

ECN Protocols for Standard Measurements at Terrestrial Sites

BI (BB/BC/BM) Protocols

Note 5 BTO BBS habitat coding system

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4*
A WOODLAND	1 Broadleaved	1 Mixed-aged or semi-natural	1 Dense shrub layer
	2 Coniferous	2 Coppice with standards	2 Moderate shrub layer
	3 Mixed (10% of each)	3 Coppice without standards	3 Sparse shrub layer
	4 Broadleaved water-logged	4 Mature plantation (taller than 10m, with closed canopy)	4 Dense field layer
	5 Coniferous water-logged	5 Young plantation (5-10m, open canopy)	5 Moderate field layer
	6 Mixed water-logged	6 Parkland (scattered trees and grassy areas)	6 Sparse field layer
		7 High-medium disturbance from people	7 Grazed (moderate to heavy)
		8 Low disturbance	8 Lightly grazed
B SCRUBLAND (or young woodland <5m tall)	1 Regenerating natural or semi-natural woodland	1 Broadleaved	1 Predominantly tall (3-5m)
	2 Downland (chalk)	2 Coniferous	2 Predominantly low (1-3m)
	3 Heath scrub	3 Mixed (10% of each)	3 Dense shrub layer
	4 Young coppice	4 Broadleaved swamp scrub	4 Moderate shrub layer
	5 New plantation	5 Coniferous swamp scrub	5 Sparse shrub layer
	6 Clear-felled woodland, with or without new saplings	6 Mixed swamp scrub	6 Extensive bracken
	7 Other	7 High-medium disturbance from people	7 Dense field layer
C SEMI-NATURAL GRASSLAND/MARSH	1 Chalk downland	8 Low disturbance	8 Moderate field layer
	2 Grass moor (unenclosed)		9 Sparse field layer
	3 Grass moor mixed with heather (unenclosed)	1 Hedgerow with trees	10 Grazed (moderate to heavy)
	4 Machair	2 Hedgerow without trees	
	5 Other dry grassland	3 Tree-line without hedge	
	6 Water-meadow/ grazing marsh	4 Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)	
	7 Reed swamp	5 Isolated group of 1-10 trees	
	8 Other open marsh	6 No field boundary	
	9 Saltmarsh	7 Montane	
	8 High-medium disturbance from people		
	9 Low disturbance		

D HEATHLAND
AND BOGS

1	Dry heath	1	Montane	1	Ungrazed
2	Wet heath	2	Raised bog	2	Cattle
3	Mixed heath	3	Valley/basin bog	3	Sheep
4	Bog	4	Blanket bog	4	Horses
5	Breckland	5	Heath mixed with rough grass	5	Rabbits
6	Drained bog	6	Heath without grass	6	Deer
		7	Heath with extensive bracken	7	Other grazers
		8	Undetermined bog	8	Ploughed
		9	Isolated group of 1-10 trees	9	Burned
		10	High-medium disturbance from people	10	Planted with saplings less than 0.5m tall
		11	Low disturbance		

E FARMLAND

1	Improved grassland	1	Hedgerow with trees	1	Ungrazed
2	Unimproved grassland	2	Hedgerow without trees	2	Cattle
3	Mixed grass/tilled land	3	Tree-line without hedge	3	Sheep
4	Tilled land	4	Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)	4	Horses
5	Orchard	5	Isolated group of trees	5	Other stock
6	Other farming	6	Farmyard (active)	6	Bare earth/plough
				7	Autumn cereal
				8	Spring cereal
				9	Root crops (specify)
				10	Other crops (specify)
				11	Oil seed rape
				12	Other brassicas (specify)
				13	Stubble (clean)
				14	Stubble (weedy)
				15	Unsown/Fallow

F HUMAN
SITES

1	Urban	1	Building	1	Industrial
2	Suburban	2	Gardens	2	Residential
3	Rural	3	Municipal parks/mown grass/golf courses/recreational areas	3	Well-wooded
		4	Sewageworks "urban"	4	Not well-wooded
		5	Near road (within 50m)	5	Area of large gardens
		6	Near active railway line (within 50m)	6	Area of medium gardens
		7	Other	7	Area of small gardens
		8	Rubbish tip	8	Many shrubs
				9	Few shrubs
				10	Disused

G WATER BODIES (freshwater)	1	Pond (less than 50m ²)	1	Undisturbed/disused	1	Eutrophic (green water)
	2	Small water-body (50-450m ²)	2	Water sports (sailing etc)	2	Oligotrophic (clearwater, few w eeds)
	3	Lake/unlined reservoir	3	Angling (coarse or game)	3	Dystrophic (black water)
	4	Lined reservoir	4	Coarse angling	4	Marl (clear water, large water-weeds)
	5	Gravel pit, sand pit, etc	5	Game fishing	5	Slow -medium running
	6	Stream (less than 3m wide)	6	Industrial activity	6	Fast-running
	7	River (more than 3m wide)	7	Sewage processing 'rural'	7	Dredged
	8	Ditch with water (less than 2m wide)	8	Other disturbance	8	Undredged
	9	Small canal (2-5m wide)	9	Small island	9	Banks cleared
	10	Large canal (more than 5m wide)			10	Banks vegetated
H COASTAL	1	Marine - open shore	1	Mud or silt	1	Cliff vertical/ steeply sloping
	2	Marine shore - inlet/cove/loch	2	Sand	2	Dune
	3	Estuarine	3	Shingle	3	Flat/gently sloping
	4	Brackish lagoon	4	Rocky	4	Small island
	5	Open sea	5	Fully vegetated	5	Spit
			6	Sparse/medium vegetation	6	Dune slack
			7	Inter-tidal	7	Sloping ground
			8	Below low - water mark	8	Undisturbed
				9	Disturbed	
				7	Sloping ground	
				8	Undisturbed	
				9	Disturbed	
I INLAND ROCK	1	Cliff	1	Active	1	Bare rock
	2	Scree/boulder slope	2	Disused	2	Low vegetation present (mosses, liverworts. etc)
	3	Limestone pavement	3	Montane	3	Grasses present
	4	Other rock outcrop	4	Non-montane	4	Scrub present
	5	Quarry	5	High disturbance from climbers/walkers etc.		
	6	Mine/spoil/slag heap	6	Medium disturbance		
	7	Cave	7	Low disturbance		
J MISCELLANEOUS						

* *Shrub layer* comprises woody plants less than 5m tall. *Field layer* comprises herbaceous, non-woody plants.