

Woodland Condition Self-assessment Form

Please read the guidance before starting! Additional space for notes at the end of the document.

Woodland name/coordinates/address:

Compartment ID:

Borough:

Date:

Surveyor(s):

What is the main use of the space? Nature conservation / community woodland / cemetery / _____

Do you know if the site is currently managed?

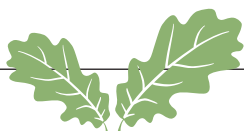
If **yes**, how (e.g. signs of coppicing, thinning)? You can use % of the area.

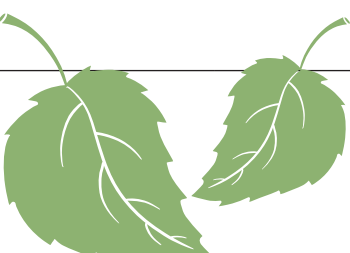
Is it a young woodland? Approx. 90% of the trees have less than 8cm of diameter at chest level, and less than 5 metres high. Plantations included. **Yes / No** If yes, jump to **2.1**

1. Trees				2. Native shrub			
Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box	Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box
1.1 Canopy cover	No gaps in the canopy, no light reaching the ground (>90% of canopy)	0		2.1 Native shrub composition	No shrub layer present (jump to 3)	0	
	Canopy very open (max 20%) or no canopy	0			The <u>only</u> species is bramble (jump to 3)	1	
	Very close canopy (75-90%); little amount of light arriving to the ground)	1			<u>All</u> shrubs of same species (not including bramble)	2	
	Some gaps in the canopy, (25-75%); light scattered on the ground	3			2-4 species of shrubs	3	
					5 or more species	4	
1.2 Dominant (most common) tree species	Canopy of a mix of more than 4 dominant species (tick & jump to 1.3)	3		2.2 Native shrub density	Dense covering of shrubs over most or all of woodland	1	
	Canopy of mostly 3-4 dominant species	2			Scattered throughout	3	
	Canopy of mostly 1-2 dominant species	1			Even combination of dense covering of shrubs in places, with scattered shrubs elsewhere	4	
1.3 Age variation of dominant trees	<u>All</u> trees evenly aged (similar size: e.g. only old trees present). No saplings	0		2.3 Native shrub age variation	<u>All</u> shrubs even aged (similar size within a species)	2	
	<u>Most</u> trees evenly aged. No saplings	1			<u>Most</u> shrubs are evenly aged	3	
	<u>Most</u> trees evenly aged. At least <u>some</u> saplings	3			Age variable (different sizes within a species)	4	
	<u>Even mix</u> of ages; <u>some</u> saplings	4					
		<u>Even mix</u> of ages; <u>plentiful</u> saplings	5		Total score		
Total score (sum all the numbers)							



3. Ground layer				4. Problem species			
Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box	Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box
3.1 Bare ground (not including designated/official paths)	No vegetation covering the ground, <u>all</u> bare ground	0		4.1 Invasive plant Species including shrubs & ground vegetation (see species guidance)	None (jump to 4.3)	4	
	<u>No</u> bare ground, all covered by vegetation (jump to 3.3)	1			Present in <u>less than 5%</u> of the total area	2	
	<u>Small</u> areas of bare ground, scattered between the vegetation on the ground layer	4			Present in <u>more than 5%</u> of the total area	1	
	Other	1		4.2 Management of invasive plant species	Present but no control measures in place	0	
3.2 Erosion and compaction (not including designated/official paths)	None	4			Present but management inadequate, not under control	0	
	Small areas (e.g. some paths have been slightly widened; dogs frequenting one specific area)	1			Present, management adequate, but not under control	1	
	Large areas	0			Present, but management in place, and under control	2	
	3.3 Ground cover vegetation (herbs, wildflowers, bulbs, bramble... from the floor till 0.5m)	Dominated by grasses, nettles or cow parsley (jump to section 4)	0		4.3 Competitive plant species that tend to dominate and exclude other species <u>including shrubs & ground vegetation</u>	None (jump to 5)	4
Dominated by ivy, bracken or bramble (jump to section 4)		1		Present in <u>more than 20%</u> of the total area		0	
Dominated by <u>more than 2</u> typical woodland species, other than ivy, bramble, nettles and grasses (see species guidance)		4		Present in <u>less than 10%</u> of the total area		2	
Mix of bracken, ivy, bramble, cow parsley & at least <u>more than 1</u> typical woodland species (see species guidance)		2		Present in <u>10-20%</u> of the total area		1	
3.4 Ancient Woodland Indicator species Only if the woodland is listed; to be completed between mid-March & mid-May	No AWI species	0		4.4 Management of competitive plant species	Present but no control measures in place	0	
	<u>Infrequent</u> patches of 1-3 AWI species	1			Present and management in place, but not under control	1	
	<u>Frequent</u> patches of 1-3 AWI species	2			Present and management in place, and under control	2	
	<u>Infrequent</u> patches of 4 AWI species, or large areas of 1-3 AWI species	3			4.5 Deer presence and impact	No signs of presence or impact	4
	<u>Frequent</u> patches of 4 or more AWI species	4		Signs of presence but only minor impact		1	
				Clear browsing evidence but ground and shrub layer present		0	
			Damage to ground flora, shrub layer and bark	-1			
Total score			Total score				
			Note species that are Invasive and/or problematic and why. Please, mark the areas in the map, and take a coordinate if possible.				



5. Wildlife features				6. Access and interpretation				
Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box	Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box	
5.1 Ivy on trees (you can tick more than 1)	No ivy on trees (jump to 5.2)	0		6.1 Access – entrances and gates / kissing gates / stiles	All in operational order (jump to 6.2)	1		
	Scattered amounts of ivy on trees throughout woodland	2			Operational but neglected, broken	-1		
	Large amounts of ivy on trees that are close to public right of way or properties	-1			Not operational	-2		
5.2 Dead wood content on the ground	No dead wood except small twigs	0		6.2 Access – paths acknowledging path surfaces should be as natural/ naturalistic as possible, while maximising access to those with restricted mobility. <u>If several access/ paths present, mark the option in the worst condition</u>	Designated paths in good condition, at least some of them usable by wheelchairs	5		
	Few >10cm of diameter branches or trunks	2			Designated paths in good condition	4		
	Abundant branches & trunks of all sizes, and/ or some standing dead wood present	3			Most designated paths in good condition, but difficult to use when muddy	2		
	Abundant fallen branches & trunks of all sizes, and several standing dead wood present	4			Designated paths mix of good and poor condition	2		
5.3 Other features <u>Can tick more than one</u>	Insect banks (bare sloped soil, often sandy, sunny)	3			Most of designated paths in poor condition but usable	1		
	Woodpecker nesting holes present	3			All designated paths in poor condition and difficult to use	-1		
	Badger sett – active	3			Presence of abundant non-designated paths between the vegetation	-2		
	At least one pond, in good condition	3			6.3 Interpretation – Signage	Not seen/not present (jump to 7)	0	
	At least one pond, in poor condition	2				Signage missing or badly damaged, unusable, or inappropriate	-1	
	Presence of at least a few veteran trees	4				Signage out of date or unprecise but useable	0	
	Ditches with water	3		Signage usable but old/ partly damaged, ideally it is replaced soon		1		
	Watercourse in good condition	2		All usable, precise and safe, but more needed		2		
	Watercourse in poor condition	1		All usable, precise and safe		3		
	6.4 Inclusive accessibility (infrastructure/ signage)					Clear provision for people with limited mobility	1	
Clear provision for people with limited mobility & evidence (e.g. signboard) of compliance with standards (e.g. Fieldfare Trust)						2		
 Total score				Total score				

7. Use of site

Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box
7.1 Site activities tick all that apply	Unsociable behaviour (including infrastructure damage)	0	
	Fly tipping (including garden waste)	-1	
	Significant levels of dogs running off path off lead	0	
	Regular light littering	0	
	Presence of dog waste (on ground and/or in trees)	-1	
	Mismanagement or general misuse (inappropriate and unauthorised planting, ivy clearance from tree trunks, tree works etc or localised wildlife damaging activities)	0	
	<u>Responsible</u> site usage (people walking on path, dogs under control, no littering)	2	
	Evidence of positive outdoor usage (general usage for exercise, enjoyment of open space, children's play etc)	3	
	Evidence of positive local management (by council, site manager, volunteers...). For instance dead hedging, fencing of sensitive areas, restoration projects.	4	
Total score			

Is there any evidence of tree diseases or pests present? E.g. ash die back, Dutch elm disease, oak processionary moth. If yes, what is the frequency (frequent; occasional; rare) and could you locate it in the map of the woodland?

Is there any conflict of interest regarding the use of the site? E.g. some people using motorcycles.

Other notes:

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