

# 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?**

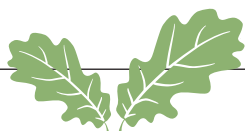
If **yes**, how (e.g. signs of coppicing, thinning)? You can use % of the area.

**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**

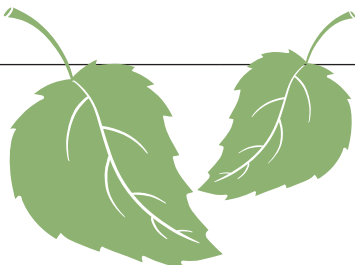
1. Trees				2. Native shrub			
Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box	Assessment	Criteria	Score	Tick box
<b>1.1</b> Canopy cover	No gaps in the canopy, no light reaching the ground (>90% of canopy)	0		<b>2.1</b> Native shrub composition	No shrub layer present (jump to 3)	0	
	Canopy very open (max 20%) or 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	
<b>1.2</b> Dominant (most common) tree species	Canopy of a mix of more than 4 dominant species (tick & jump to 1.3)	3		<b>2.2</b> 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	
<b>1.3</b> Age variation of dominant trees	<u>All</u> trees evenly aged (similar size: e.g. only old trees present). No saplings	0		<b>2.3</b> 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					
<b>Total score (sum all the numbers)</b>				<b>Total score</b>			



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



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



## 7. Use of site

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

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:**