ENGLISH NATURE
Sussex and Surrey Team
Phoenix House
33 North Street
Lewes
East Sussex, BN7 2PH
Tel: 01273 476595
Fax: 01273483063
sussex.surrey@english-nature.org.uk

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES and DEFINITIONS OF FAVOURABLE CONDITION for DESIGNATED FEATURES OF INTEREST:

These Conservation Objectives relate to all designated features on the SSSI, whether designated as SSSI, SPA, SAC or Ramsar features.

Name of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Ashdown Forest	
Names of designated international sites	
Special Area for Conservation (SAC)	**Ashdown Forest**
Special Protection Area (SPA)	**Ashdown Forest**
Ramsar:	**N/A**
Relationship between site designations	
The SSSI, SAC and SPA all have the same boundary	

Version Control information		
Status of this Version (Draft, Consultation Draft, Final)	Draft	
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	Signature	

Conservation Objectives and definitions of Favourable Condition: notes for users

Conservation Objectives
SSSIs are notified because of specific biological or geological features. Conservation Objectives define the desired state for each site in terms of the features for which they have been designated. When these features are being managed in a way which maintains their nature conservation value, then they are said to be in 'favourable condition'. It is a Government target that 95% of the total area of SSSIs should be in favourable condition by 2010.

Definitions of Favourable Condition
The Conservation Objectives are accompanied by one or more habitat extent and quality definitions for the special interest features at this site. These are subject to periodic reassessment and may be updated to reflect new information or knowledge; they will be used by English Nature and other relevant authorities to determine if a site is in favourable condition. The standards for favourable condition have been developed and are applied throughout the UK.

Use under the Habitats Regulations
The Conservation Objectives and definitions of favourable condition for features on the SSSI may inform the scope and nature of any 'appropriate assessment' under the Habitats Regulations. An appropriate assessment will also require consideration of issues specific to the individual plan or project. The habitat quality definitions do not by themselves provide a comprehensive basis on which to assess plans and projects as required under Regulations 20-21, 24, 48-50 and 54 - 85. The scope and content of an appropriate assessment will depend upon the location, size and significance of the proposed project. English Nature will advise on a case by case basis.

Following an appropriate assessment, competent authorities are required to ascertain the effect on the integrity of the site. The integrity of the site is defined in para C10 of PPG9 as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified. The determination of favourable condition is separate from the judgement of effect upon integrity. For example, there may be a time-lag between a plan or project being initiated and a consequent adverse effect upon integrity becoming manifest in the condition assessment. In such cases, a plan or project may have an adverse effect upon integrity even though the site remains in favourable condition.

The formal Conservation Objectives for European Sites under the Habitats Regulations are in accordance with para. C10 of PPG 9, the reasons for which the European Site was classified or designated. The entry on the Register of European Sites gives the reasons for which a European Site was classified or designated.

Explanatory text for Tables 2 and 3
Tables 2 and 3 set out the measures of condition which we will use to provide evidence to support our assessment of whether features are in favourable condition. They are derived from a set of generic guidance on favourable condition prepared by EN specialists, and have been tailored by local staff to reflect the particular characteristics and site-specific circumstances of individual sites. Quality Assurance has ensured that such site-specific tailoring remains within a nationally consistent set of standards. The tables include an audit trail to provide a summary of the reasoning behind any site-specific targets etc. In some cases the requirements of features or designations may conflict; the detailed basis for any reconciliation of conflicts on this site may be recorded elsewhere

Conservation Objectives

The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, SAC, SPA) as individually listed in Table 1.

Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)

Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodlands
Dwarf Shrub Heath
Open Standing Water

(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable.

Standards for favourable condition are defined with particular reference to the specific designated features listed in Table 1, and are based on a selected set of attributes for features which most economically define favourable condition as set out in Table 2 and Table 3:

Table 1 Individual designated Special Interest Features

BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type	Specific designated features	Explanatory description of the feature for clarification	SSSI designated interest features	SAC designated interest features	SPA bird populations that depend on specific habitats			Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats			
					Annex 1 species	Migratory species	Waterfowl assemblage	1a Wetland characteristics	2a Hosting rare species &c	3a 20000 waterfowl	3c 1% of population
Dwarf Shrub Heath	European dry heath. *Calluna vulgaris-Ulex minor* heath (H2)	Heather-dwarf gorse heath	*	*							
	Northern Atlantic wet heath. *Erica tetralix-Sphagnum compactum* M16	Cross-leaved heath-bog moss wet heath	*	*							
	Caprimulgus europaeus	Nightjar	*		*						
	Sylvia undata	Dartford warbler			*						
	Plebejus argus	Silver-studded blue	*								
	Outstanding lichen and bryophyte flora	Outstanding lower plant assemblage	*								
Broad leaved mixed and yew woodland	Base poor spring line gill woodland	Wet woodland.	*								
	Muscardinus avellanarius	Dormouse	*								
	Apatura iris	Purple emperor	*								
Woodland and Heath	Outstanding assemblage of heath and woodland breeding birds		*								
	Argyanis addipe (RDB2, Sch.5-full)	High brown fritillary	*								
Open Standing Water	Outstanding Odonata assemblage	Outstanding dragonfly/ damselfly assemblage	*								
	Triturus cristatus (Sch.5-dist)	Great-crested newt		*							
Mixed habitats	Outstanding invertebrate assemblage	Outstanding insect assemblage	*								

NB. 1). Features where asterisks are in brackets (*) indicate habitats which are not notified for specific habitat interest (under the relevant designation) but because they support notified species. 2) The requirements of species (including SPA bird species) are reflected in the Conservation Objectives for habitat features on which they depend. In some specific situations, direct population measures for species may also be used to provide supporting information to confirm habitat quality measures.

Table 2 Habitat Features - Extent Objectives

Conservation Objective for habitat extent	To maintain the designated habitats in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to a balance of habitat extent (extent attribute). Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:
Extent - Dynamic balance	On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the extent of each designated habitat type. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.

Habitat Feature (BAP Broad Habitat level, or more detailed level if applicable)	Estimated extent (ha) and date of data source/estimate	Measure	Site Specific Targets	Comments
Dwarf Shrub Heath	Habitat extent (ha) Dry heath: 320.49ha Wet heath: 298.86ha Mixed/unknown heath: 969.64ha Total: 1588.99ha	Field survey and aerial photos (using photos from 2001) Check edges when they are defined by trees, scrub or bracken, to avoid encroachment into the heath. Aerial photos may be a good way to measure any changes.	No un-consented decline in the area of the habitat, except where a target has been set to increase the extent of other habitat features on the site at the expense of lowland heath Sufficient area of suitable habitat to bryophyte and lichen populations: Area maintained where soils wet in winter / droughted in summer No loss of open heath (where Calluna/grass cover is less than 50%) Open heath & bare ground to remain in same location	Lowland heathlands are habitats created mostly through human management by grazing, cutting and burning. If they are left to natural processes, then they lose their open character and disappear under thick scrub or secondary forest. However some fluctuations and variations from year to year are normal and acceptable. Heath is important for bryophytes and lichens, some species are poor dispersers. Factors that reduce the area of open heath are damaging. Several bryophyte and lichen species require open bare ground that is wet in winter but dry in summer. Refer to site dossier for base-line info and location of important areas for bryophytes and lichens.
Broad leaved mixed or yew woodland	Gill woodland: 13.11ha Ancient woodland: 460.55ha Other woodland:	Field survey. Only in the area of land managed by the conservators has the extent of wet woodland been surveyed	No loss of ancient semi-natural stands. At least current area of recent semi-natural stands maintained, although their location may alter. No loss of ancient woodland.	As a guideline, loss can be defined as at least 0.5 ha (all wood types). 20% canopy cover is conventionally taken as the lower limit for an area to be considered as woodland. Much of the gill woodland is classed here as W7 woodland. However, gill woods may also consist

	574.17ha Total area of woodland: 1047.83ha		Maintain a buffer of woodland around the gill habitat to prevent dessication No net loss of area of suitable habitat.	of other NVC types. The wet woodland forms part of a larger woodland complex of various NVC types, some of which is ancient Watch for loss of woodland through clear felling. • The wood supports many of the notified features e.g dormice, birds and therefore the total area of woodland at the site should be maintained to protect those species. • Although much of the wood in the conservators' area is recent in origin some wood consists of ancient coppice stools. Elsewhere there are areas of ancient woodland • Loss of secondary woodland may be acceptable
Open Standing Water	Habitat extent At least 17.15ha (probably includes some running water)	Assessment against baseline map. Aerial photographs may be useful. Record number of ponds once every 3 years (any time of year). Include breeding ponds and non-breeding ponds. The latter may be used to forage or to support prey populations.	**Great Crested Newts:** Ponds (permanent and temporary) to remain in suitable numbers to sustain the size and range of great crested newt population. Once a survey has been carried out, a target for the minimum number of ponds should be set. No net loss of extent	There are over 100 ponds at Ashdown forest that support invertebrates and great crested newts. Assess changes caused by active management, such as infilling or channel diversion. Changes due to drying out or succession are covered later. **Great Crested Newts:** In exceptional cases, a net loss may be acceptable if enhancements are made to remaining ponds. A full great crested newt survey is in process.

Audit Trail
Rationale for habitat extent attribute (Include methods of estimation (measures), and the approximate degree of change which these are capable of detecting).
Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)
Other Notes

Table 2b Species population objectives

Conservation Objective for species populations	To maintain the designated species in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to their population attributes. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:
Population balance	On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the population of each designated species or assemblage. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in size of population or assemblage.

Species Feature (species or assemblage)	**List supporting BAP Broad Habitats**	**Population Attribute (eg presence/absence, population size or assemblage score)**	**Site Specific Target range and Measures (specify geographical range over which target applies ie site, BAP broad habitat or more specific)**	**Comments**
Nightjar	**Dwarf Shrub Heath**	35 pairs (1991-92 survey) 1.1% British population	Maintain population within acceptable limits: Maintain the population above 75% (27 pairs) of that at designation - loss of 25% (9 pairs) or more unacceptable. Use counts or estimates of numbers of breeding individuals, pairs or calling males, occupied breeding sites or occupied territories.	Standard monitoring methods are widely published and recommended species-specific surveys are listed in Part 2 (available on JNCC website).
Dartford warbler	**Dwarf Shrub Heath**	20 pairs (1994 survey) 2.1% of British population	Maintain population within acceptable limits: Maintain the population above 75% (15 pairs) of that at designation - loss of 25% (5 pairs) or more unacceptable. Use counts or estimates of numbers of breeding individuals, pairs or calling males, occupied breeding sites or occupied territories.	Standard monitoring methods are widely published and recommended species-specific surveys are listed in Part 2 (available on JNCC website).
Silver-studded blue	**Dwarf Shrub Heath**	Awaiting guidance	Awaiting guidance	
Bryophyte species of lowland heathland with bare ground that is winter-wet, summer droughted with light disturbance (Special habitat 8)	**Dwarf Shrub Heath**	Species composition	Comparison with photographs Area of interest feature should appear approximately like the photograph in the site dossier	Photograph the area supporting the interest feature (e.g. wet depression) to convey the ideal state. It may indicate a composition characterized by patches of bare ground with bryophyte and lichen associates and scattered tufts of fine grasses and small herbs.

Dormouse	**Woodland**	Awaiting guidance	Awaiting guidance	
Purple emperor	**Woodland**	Awaiting guidance	Awaiting guidance	
Outstanding assemblage of woodland and heathland breeding birds	**Woodland and Heath**	Assemblage score of 61(BTO index) Number of breeding species: 35	Maintain assemblage diversity. The assemblage is in **unfavourable condition** if: • The total assemblage score falls by 15 or more points (25%) • The number of species breeding falls by 9 or more (25%) Record presence/absence of breeding species within the site. The following species were present at time of designation: mallard, sparrowhawk, kestrel, hobby, snipe, woodcock, pheasant, curlew, cuckoo, tawny owl, nightjar, turtle dove, green woodpecker, great spotted woodpecker, woodlark, tree pipit, redstart, mistle thrush, wood warbler, chiff chaff, blackcap, goldcrest, long-tailed tit, coal tit, marsh tit, willow tit, nuthatch, tree creeper, stonechat, hawfinch, bullfinch, redpoll, spotted flycatcher, jay, carrion crow.	Data on rare and common species will be needed. Many data may already be available - see Section 5 and Part 2 (available on JNCC website). Methods of survey will be depend on the species within the assemblage. Breeding must be confirmed as proven or probable according to generic proof of breeding codes (Appendix 1). A count of breeding pairs/units is not needed. On the basis of presence/ absence recalculate the assemblage score using the SSSI Guidelines for the relevant habitat. The species present at designation and each monitoring event do not need to be the same as this is a score-based assessment only. Many species require a mosaic of habitats e.g. wood, heath and scrub.
High brown fritillary	**Woodland and heath**	Awaiting guidance	Awaiting guidance	
Outstanding Odonata assemblage	**Open standing water**	20 different species	Awaiting guidance	
Outstanding invertebrate assemblage	**All habitats**	25 Lepidoptera, score =970 & 2 Coleoptera species, score=200	Awaiting guidance	Includes nationally scarce Bog bush cricket - *Metrioptera brachyptera* and locally rare fly *Dixella filiformis*
Great crested newt, *Triturus cristatus*	**Open standing water**	Eggs - Awaiting the results of a full survey	Present in all or sample[1] of breeding ponds[2] at least once every 4 years. (i.e. acceptable for eggs to be absent from individual ponds 3 years out of 4; fail if any breeding pond lacks eggs for 4 years) Record presence by one day or night visit Mid-March – Mid-May. Survey for 4 consecutive years	Eggs normally laid starting mid-February (southern England) but increasing numbers present (and therefore easier to find) through spring. Best to combine with visit for adult attribute.

			within 6 year reporting cycle. 1 visit per assessment year required.	
Triturus cristatus (great crested newt)	**Open standing water**	Adults - Awaiting the results of a full survey	Peak count[3] should be at least 20% of the previous peak count recorded over 4 consecutive years. Record total adults detected in all or sample[1] ponds in spring. Record for 4 consecutive years within each 6 year reporting cycle. 3 visits per year required. Timing based on known peak season for the area, and in-year weather conditions; likely to be Mid-April to Mid-May. Derive peak by summing counts across site on "best" night for each season.	Considerable between-year variation is frequent.

[1] Use a sample at sites with high numbers of ponds (>20), where monitoring each pond is prohibitive; select at least 20 individual breeding ponds or 10% of all breeding ponds (whichever is larger), to represent geographic spread and variation in pond type plus immediate terrestrial habitat across the site. Sample ponds should ideally support a majority of the breeding population
[2] Breeding ponds are those which have egg-laying and successful metamorphosis at least 1 in every 4 years.
[3] Peak count to be taken as the highest site total from monitoring data in the 3 years leading up to designation.

Audit Trail
Rationale for species population attributes (Include methods of estimation (measures), and the approximate degree of change which these are capable of detecting).
Nightjar and Dartford warbler: Natural fluctuations could not be calculated, so numbers at the time of designation (of the SPA) have been used. The breeding bird attribute has been used on consultation with Allan Drewitt even though the SPA notification refers to populations of the birds through all seasons.
Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)
Other Notes

Table 3 Site-Specific definitions of Favourable Condition

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE FOR THIS HABITAT TYPE	To maintain the **Dwarf Shrub Heath** at this site in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:
Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)	
Site-specific standards defining favourable condition	

Criteria feature	Attribute	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
Lowland dry and wet heathland	Bare ground (%)	Visual assessment of cover, using structured walk or transects	At least 1% but not more than 10% cover of the area of the feature should consist of firm, sunlit, horizontal, sloping or vertical, exposed bare ground. <1% of habitat heavily disturbed , eroded or showing signs of trampling/paths	Bare ground should form a patchwork with vegetation and be present mainly in south-facing slopes. Exclude rock, stone, litter and for wet heaths: bryophyte/lichen mats or heavily trampled soil. Tracks or paths can be a source of bare ground for nesting invertebrates. Record presence or signs of overgrazing & fires in the activities list on the field form. Burning of wet heath should be carried out in a controlled manner on a 10-20 year cycle.	Yes
Bryophyte species of lowland heathland with bare ground that is winter-wet, summer droughted with light disturbance (Special habitat 8)	Niche diversity	Visual assessment based on mapping and aerial photographs	Features such as banks and paths retained	Several species have specialist requirements of open bare ground (often with only other bryophytes and lichens as associates) that are wet in winter but dry out in summer. The regular use of paths or tracks is beneficial as long as there is not excessive eros ion.	
Lowland dry and wet heathland	Vegetation structure: growth phase composition of ericaceous cover	Visual assessment of total ericaceous cover, using structured walk or transects	Pioneer (& pseudo-pioneer): 10-40% Building/mature phase: 20-80% Degenerate phase: <30% Dead: <10% Presence of heather in all stages	Both young and mature stands would meet the targets, though structurally very different. Annual variation and succession should be accounted for within the targets. This attribute should be assessed only where it is possible to differentiate the growth phases. No one growth form should dominate.	Yes
	Vegetation structure:	Visual assessment	At least 50% of area to consist of	Bryophytes can survive under an open canopy of	Yes

	where bryophyte species of lowland heathland with bare ground that is winter-wet, summer droughted with light disturbance are present		pioneer/degenerate Calluna OR at least 50% of site with vegetation height less than 15 cm	Calluna in degenerate/pioneer stages, but not under a dense canopy. Aim should be to retain/create bare patches in heath mosaic.	
Lowland dry and wet heathland	Vegetation composition: dwarf shrubs	Visual assessment of cover, using structured walk or transects	At least two species of dwarf shrubs present and at least frequent. Dwarf shrub cover 25-90% Total Ulex and/or Genista spp. cover <50%, Ulex europaeus <25% for **dry heath** and <10% for **wet heath.**	Dwarf-shrubs include: *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Calluna vulgaris, Empetrum nigrum, Erica ciliaris, E.cinerea, E.tetralix, E.vagans, Genista anglica, G.pilosa, Ulex gallii, U. minor, Vaccinium myrtillus,* Vaccinium spp. and *V.vitis-idaea* (and hybrids). Assess over whole feature. Annual variation and succession should be accounted for within the targets. Gorse species support a rich invertebrate and vertebrate fauna. However, they can also affect soil characteristics. See also 'negative indicators.'	Yes
Lowland dry heathland	Vegetation composition: graminoids	Record presence, using structured walk or transects	At least 1 spp frequent and 2 spp occasional (*Deschampsia flexuosa* and *Nardus stricta* no more than occasional & <25% cover): *Agrostis, Festuca & Carex spp., Ammophila arenaria, Trichophorum cespitosum, Deschampsia flexuosa, Danthonia decumbens, Molinia caerulea, Nardus stricta.*	In naturally species-poor sites, the presence of just one graminoid species may be enough to meet the target. For species-rich sites a higher target may be appropriate (see text).	Yes
Lowland wet heathland	Vegetation composition: graminoids	Visual assessment of cover, using structured walk or transects	At least 1 spp frequent and 2 spp occasional: *Eleocharis spp., Carex panicea, C.pulicaris, Eriophorum angustifolium, Juncus acutiflorus, J. articulatus, Molinia caerulea, Rhynchospora alba, Schoenus nigricans, Trichophorum cespitosum.*	Molinia no more than occasional and Schoenus at least occasional when naturally present. In naturally species-poor sites, the presence of just one graminoid species may be enough to meet the target. For species-rich sites a higher target may be appropriate (see text).	Yes
Lowland dry heathland	Vegetation composition: desirable forbs	Record presence, using structured walk or transects	At least 2 species occasional: *Viola riviniana.Armeria maritima, Galium*	In naturally species-poor sites, the presence of just one forb species may be enough to meet the target.	

			saxatile, Genista anglica, Potentilla erecta, Hypochaeris radicata, Lotus corniculatus, Plantago lanceolata, P. maritima, Polygala serpyllifolia, Rumex acetosella, Scilla verna, Serratula tinctoria, Thymus praecox,	For species-rich sites a higher target may be appropriate (see text).	
Lowland wet heathland	Vegetation composition: desirable forbs	Visual assessment of cover, using structured walk or transects	At least 2 species occasional: *Anagallis tenella, Drosera spp., Galium saxatile, Genista anglica, Myrica gale, Narthecium ossifragum, Pinguicula spp., Polygala serpyllifolia, Potentilla erecta, Serratula tinctoria, Succisa pratensis*.	In naturally species-poor sites, the presence of just one forb species may be enough to meet the target. For species-rich sites a higher target may be appropriate (see text).	
Lowland dry and wet heathland	Vegetation composition: bryophytes and lichens	Visual assessment of cover, using structured walk or transects	**Dry Heath:** % cover maintained or increased (if naturally present) **Wet Heath:** >10% cover of Sphagna and >5% cover of lichens (if naturally present)	Not applicable on all sites. Refer to existing information and surveys of the site. Does not include dense mats of acrocarpous mosses which should be no more than occasional	
Lowland dry and wet heathland	Indicators of local distinctiveness:	As appropriate to feature.	Maintain distinctive elements at current extent/levels and/or in current locations Map area of species, maintain area	This attribute is not intended to set a target for detailed species monitoring, rather to provide a rapid indication of presence/ absence and/or approximate extent	
	Gentiana pnemonanthe			Marsh gentian - Wet heath	
	Narthecium ossifragum			Bog asphodel - Wet heath	
	Genista pilosella			The most inland population of hairy greenweed - Heath	
	Rhyncospora alba			White beaked sedge - wet heath	
	Dryopteris aemula			Hay scented buckler fern - wood/banks/hedges	
	Oreopteris limbosperma			Lemon scented fern – peat soils, banks and ditches	
	Pycnothelia papillaria			Lichen nipple lichen, gnome fingers - Wet heath	
	Lycopodiella inundata			Marsh club moss – wet heath	
	Circus cyaneus			Hen harrier – heath, conifer plantations	
	Lullula arborea			Woodlark – grazed heath, plantations, open wood	
	Lanius excubitor			Great grey shrike - heath	

				heath	
Lowland dry and wet heathland	Negative indicators: Exotic Species	Visual assessment of cover, use structured walk or transect	<1% exotic species, e.g.: *Gaultheria shallon, Fallopia japonica, Rhododendron ponticum* *Acrocarpous mosses* <occasional e.g. *Campylopus introflexus* <10% bracken but <5% bracken for **wet heath**	Exotic species should be eradicated if possible. Species in this list may be beneficial for a range of invertebrates and only become indicators of negative quality if they are over the established limit.	Yes
Lowland dry and wet heathland	Negative indicators: Herbaceous Species	Visual assessment of cover, use structured walk or transect	< 1 % ragwort, thistles and: *Cirsium arvense, Digitalis purpurea, Epilobium spp.* (excl. *E.palustre*), *Juncus effusus, J.squarrosus, Rumex obtusifolius, Urtica dioica* and: **Dry heath** <1%: *Chamerion angustifolium, Ranunculus spp., Senecio spp.* coarse grasses **Wet heath** <1%: *Apium nodiflorum, Fallopia japonica, Glyceria fluitans, Oenanthe crocata, Phragmites spp., Ranunculus repens, Senecio jacobaea, Typha spp., Urtica spp.*	Species in this list may be beneficial for a range of invertebrates and only become indicators of negative quality if they are over the established limit.	Yes
Lowland dry and wet heathland	Negative indicators: Tree and Scrub Species	Visual assessment of cover, using structured walk or transects	Trees and shrub < 15% (but <10% for wet heath), e.g. *Prunus spinosa, Betula, Pinus, Quercus* & *Rubus* spp. **Dry heath:** *Hippophae rhamnoides, Sarothamnus scoparius* **Wet heath:** Alnus glutinosa, *Salix sp.*	Up to 25% scrub cover can be accepted if indicated in conservation objectives or management plan.	Yes
Lowland wet heath	Negative indicators: signs of disturbance	Visual assessment of cover, use structured walk or transect	No silt, leachate or artificial drains	Drains can adversely affect hydrology	Yes

Audit Trail
Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site
Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)
Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment) (The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).
Other Notes

Table 3b Site-Specific definitions of Favourable Condition

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE FOR THIS HABITAT / GEOLOGICAL SITE-TYPE	To maintain the **broadleaved mixed, yew woodland** at this site in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:
Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)	
Site-specific standards defining favourable condition	

Criteria feature	Attribute	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
Broadleaved mixed yew woodland	Structure and Natural processes	Assess by field survey using structured walk and/or transects.	Understorey (2-5m) present over at least 20% of total stand area (except in parkland). Canopy cover present over 30-90 % of stand area (except in parkland stands). At least three age classes spread across the average life expectancy of the commonest trees. Some areas of relatively undisturbed mature/old growth stands or a scatter of large trees allowed to grow to over-maturity/death on site (e.g. a minimum of 10% of the woodland or 5-10 trees per ha). A minimum of 3 fallen lying trees >20 cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing.	Different woodland types will differ in their expected cover in different layers e.g. in beech or oak woods the shrub layer is often sparse. This should be reflected in the tailoring of these targets to particular sites. In coppiced stands a lower canopy cover (of standards) can be accepted, as will also be the case in parkland. More detailed targets for deadwood may be appropriate where this is an important element of the woodland (see section 5.9). Note however that assessment of dead wood targets may be difficult to carry out and caution should be exercised in judging condition for this element.	Yes
Broadleaved mixed yew woodland	Composition	Assess by field survey using structured walk and/or	At least 95% of cover in any one layer of site-native or acceptable	In sites where there might be uncertainty as to what counts as site-native or as acceptable naturalised	Yes

		transects.	naturalised species. Minimum levels of particular native tree/shrub species (where important and appropriate – see text) Death, destruction or replacement of native woodland species through effects of introduced fauna or other external unnatural factors not more than 10% by number or area in a five year period.	species this must be made clear (e.g. the position of sycamore). Where cover in any one layer is less than 100% then the 95% target applies to the area actually covered by that layer. Factors leading to the death or replacement of woodland species could include pollution or new diseases. Damage to species by non-native species that does not lead to their death is not necessarily unacceptable.	
Broadleaved mixed yew woodland	Indicators of local distinctiveness	Assess by field survey using structured walk and/or transects, or as appropriate to feature.	80% of ground flora cover referable to relevant NVC community Target(s) also to be set to maintain distinctive elements at current extent/levels and/or in current locations, e.g. to maintain important microhabitats (other than dead wood), patches of associated habitats, transitions between habitats, or existing populations of locally notable species (other than trees/shrubs).	This attribute is intended to cover any site-specific aspects of this habitat feature (forming part of the reason for notification) which are not covered adequately by the previous attributes, or by separate guidance (e.g. notified species features). For notable species it is not intended to set a target for detailed species monitoring, rather to provide a rapid indication of presence/ absence and/or approximate extent, allowing for natural fluctuations in population size. Distinctive elements and patches should be marked on maps for ease of checking in the field where possible.	Yes
	Vertigo substriata	wet woodland		Striated whorl snail	
Broadleaved mixed yew woodland	Regeneration potential	Assess by field survey using structured walk and/or transects.	Signs of seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees at sufficient density to maintain canopy density over a 10 yr period (or equivalent regrowth from coppice stumps). No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting. All planting material of locally native stock No planting in sites where it has not occurred in the last 15 years.	A proportion of gaps at any one time may develop into permanent open space; equally some current permanent open space/glades may in time regenerate to closed canopy. Regeneration may often occur on the edges of woods rather than in gaps within it. The density of regeneration considered sufficient is clearly less in parkland sites than in high forest; in coppice most of the regeneration will be as stump regrowth. The minimum level of regeneration to be acceptable from a nature conservation viewpoint is likely to be much less than that needed where wood production is also an objective.	Yes

Gill (ghyll) woodlands	More information is required				

Audit Trail
Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site
Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)
Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment) (The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).
Other Notes

Table 3c Site-Specific definitions of Favourable Condition

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE FOR THIS HABITAT / GEOLOGICAL SITE-TYPE	To maintain the **open standing water** habitat at this site in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:
Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)	
Site-specific standards defining favourable condition	

Criteria feature	Attribute	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
Great crested newt Triturus cristatus	Aquatic macrophyte cover	"Good" cover of marginal vegetation, emergent, submerged and/or floating vegetation to be present in at least 50% of breeding ponds.	Visual assessment between May and mid-September. Record for 4 consecutive years within each 6 year reporting cycle. 1 visit per year required. "Good" defined as: 25% - 100% of margin covered by marginal and emergent species, and 25% - 75% of pond bottom/ midwater/ surface covered by submerged or floating species.	This attribute allows for considerable variation in aquatic vegetation, but should prohibit a majority of ponds becoming overgrown, or suffering severe macrophyte die-back. Short-term algal blooms and duckweed Lemna coverage not normally problematic. Attribute should also serve as a proxy for detecting eutrophication, toxic spills, catastrophic reduction in invertebrate community, or underlying water quality issues; however if other evidence confirms one of these is a serious problem in >50% of ponds and the vegetation cover measures are nonetheless acceptable, then the attribute should fail.	Yes
Great crested newt Triturus cristatus	Pond shading by scrub/trees	Sites with <20 breeding ponds: <25% of breeding ponds to have >20% of southern margin solidly shaded. Sites with >20 breeding ponds: Use above target in most cases, but if the habitat type and previous newt monitoring suggest a higher extent of shading is acceptable,	Visual assessment of extent and orientation of pond margin solidly shaded by scrub/trees directly overhanging or adjacent to margin (not floating or emergent macrophytes). Assess April to June. Record once every 3 years. Shade should only be counted if relatively solid (and therefore likely to cause	Shading of southern margin is detrimental. Some shading of northern margin is often beneficial. Note that site context is important to consider (eg woodland sites should have higher threshold for shading than sand dune sites).	Yes

		<50% of breeding ponds to have >20% of southern margin solidly shaded.	lower light levels and lower water temperatures).		
Great crested newt Triturus cristatus	Terrestrial refuge habitat - structure and quality	Presence of suitable terrestrial refuge habitat – define on site basis.	Visual assessment at any time of year. Record once every 3 years.	High inter-site variation; dependent on site context. Record key features at time of designation and define components providing refuge potential; mark on map. May include discrete features or patches of habitat. Base on habitat structure that (i) provides refuge from extremes of climate (hot, cold, or dry); (ii) provides daytime shelter; (iii) is conducive to invertebrate prey populations. Most important close (<50m) to main breeding ponds. Most often provided by shrub layer, tussocky grass/rushes/sedges, scrub, woodland, leaf litter, cracked clay, quarry spoil, rubble, heaped brash, deadwood, log piles. Eg broadleaved woodland sites may have much undisturbed leaf litter, deadwood and exposed old root systems.	Yes
Great crested newt Triturus cristatus	Pond persistence	Generic target for most sites: Minimum summer water depth 10cm for at least 50% of all or sample1 breeding ponds on each year of assessment. Note: the target may be adjusted downwards at sites where early desiccation is a natural feature (eg sand dunes, with many small, shallow ponds in close proximity) and where previous records demonstrate this is consistent with population viability. Target may be adjusted upwards at sites supporting ponds that do not normally dry	Record approximate depth of water in identified breeding ponds between mid-August and mid-September. Visual assessment is suitable. Record once every 3 years.	High inter-site variation. Note the requirement for setting site-specific objectives with deviation from the standard target at sites where ponds naturally desiccate more frequently and earlier in the season without negatively affecting population viability. Target setting may require examination of historical site records and weather conditions to assess normal desiccation pattern. Premature desiccation (ie before mid-July (southern ponds) to mid-August (northern ponds)) is acceptable for all ponds in two out of three years provided highly successful recruitment in third year. Three consecutive years of desiccation with no recruitment should be considered unfavourable. Deep ponds are acceptable at sites where there is no chance of colonisation by fish.	Yes

		out in summer.			
Great crested newt Triturus cristatus	Terrestrial habitat extent	No loss of area or fragmentation of site (through significant barriers to newt dispersal), compared with status at designation.	Determine area by walking site and comparing with map or aerial photo; most semi-natural habitats within 500m of breeding pond to be included. Assess presence of fragmentation. Any time of year. Record once every 3 years. Fragmentation refers to significant barriers to movement such as walls, buildings, and not, for instance, footpaths or tracks.	Can be modified if there have been major, beneficial habitat alterations since designation	Yes
Great crested newt Triturus cristatus	Fish and wildfowl	Sites with fewer than 5 breeding ponds: Fish and wildfowl problems absent from all ponds. Sites with > 5 breeding ponds: Fish and wildfowl problems absent from >75% of ponds.	Visual assessment, March-September. Record for 4 consecutive years within each 6 year reporting cycle. 1 visit per year required. Look for fish and stocked wildfowl, or evidence of their presence: characteristic disturbance at water surface for fish, high turbidity, nests, droppings at pond margin, major loss of aquatic macrophytes, presence of algal blooms, heavily grazed grasses on bank. Numbers required to fail target: Fish: any number of individuals (need only to determine presence). Wildfowl: > 4 pairs/ha of open water.	Fish refers to all species known to be predators of great crested newt larvae, including stickleback, goldfish, orfe, rudd, pike, roach, perch. Target can be adjusted downwards if regular desiccation is likely, or (exceptionally) if larval survival is high despite fish presence. Target may be adjusted upwards if site is especially vulnerable (eg all ponds linked by ditches). “Wildfowl” refers to stocked ducks, swans or geese, and not natural populations of moorhens etc (which are not problematic).	Yes

Audit Trail
Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site
Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment) (The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).
Other Notes
Nardia compressa is an important liverwort that is found on submerged rocks in streams. It should remain present at the site.