

Large site Categories

“The following categories have been taken from Natural England’s Small Biodiversity Metric 3.0. These categories are used or specified by any development project, consenting body or landowner. There can be used for any development.

- 1) Development sites where:
 - Site area exceeds 0.5hectares or more than 5,000sqm”

[Link to Natural England’s Biodiversity Matrix 3.0](#)

Broad Habitat Category	Habitat Sub-category	Entry-level Habitat Category
Urban	Vegetated	Open mosaic habitats on prev. dev. land
		Allotments, city farms & community gardens
		Road island/verge
	SuDS	Intensive green roof
		Extensive green roof
		Green roof (unspecified/other)
		Façade-bound green wall
		Ground-based green wall (climbers, Ivy etc.)
		Brown roof
		Urban/street tree
		Ornamental lake or pond
		SuDS: Bioswale
		SuDS: Rain garden
		SuDS: retention basin
		SuDS: retention pond
		Sustainable Drainage Feature (SuDS; unspecified)
	Vegetated	Introduced shrub
		Cemeteries and churchyards
		Natural sports pitch, recreation- or playground
		Garden: vegetated
		Flower beds & other ground-level planters
		Vegetated built-up areas (unspecified)
	Non-vegetated	Developed land; sealed surface
		Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
		Built linear features
		Garden: unvegetated
		Non-vegetated built-up areas (unspecified)
Gabion Baskets (with biodiversity measures)		
Urban: Mixed vegetated & non-vegetated	Gardens (unspecified: vegetated & non-vegetated)	
Structures	Commercial: Business & offices (B1)	
	Commercial: Industrial (B2)	
	Commercial: Other	
	Public buildings	
	Residential: Low density	
	Residential: Medium density	
	Residential: High density	
	Residential: Hotels (C1)	
	Residential: Other	
	Other mixed vegetated & non-vegetated	

Broad Habitat Category	Habitat Sub-category	Entry-level Habitat Category
Woodland & scrub	Broadleaved & mixed woodland	Upland oakwood
		Upland mixed ashwoods
		Lowland beech and yew woodland
		Wet woodland
		Upland birchwoods
		Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
		Line of trees
		Other woodland; broadleaved
		Other woodland; mixed
		Traditional Orchards
		Broadleaved & mixed woodland (unspecified)
		Coniferous woodland
	Other Scot's Pine woodland	
	Other coniferous woodland	
	Coniferous woodland (unspecified)	
	Woodland (unspecified)	
	Dense scrub	Blackthorn scrub
		Hazel scrub
		Sea buckthorn scrub (Annex 1)
		Bramble scrub
		Gorse scrub
		Hawthorn scrub
		Rhododendron scrub
		Mixed scrub
	Dense scrub (unspecified)	
	Scattered scrub	Scattered scrub
		Scrub (unspecified)
	Parkland & scattered trees	Wood-pasture & parkland
Other parkland & scattered trees		
Parkland & scattered trees (unspecified)		
Felled woodland	Recently felled woodland	
	Woodland & scrub (unspecified)	
Grassland	Acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland
		Upland acid grassland
		Other lowland acid grassland
		Acid grassland (unspecified)
	Neutral grassland	Lowland meadows
		Upland hay meadows
		Other neutral & semi-improved grassland
		Neutral grassland (unspecified)
	Calcareous grassland	Lowland calcareous grassland
		Upland calcareous grassland
		Calcareous grassland (unspecified)
	Improved grassland	Agriculturally improved grassland
		Amenity grassland
		Improved grassland (unspecified)
		Grassland (unspecified)
	Tall herb & fen	Bracken
Other tall herb & fern		Ruderal/Ephemeral
		Other tall herb & fern
		Tall herb & fen (unspecified)
Heathland	Heathland	Lowland heathland
		Upland heathland
		Mountain heaths & willow scrub
		Heathland (unspecified)

Broad Habitat Category	Habitat Sub-category	Entry-level Habitat Category
Mire, swamp, marginal & inundation	Bog	Blanket bog
		Lowland raised bog
		Bog (unspecified)
	Flush, spring, fen & swamp	Lowland fens
		Purple moor grass & rush pastures
		Upland flushes, fens & swamps
		Aquatic marginal vegetation
		Reedbeds
		Other swamps
		Flush, spring, fen & swamp (unspecified)
Mire, swamp, marginal & inundation (unspecified)		
Open water	Standing water	Eutrophic standing waters
		Mesotrophic lakes
		Oligotrophic & dystrophic lakes
		Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies
		Canals
		Reservoirs
		Ponds
		Raised Ponds
		Standing water (unspecified)
	Running water	Rivers (priority habitat)
		Other rivers & streams
		Running water (unspecified)
		Open water (unspecified)
Coastland	Mud & sand intertidal coastland	Blue mussel beds on sediment
		Seagrass beds [<i>Zostera noltii</i>]
		Intertidal mudflats
		Sheltered muddy gravels
		Peat & clay exposures with piddocks
		Saline lagoons
		Beach
		Mud & sand intertidal coastland (unspecified)
	Boulders & rocks intertidal coastland	Intertidal chalk
		Sabellaria alveolata reefs
		Intertidal underboulder communities
		Estuarine rocky habitats
		Splash zone with lichens
		Other littoral rock
		Boulders & rocks intertidal coastland (unspecified)
	Intertidal coastland (unspecified)	
	Saltmarsh coastland	
	Shingle above high tide mark	Coastal vegetated shingle
	Rock & boulders above high tide mark	Maritime cliff and slopes
		Other rock & boulders above high tide mark
		Rock & boulders above high tide mark (unspecified)
	Sand dune	Coastal sand dunes
Coastland (unspecified)		
Exposure & waste	Natural rock exposure & waste	Inland rock outcrop & scree habitats
		Limestone pavement
		Calaminarian grasslands
		Other inland rock & scree
		Natural rock exposure & waste (unspecified)
	Artificial rock exposure & waste	Sand pit quarry or open cast mine
		Exposure & waste (unspecified)

Broad Habitat Category	Habitat Sub-category	Entry-level Habitat Category
Agricultural & boundaries	Arable & horticulture	Arable field margins: tussocky grasses
		Arable field margins: pollen & nectar
		Arable field margins: cultivated annually
		Arable field margins: game bird mix
		Arable field margins (unspecified)
		Temporary grass and clover leys
		Cereal crops: winter stubble
		Cereal crops: game bird mix fields
		Cereal crops: other
		Temporary grass & cereal crops (unspecified)
		Non-cereal crops
		Woody biofuel crops
		Intensive orchards (wire method)
		Horticulture: allotments
		Horticulture: other
	Horticulture & non-cereal crops (unspecified)	
	Arable & horticulture (unspecified)	
	Hedgerows	Native hedgerow with trees
		Native hedgerow
		Hedge ornamental (non native)
		Other hedgerows
Hedgerows (unspecified)		