

UK Habitat Classifications



The UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) is a comprehensive habitat classification system for the UK that has been developed to ensure ecologists can identify and map habitats in the field in a consistent and unified way and has been designed to provide outputs that are suitable for:

- Ecological impact assessment
- Habitat metrics

[Link to UKHAB Habitat Classification Documents](#)

Level 1	Level 2 Label	Level 2 code	Level 3 Label	Level 3 code	"Level 4 Label (Priority Habitats in Bold)"	Level 4 code	"Level 5 Label (Including Annex 1 Habitats)"	Level 5 code
Terrestrial	Grassland	g	Acid grassland	g1	Lowland dry acid grassland	g1a	Inland dunes with open grasslands (H2330)	g1a5
				g2		g1a	Other lowland dry acid grassland	g1a6
				g3	Upland acid grassland	g1b	Montane acid grasslands (H6150)	g1b5
				g4		g1b	Other upland acid grassland	g1b6
				g5	Bracken	g1c		
				g6	Other lowland acid grassland	g1d		
			Calcareous grassland	g2	Lowland calcareous grassland	g2a	Dry grasslands and scrub on chalk or limestone; lowland (H6210)	g2a5
				g3		g2a	Dry grasslands and scrub on chalk or limestone; important orchid sites (H6210)	g2a6
				g4	Upland calcareous grassland	g2b	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands (H6170)	g2b5
				g5		g2b	Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas (H6230)	g2b6
				g6		g2b	Dry grasslands and scrub on chalk or limestone; upland (H6210)	g2b7
			Neutral grassland	g3	Lowland meadows	g3a	Lowland hay meadows (H6510)	g3a5
				g4	Upland hay meadows	g3b	Mountain hay meadows (H6520)	g3b5
				g5	Other neutral grassland	g3c	Arrhenatherum neutral grassland	g3c5
				g6		g3c	Lolium-Cynosurus neutral grassland	g3c6
				g7		g3c	Deschampsia neutral grassland	g3c7
				g8		g3c	Holcus-Juncus neutral grassland	g3c8
			Modified grassland	g4				
			Woodland and forest	w	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland	w1	Upland oakwood	w1a
	w2	Upland mixed ashwoods				w1b	Lime-maple woodlands of rocky slopes (H9180)	w1b5
	w3	Upland mixed ashwoods				w1b	Other upland mixed ashwoods	w1b6
	w4	Lowland beech and yew woodland				w1c	Beech forests on acid soils (H9120)	w1c5
	w5					w1c	Beech forests on neutral to rich soils (H9130)	w1c6
	w6					w1c	Yew-dominated woodland (H91J0)	w1c7
	w7					w1c	Natural box scrub (H5110)	w1c8
	w8	Wet woodland				w1d	Alder woodland on floodplains (H91E0)	w1d5
	w9					w1d	Bog woodland (H91D0)	w1d6
	w10	Upland birchwoods				w1e		
	w11	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland				w1f	Dry oak-dominated woodland (H9190)	w1f5
	w12					w1f	Oak-hornbeam forests (H9160)	w1f6
	w13					w1f	Other Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	w1f7
	w14	Other woodland; broadleaved				w1g	Line of trees	w1g6
	w15					w1g	Other broadleaved woodland types	w1g7
	w16	Other woodland; mixed				w1h	Other woodland; mixed; mainly broadleaved	w1h5
	w17				w1h	Other woodland; mixed; mainly conifer	w1h6	
	Coniferous woodland	w2			Native pine woodlands	w2a	Caledonian forest (H91C0)	w2a5
		w3			Other Scot's Pine woodland	w2b		
		w4	Other coniferous woodland	w2c				

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	Heathland and shrub	h	Dwarf shrub heath	h1	Lowland heathland	h1a	Dry heaths; lowland (H4030)	h1a5	
				h2		h1a	Dry coastal heaths with Cornish heath (H4040)	h1a6	
				h3		h1a	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath; lowland (H4010)	h1a7	
				h4		h1a	Wet heathland with Dorset heath and cross-leaved heath (H4020)	h1a8	
				h5	Upland heathland	h1b	Dry heaths; upland (H4030)	h1b5	
				h6		h1b	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath; upland (H4010)	h1b6	
				h7	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	h1c	Alpine and subalpine heaths (H4060)	h1c5	
				h8		h1c	Mountain willow scrub (H4080)	h1c6	
			Hedgerows		h2	Hedgerow (priority habitat)	h2a		
					h3	Other hedgerows	h2b		
			Dense scrub		h3	Blackthorn scrub	h3a	West coast blackthorn scrub	h3a5
					h4		h3a	Other blackthorn scrub	h3a6
					h5	Hazel scrub	h3b	Atlantic hazel	h3b5
					h6		h3b	Other hazel scrub	h3b6
					h7	Sea buckthorn scrub	h3c	Dunes with sea buckthorn (H2160)	h3c5
					h8		h3c	Other sea buckthorn scrub	h3c6
					h9		h3d		
					h10	Gorse scrub	h3e		
					h11	Hawthorn scrub	h3f		
	h12	Rhododendron scrub			h3g				
	h13	Mixed scrub			h3h				
	Wetland	f	Bog	f1	Blanket bog	f1a	Blanket bog (H7130)	f1a5	
				f2		f1a	Degraded blanket bog	f1a6	
				f3	Lowland raised bog	f1b	Active raised bogs (H7110)	f1b5	
				f4		f1b	Degraded raised bog (H7120)	f1b6	
				f5		f1b	Other degraded raised bog	f1b7	
			Fen marsh and swamp		f2	Lowland fens	f2a	Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (H7210)	f2a5
					f3		f2a	Hard-water springs depositing lime; lowland (H7220)	f2a6
					f4		f2a	Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; lowland (H7230)	f2a7
					f5		f2a	Transition mires and quaking bogs; lowland (H7140)	f2a8
					f6	Purple moor grass and rush pastures	f2b	Purple moor-grass meadows (H6410)	f2b5
					f7	Upland flushes, fens and swamps	f2c	Alpine pioneer formations (H7240)	f2c5
					f8		f2c	Hard-water springs depositing lime; upland (H7220)	f2c6
f9					f2c		Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; upland (H7230)	f2c7	
f10					f2c		Transition mires and quaking bogs; upland (H7140)	f2c8	
f11	Aquatic marginal vegetation	f2d							
f12	Reedbeds	f2e							
f13	Other swamps	f2f							

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Terrestrial	Cropland	c	Arable and horticulture	c1	Arable field margins	c1a	Arable margins sown with tussocky grasses	c1a5
				c2		c1a	Arable margins sown with wild flowers or a pollen and nectar mix	c1a6
				c3		c1a	Arable margins cultivated annually with an annual flora	c1a7
				c4		c1a	Game bird mix strips and corners	c1a8
				c5	Temporary grass and clover leys	c1b	Rye-grass and clover ley	c1b5
				c6		c1b	Legume-rich ley	c1b6
				c7		c1b	Herb-rich ley	c1b7
				c8	Cereal crops	c1c	Winter stubble	c1c5
				c9		c1c	Game bird mix fields	c1c6
				c10		c1c	Other cereal crops	c1c7
				c11	Non-cereal crops	c1d	Miscanthus	c1d5
				c12		c1d	Short-rotation coppice	c1d6
				c13		c1d	Vineyards	c1d7
				c14		c1d	Other non-cereal crops	c1d8
				c15	Intensive orchards	c1e		
				c16	Horticulture	c1f	Annuals horticulture	c1f5
				c17		c1f	Perennials horticulture	c1f6
				c18		c1f	Polyculture	c1f7
	Urban	u	Built-up areas and gardens	u1	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land	u1a		
				u2	Developed land; sealed surface	u1b	Buildings	u1b5
				u3		u1b	Other developed land	u1b6
				u4	Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface	u1c		
				u5	Suburban/ mosaic of developed/ natural surface	u1d		
				u6	Built linear features	u1e		
	Sparsely vegetated land	s	Inland rock	s1	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	s1a	Acidic scree (H8110)	s1a5
				s2		s1a	Base-rich scree (H8120)	s1a6
				s3		s1a	Plants in crevices in base-rich rocks (H8210)	s1a7
				s4		s1a	Plants in crevices in acid rocks (H8220)	s1a8
				s5		s1a	Tall herb communities (H6430)	s1a9
				s6	Limestone pavement	s1b	Limestone pavements (H8240)	s1b5
				s7	Calaminarian grasslands	s1c	Grasslands on soils rich in heavy metals (H6130)	s1c5
				s8	Other inland rock and scree	s1d		
			Supralittoral rock	s2	Maritime cliff and slopes	s2a	Vegetated sea cliffs (H1230)	s2a5
				s3		s2a	Soft rock sea cliffs	s2a6
			Supralittoral sediment	s3	Coastal sand dunes	s3a	Humid dune slacks (H2190)	s3a3
				s4		s3a	Dunes with juniper thickets (H2550)	s3a4
				s5		s3a	Embryonic shifting dunes (H2110)	s3a5
				s6		s3a	Shifting dunes with marram (H2120)	s3a6
				s7		s3a	Dune grassland (H2130)	s3a7
				s8		s3a	Lime-deficient dune heathland with crowberry (H2140)	s3a8
				s9		s3a	Coastal dune heathland (H2150)	s3a9
	s10	Coastal vegetated shingle	s3b	Perennial vegetation on coastal shingle (H1220)	s3b5			
	s11		s3b	Annual vegetation of drift lines (H1210)	s3b6			

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Freshwater	Rivers and lakes	r	Standing open water and canals	r1	Eutrophic standing waters	r1a	Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs (H3150)	r1a5
				r2		r1a	Other eutrophic standing waters	r1a6
				r3	Mesotrophic lakes	r1b	Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes lochs and pools (H3140)	r1b5
				r4	Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes	r1c	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation (H3130)	r1c5
				r5		r1c	Nutrient-poor shallow waters with aquatic vegetation on sand (H3110)	r1c6
				r6		r1c	Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds (H3160)	r1c7
				r7		Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	r1d	
				r8	Canals	r1e		
			Rivers and streams	r2	Rivers (priority habitat)	r2a	Rivers with floating vegetation (H3260)	r2a5
				r3		r2a	Other priority habitat rivers	r2a6
				r4	Other rivers and streams	r2b		
Marine	Marine inlets and transitional waters	t	Littoral rock	t1	Intertidal chalk	t1a		
				t2	Sabellaria alveolata reefs	t1b		
				t3	Intertidal underboulder communities	t1c		
				t4	Estuarine rocky habitats	t1d		
				t5	Splash zone with lichens	t1e		
				t6	Other littoral rock	t1f		
			Littoral sediment	t2	Coastal saltmarsh	t2a	Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand (H1310)	t2a5
				t3		t2a	Cord-grass swards (H1320)	t2a6
				t4		t2a	Atlantic salt meadows (H1330)	t2a7
				t5		t2a	Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub (H1420)	t2a8
				t6	Blue mussel beds on sediment	t2b		
				t7	Seagrass beds [<i>Zostera noltii</i>]	t2c		
				t8	Intertidal mudflats	t2d	Intertidal mudflats and sandflats (H1140)	t2d5
				t9	Sheltered muddy gravels	t2e		
				t10	Peat and clay exposures with piddocks	t2f		
				t11	Saline lagoons	t2g	Saline lagoons (H1150)	t2g5
				t12	Beach	t2h		