

<b>Condition Sheet: HEATHLAND Habitat Type</b>			
<b>UKHab Habitat Type(s)</b>			
Heathland and shrub - Lowland heathland			
Heathland and shrub - Mountain heaths and willow scrub			
Heathland and shrub - Upland heathland			
<b>Site name/location</b>		<b>Onsite/offsite</b>	
<b>Central grid reference of habitat</b>		<b>Unique polygon reference</b>	
<b>Limitations (if applicable)</b>		<b>Metric 3.0 survey reference (if condition assessment of this polygon relates to a wider habitat survey)</b>	
<b>Habitat Description</b>			
<a href="#">See UKHab</a>			
<b>Condition Assessment Criteria</b>		<b>Condition Achieved (Y/N)</b>	<b>Notes/Justification</b>
1	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific heathland habitat type (see UKHab definition linked above). Indicator shrubs, grasses, herbs and lower plants for the specific heathland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible. <b>NB - this criterion is essential for achieving good condition.</b>	n	
2	There are at least two dwarf shrub species frequent, and cover of dwarf shrubs is between 25-75% for Lowland heathland, 50-75% for upland dry heath, or >20% for upland wet heath. <b>NB - this criterion is essential for achieving good condition.</b>	n	
3	All age classes (pioneer, degenerate and mature) present with at least 10% pioneer heather in the lowlands or at least 10% degenerate/mature in the uplands. <b>NB - this criterion is essential for achieving good condition.</b>	n	
4	Unshaded bare ground is between 1-10%. <b>NB - this criterion is essential for achieving good condition.</b>	y	
5	No signs disturbance of sensitive areas <sup>1</sup> , including managed burns.	y	
6	No more than 33% of heather shoots should be grazed, or flowering heather plants are at least frequent in autumn.	n	
7	There is an absence of invasive non-native species listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981, or shallon <i>Gaultheria shallon</i> , and there is less than 5% cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> <sup>2</sup> .	n	
8	Cover of scattered trees and/or scrub <sup>3</sup> should be less than 20% for upland heaths; less than 15% for lowland dry heaths; and less than 10% for lowland wet heaths.	n	
9	No signs of any damaging activities <sup>4</sup> or contamination to the habitat such as: artificial drains, peat extraction, silt, leachate or eutrophication.	n	
<b>Essential criteria for achieving good condition 1-4 achieved (Y/N)</b>			2
<b>Number of criteria passed</b>			1
<b>Condition Assessment Result</b>	<b>Condition Assessment Score</b>	<b>Score Achieved x/✓</b>	
Passes 8 or 9 of 9 criteria including all essential criteria 1-4	Good (3)		
Passes 6 or 7 of 9 criteria; OR Passes 8 of 9 criteria excluding any of the essential criteria 1-4	Moderate (2)		
Passes 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 of 9 criteria	Poor (1)		
<b>Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score</b>			

## Notes

### Footnote 1 - Sensitive areas definition:

- (a) Vegetation severely wind-clipped, mostly forming a mat less than 10 cm thick.
- (b) Areas where soils are thin and less than 5 cm deep.
- (c) Hill slopes greater than 1 in 2 (26°), and all the sides of gullies.
- (d) Ground with abundant, and/or an almost continuous carpet of sphagnum, bilberry, liverworts and/or lichens.
- (e) Areas with noticeably uneven structure, at a spatial scale of around 1 m<sup>2</sup> or less. The unevenness (e.g. more commonly found in very old heather stands) will relate to distinct, often large, spreading dwarf-shrub bushes. The dwarf-shrub canopy will not be completely continuous, and some of its upper surface may be twice as high as other parts. Layering is likely to be present and may be common
- (f) Pools, wet hollows, hags and erosion gullies, and within 10 m of the edge of watercourses.

**Footnote 2** - Cover of bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* may exceed 5% where there is an identified biodiversity benefit e.g. bracken beds in the South Pennines as nesting sites for Twite *Linaria flavirostris*.

**Footnote 3** - N.B. Total *Ulex* spp. cover should be less than 50%, with common gorse *Ulex europaeus* less than 25% in the lowland heaths.

**Footnote 4** - Damaging activities include: accidental or unmanaged fires, managed fires on wet heath, excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of public access resulting in trampling and/or litter.