

BTO/JNCC/RSPB BREEDING BIRD SURVEY HABITAT RECORDING FORM



BTO
Looking out for birds



JNCC
Joint Nature Conservation Committee



giving
nature
a home

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Observer name	Obs. code (office use only)
1-km square reference (e.g. TL1234)	Visit date dd/mm/yyyy

ACTUAL HABITAT

SEE OVERLEAF FOR HABITAT CODES

Transect section	First habitat				Second habitat			
	Level 1 (A – J)	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 1 (A – J)	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								

Please complete as much detail as you feel able, but note that Levels 1 and 2 are the most important.

You can record up to two habitats for each transect section (First and Second habitats). Choose the appropriate Level 1 habitat code from the back of the form (A – J), then select the relevant options for Levels 2, 3 and 4. You can enter two Level 3 and two Level 4 codes. Each box should contain one entry only.

SKETCH MAP

If you have no other way of submitting your route map, please sketch your route on the square below, marking the transect sections (1 – 10), and any notable landscape features.

CHANGED HABITAT

If there were major habitat changes between your early and late visits, please record these in the box below:

Transect section	First habitat				Second habitat			
	Levels				Levels			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

If you are not using BBS-Online, please return all forms to your RO, or to BTO HQ if you do not have an RO

Each box refers to one Level 1 habitat (A – J).

For each transect section, note the appropriate Level 1 habitat, then choose the relevant options for Levels 2, 3 and 4 from within the box.

A - WOODLAND

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Broadleaved
- 2 Coniferous
- 3 Mixed (10% of each)
- 4 Broadleaved water-logged
- 5 Coniferous water-logged
- 6 Mixed water-logged

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Mixed-aged or semi-natural
- 2 Coppice with standards
- 3 Coppice without standards
- 4 Mature plantation (taller than 10m, with closed canopy)
- 5 Young plantation (5-10m, open canopy)
- 6 Parkland (scattered trees and grassy areas)
- 7 High-medium disturbance from people
- 8 Low disturbance
- 9 Near road (within 50m)

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Dense shrub layer
- 2 Moderate shrub layer
- 3 Sparse shrub layer
- 4 Dense field layer
- 5 Moderate field layer
- 6 Sparse field layer
- 7 Grazed (moderate to heavy)
- 8 Lightly grazed
- 9 Dead wood present
- 10 Dead wood absent

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

B - SCRUBLAND (includes young woodland <5m tall)

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Regenerating natural or semi-natural woodland
- 2 Downland (chalk)
- 3 Heath scrub
- 4 Young coppice
- 5 New plantation
- 6 Clear-felled with or without new saplings
- 7 Other

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Broadleaved
- 2 Coniferous
- 3 Mixed (at least 10% of each)
- 4 Broadleaved swamp scrub
- 5 Coniferous swamp scrub
- 6 Mixed swamp scrub
- 7 High-medium disturbance from people
- 8 Low disturbance
- 9 Near road (within 50m)

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Predominantly tall (3-5m)
- 2 Predominantly low (1-3m)
- 3 Dense shrub layer
- 4 Moderate shrub layer
- 5 Sparse shrub layer
- 6 Extensive bracken
- 7 Dense field layer
- 8 Moderate field layer
- 9 Sparse field layer
- 10 Grazed (moderate to heavy)

C - SEMI-NATURAL GRASSLAND / MARSH

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Chalk downland
- 2 Grass moor (unenclosed)
- 3 Grass moor mixed with heather (unenclosed)
- 4 Machair
- 5 Other dry grassland
- 6 Water-meadow/ grazing marsh
- 7 Reed swamp
- 8 Other open marsh
- 9 Saltmarsh

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Hedgerow with trees
- 2 Hedgerow without trees
- 3 Tree-line without hedge
- 4 Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)
- 5 Isolated group of trees
- 6 No field boundary
- 7 Montane
- 8 High-medium disturbance from people
- 9 Low disturbance
- 10 Near road (within 50m)

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Ungrazed
- 2 Cattle
- 3 Sheep
- 4 Horses
- 5 Rabbits
- 6 Deer
- 7 Other grazers
- 8 Extensive bracken
- 9 Hay

D - HEATHLAND AND BOGS

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Dry heath
- 2 Wet heath
- 3 Mixed heath
- 4 Bog
- 5 Breckland
- 6 Drained bog
- 7 Bare peat

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Montane
- 2 Raised bog
- 3 Valley/basin bog
- 4 Blanket bog
- 5 Heath mixed with rough grass
- 6 Heath without grass
- 7 Heath with extensive bracken
- 8 Undetermined bog
- 9 Isolated group of trees
- 10 Disturbance from people
- 11 Low disturbance
- 12 Near road (within 50m)

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Ungrazed
- 2 Cattle
- 3 Sheep
- 4 Horses
- 5 Rabbits
- 6 Deer
- 7 Other grazers
- 8 Ploughed
- 9 Burned
- 10 Planted with saplings less than 0.5m tall

E - FARMLAND

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Improved grassland
- 2 Unimproved
- 3 Mixed grass/ tilled land
- 4 Tilled land
- 5 Orchard
- 6 Other farming

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Hedgerow with trees
- 2 Hedgerow without trees
- 3 Tree-line without hedge
- 4 Other field boundary (wall, ditch, etc.)
- 5 Isolated group of trees
- 6 Farmyard (active)
- 7 Near road (within 50m)
- 8 No field boundary

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Ungrazed
- 2 Cattle
- 3 Sheep
- 4 Horses
- 5 Other stock
- 6 Bare earth/plough
- 7 Autumn cereal
- 8 Spring cereal
- 9 Root crops
- 10 Other crops
- 11 Oil seed rape
- 12 Other brassicas
- 13 Stubble (clean)
- 14 Stubble (weedy)
- 15 Unown/fallow
- 16 Recently cut grass

F - HUMAN SITES

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Urban
- 2 Suburban
- 3 Rural

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Building
- 2 Gardens
- 3 Municipal parks/ grass/golf courses/ recreational areas
- 4 Sewage works "urban"
- 5 Near road (within 50m)
- 6 Near active railway line (within 50m)
- 7 Other
- 8 Rubbish tip

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Industrial
- 2 Residential
- 3 Well-wooded
- 4 Not well-wooded
- 5 Area of large gardens
- 6 Area of medium gardens
- 7 Area of small gardens
- 8 Many shrubs
- 9 Few shrubs
- 10 Disused

G - WATERBODIES (freshwater)

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Pond (less than 50m²)
- 2 Small waterbody (50-450m²)
- 3 Lake/unlined reservoir
- 4 Lined reservoir
- 5 Gravel pit/sand pit
- 6 Stream (<3m wide)
- 7 River (>3m wide)
- 8 Ditch with water (<2m wide)
- 9 Small canal (2-5m wide)
- 10 Large canal (>5m wide)

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Undisturbed/ disused
- 2 Water sports (sailing etc)
- 3 Angling (coarse or game)
- 4 Coarse angling
- 5 Game fishing
- 6 Industrial activity
- 7 Sewage processing "rural"
- 8 Other disturbance
- 9 Small island

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Eutrophic (green water)
- 2 Oligotrophic clear (water, few weeds)
- 3 Dystrophic (black water)
- 4 Marl (clear water, large water-weeds)
- 5 Slow-medium running
- 6 Fast-running
- 7 Dredged
- 8 Undredged
- 9 Banks cleared
- 10 Banks vegetated

H - COASTAL

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Marine - open shore
- 2 Marine shore - inlet/ cove/loch
- 3 Estuarine
- 4 Brackish lagoon
- 5 Open sea

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Mud or silt
- 2 Sand
- 3 Shingle
- 4 Rocky
- 5 Fully vegetated
- 6 Sparse/medium vegetation
- 7 Inter-tidal
- 8 Below low-water mark

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Cliff - vertical/steeply sloping
- 2 Dune
- 3 Flat/gently sloping
- 4 Small island
- 5 Spit
- 6 Dune slack
- 7 Sloping ground
- 8 Undisturbed
- 9 Disturbed

I - INLAND ROCK

LEVEL 2 options

- 1 Cliff
- 2 Scree/boulder slope
- 3 Limestone
- 4 Other rock outcrop
- 5 Quarry
- 6 Mine/spoil/slag heap
- 7 Cave

LEVEL 3 options

- 1 Active
- 2 Disused
- 3 Montane
- 4 Non-montane
- 5 High disturbance from climbers/walkers etc.
- 6 Medium disturbance
- 7 Low disturbance

LEVEL 4 options

- 1 Bare rock
- 2 Low vegetation present (mosses, liverworts, etc)
- 3 Grasses present
- 4 Scrub present

J - MISCELLANEOUS