy vegetation, (often less than 25cm) typical of derelict urban sites, quarries and railway ballast. Soil usually shallow. Typical species: Colt's Foot, Black Medick, Greater Plantain, White Clover, Creeping Buttercup and Ragwort species.	
Heathland	HE	Contains dwarf shrub heath species i.e. Heather, Bilberry and Gorse (Western Gorse). Grasslands containing greater than 25% cover of Heather species, Bilberry and Gorse are classed as heathland.	
Mire (including Bogs and Fen)	M	A broad habitat type, characterised by a variety of vegetation types on peaty or mineral soils where the water-table is usually at, or just below the surface. Bogs habitats are rain water fed and often contain peat forming Sphagnum mosses. Cotton grass and purple moor grass may be present and bog pools may also be present. Mires and Fens are fed by ground water, flowing water or periodic inundation. Sedges, rushes and sphagnum are typical of these habitats. As these habitats can be difficult to differentiate, they can be recorded collectively as 'mire'. Very wet areas containing tall swamp vegetation e.g. tall sedges or common reed (Phragmites australis) should be recorded as swamp. Carr or wet woodland should be recorded in woodland categories.	

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Flushes and springs	FS	Flushes occur on gently sloping ground, are often linear or triangular and may include water courses. Typical vegetation will include a ground layer of Sphagnum mosses and / or other bryophytes (mosses and liverworts), together with small sedges and rushes. If the area is dominated by grasses and Soft Rush, together with herbs (non-grassy) plants, this habitat should be recorded as Marsh / marshy grassland.	
Swamp	SW	Swamp contains tall emergent vegetation typical of the transition between open water and exposed land. Swamps are generally in standing water for a large part of the year. A reedbed containing common reed (Phragmites australis) is an example of swamp. Other vegetation types include: tall sedges and Bulrush.	
Marginal and inundation	MI	This category encompasses all narrow strips of emergent vegetation occurring on the margins of lowland watercourses, where the water table is permanently high. Bands of tall vegetation wider than 5 m should be classified as swamp.	
Pond	P	Less than 50m^2	
Small waterbody	SWB	50 to 450m^2	
Lake / unlined reservoir	LUR		
Lined reservoir	LR		
Gravel pits / sand pits	GPSP		
Stream	St		
River slow to medium	RSM		
River fast running	RF		
Ditch	D		
Canal	C		

END OF INFORMATION