

# Definitions of Favourable Condition for designated features of interest



These definitions relate to all designated features on the SSSI, whether designated as SSSI, SPA, SAC or Ramsar features.

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| Name of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)                       |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| UPPER WYE GORGE SSSI                                                     |                      |
| Names of designated international sites                                  |                      |
| Special Area of Conservation (SAC)                                       | WYE VALLEY WOODLANDS |
| Special Protection Area (SPA)                                            | N/A                  |
| Ramsar                                                                   | N/A                  |
| Relationship between site designations                                   |                      |
| Upper Wye Gorge SSSI is a component site of the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC |                      |

| Version control information                                  |                                                                                                                                                                  |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Status of this Version<br>(Draft, Consultation Draft, Final) | Final                                                                                                                                                            |                     |
| Prepared by                                                  | Alan Foulds                                                                                                                                                      |                     |
| Date of this version                                         | 1 January 2014                                                                                                                                                   |                     |
| Date of generic guidance on<br>favourable condition used     | Assembly spreadsheet v5 2008                                                                                                                                     |                     |
| Other notes/version history                                  | Emma Rimmington & Claire Smith (2004) and<br>amended by Charlotte Pagendam (2009) CSM<br>guidance for Woodlands, JNCC (2004)<br>QA check Peter Holmes 9 Mar 2009 |                     |
| Quality assurance information                                |                                                                                                                                                                  |                     |
| Checked by                                                   | Name Peter Holmes                                                                                                                                                | Date 3 January 2014 |
|                                                              | <br><br>Signature                                                            |                     |

## **Definitions of Favourable Condition: notes for users**

### **Definitions of Favourable Condition**

The definitions comprise one or more condition definitions for the special interest features at this site. These are subject to periodic review and may be updated to reflect new information or knowledge. They will be used by Natural England to determine if a site is in a favourable condition. The standards for favourable condition have been developed and are applied throughout the UK.

Standards for favourable condition are defined with particular reference to the specific designated features listed in Table 1, and are based on a selected set of attributes for features which most effectively define favourable condition as set out in Tables 2, 2a and 3. When an SSSI's features meet these attributes, then they are said to be in 'favourable condition'.

### **Explanatory text for Tables 2 and 3**

Tables 2, 2a and 3 set out the measures of condition which we will use to provide evidence to support our assessment of whether features are in favourable condition. They have been tailored by local staff to reflect the particular characteristics and site-specific circumstances of individual sites. Quality Assurance has ensured that such site-specific tailoring remains within a nationally consistent set of standards. The tables include an audit trail to provide a summary of the reasoning behind any site-specific targets etc. In some cases the requirements of features or designations may conflict; the detailed basis for any reconciliation of conflicts on this site may be recorded elsewhere.

### **Use under the Habitats Regulations**

The Definitions of Favourable Condition (DFCs) are used to periodically measure and assess the condition of both notified SSSI features and designated European Site features.

Where SSSIs also form part of a European Site (such as a SAC or SPA), a separate document containing specific European Site Conservation Objectives will have been prepared. These objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority is required to make an 'appropriate assessment' of the likely effects of a proposed plan or project on the integrity of a European Site under the relevant parts of the respective legislation. The European Site Conservation Objectives are available at [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk).

The concepts of 'site integrity' and 'favourable condition' are similar and the assessment of a feature's condition will measure attributes that also represent aspects of a site's ecological integrity. However, the periodic determination of a feature's condition is separate from a judgement about the effect upon a site's overall integrity. This is because the DFCs do not represent a comprehensive or definitive list of all of the elements that might contribute to site integrity, merely those that are most appropriate to monitor in order to rapidly determine the present condition of a feature. The full range of factors that are components of a site's integrity, and which may need to be considered by an appropriate assessment, will be specified in the European Site Conservation Objectives. Some of the information contained within the DFCs may however contribute to such assessments.

**Table 1 Individual designated interest features**

| BAP Broad<br>Habitat type<br>/ Geological<br>Site Type | Specific designated<br>features                                                                  | Explanatory<br>description of the<br>feature for<br>clarification                                                                                                                         | SSSI notified interest<br>features | SAC qualifying interest<br>features | SPA qualifying<br>interest features<br>dependency on<br>specific habitats |                      |                         | Ramsar criteria<br>applicable to specific<br>habitats |                               |                       |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                                                        |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                    |                                     | Annex 1<br>species                                                        | Migratory<br>species | Waterfowl<br>assemblage | 1a Wetland<br>characteristics                         | 2a Hosting rare<br>species &c | 3a 20000<br>waterfowl | 3c 1% of<br>population |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Broadleaved,<br>mixed and<br>Yew<br>woodland           | W8 <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> -<br><i>Acer campestre</i> -<br><i>Mercurialis perennis</i>         | At notification, this<br>site was designated<br>based on the Bolt<br>Survey 1979/80<br>using Peterken<br>stand-types. These<br>have been<br>transposed to the<br>NVC types shown<br>left. | *                                  |                                     |                                                                           |                      |                         |                                                       |                               |                       |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                        | W10 <i>Quercus robur</i> -<br><i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> -<br><i>Rubus fruticosus</i>            |                                                                                                                                                                                           | *                                  |                                     |                                                                           |                      |                         |                                                       |                               |                       |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                        | W12 <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> -<br><i>Acer campestre</i> -<br><i>Mercurialis perennis</i>        |                                                                                                                                                                                           | *                                  |                                     |                                                                           |                      |                         |                                                       |                               |                       |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                        | W12a <i>Mercurialis<br/>perennis</i> sub-community<br>W12c <i>Taxus baccata</i><br>sub-community | The selection and<br>designation of the<br>SAC in 2000 was<br>undertaken against<br>the Corine types<br>shown below left.                                                                 | *                                  |                                     |                                                                           |                      |                         |                                                       |                               |                       |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                        | W14 <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> -<br><i>Betula spp</i> -<br><i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>               | Annex XX details the<br>relationship between<br>these types                                                                                                                               |                                    |                                     |                                                                           |                      |                         |                                                       |                               |                       |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| W16 <i>Quercus spp.</i> –                              |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                    |                                     |                                                                           |                      |                         |                                                       |                               |                       |                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type | Specific designated features                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Explanatory description of the feature for clarification                                                                                                                    | SSSI notified interest | SAC qualify                | SPA qualifying interest features dependency on specific habitats |  |  | Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                                               | <p><i>Betula spp.</i><br/><i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i></p> <p>And the following European Site (Corine) types :</p> <p><i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines<br/><i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests<br/><i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles</p>                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                             | *                      | <p>*</p> <p>*</p> <p>*</p> |                                                                  |  |  |                                                 |  |  |  |
| Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland           | <p>Vascular plant assemblage</p> <p>A.<br/><i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>,<br/><i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>,<br/><i>Cardamine impatiens</i>,<br/><i>Helleborus foetidus</i> and<br/><i>Festuca altissima</i>.</p> <p>B.<br/><i>Carex montana</i>,<br/><i>Carex humilis</i>,<br/><i>Carex digitata</i>,<br/><i>Sorbus eminens</i>,<br/><i>Sorbus anglica</i>,</p> | <p>Assemblage composed of scarce and notable plants</p> <p>A. within woodland (including rides &amp; glades) and also</p> <p>B. of limestone rocks, pavement and cliffs</p> | *                      |                            |                                                                  |  |  |                                                 |  |  |  |

| BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type    | Specific designated features                                                              | Explanatory description of the feature for clarification                                                                                                     | SSSI notified interest | SAC qualify | SPA qualifying interest features dependency on specific habitats |  |  | Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                                                  | <i>Sorbus porrigentiformis</i> ,<br><i>Sorbus rupicola</i> (and<br><i>Sorbus</i> hybrids) |                                                                                                                                                              |                        |             |                                                                  |  |  |                                                 |  |  |  |
| Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland              | Breeding bird assemblage                                                                  | Range of typical scrub and woodland species including several open habitat/ parkland species and Annex 1 (Peregrine, Raven - and Goshawk (post designation)) | *                      |             |                                                                  |  |  |                                                 |  |  |  |
| Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland              | Invertebrate assemblage                                                                   | Range of woodland species; woodland ride (F31) limestone glade , bark and dead wood/parkland (A21), stream/river edge (W21) species                          | *                      |             |                                                                  |  |  |                                                 |  |  |  |
| Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland/ Inland Rock | Hibernating populations of Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>           | Hibernation roost sites (caves and mines) lie within woodland – although not included at notification, subsequent survey shows that site                     | *                      | (*)         |                                                                  |  |  |                                                 |  |  |  |

| BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type                                          | Specific designated features                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Explanatory description of the feature for clarification                                                                                                                                                                                   | SSSI notified interest | SAC qualifyi | SPA qualifying interest features dependency on specific habitats |  |  | Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | qualifies and LHB has been included as a feature of the SAC                                                                                                                                                                                |                        |              |                                                                  |  |  |                                                 |  |  |  |
| Finite mineral, fossil or other geological interest (FM)<br><br>Pleistocene Vertebrata | 2 GCR sites:<br>King Arthur's Cave (& Seven Sisters Cave)<br>Merlin's Cave<br><br>Pleistocene vertebrate fauna - fossils already discovered include: lemmings, pika, hyena, mammoth, woolly rhino, reindeer, red deer and horse. | Merlin's Cave and King Arthur's Cave contain Pleistocene deposits yielding mammal remains. Upper Palaeolithic artefacts have also been found. The Seven Sister's Cave is a rock shelter, or abris, containing extensive unworked deposits. | *                      |              |                                                                  |  |  |                                                 |  |  |  |

NB. Features where asterisks are in brackets (\*) indicate habitats which are not notified for specific habitat interest (under the relevant designation) but because they support notified species.

**Table 2 Habitat extent objectives**

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Extent - Dynamic balance</b> | To maintain the designated features in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to a balance of habitat extents (extent attribute). Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards.                     |
|                                 | On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the extent of each habitat type (either designated habitat or habitat supporting designated species). Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent. |

| <b>Habitat Feature (BAP Broad Habitat level, or more detailed level if applicable)</b> | <b>Estimated extent (ha) and date of data source/estimate</b> | <b>Site Specific Target range and Measures</b>                                                    | <b>Comments</b>                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland                                                    | 239.37ha<br>(GIS 10 July 2001)                                | No loss of woodland (which include rides and coppice coupes) and wood pasture/ parkland) habitats | Extent is estimate equal to site size and includes areas of limestone grassland refugia on Seven Sisters rocks and Little Doward Fort. |
| Geological features                                                                    | N/A                                                           |                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                        |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Audit Trail</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Rationale for habitat extent attribute</b><br>(Include methods of estimation (measures), and the approximate degree of change which these are capable of detecting).                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| The citation area is 245.1ha. ENSIS records 198.34ha, but this is because it doesn't include the unit wholly in Wales, or the Welsh part of cross-border units – the border runs through this SSSI, undemarcated on the ground and of no ecological significance.                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Other Notes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Areas of limestone grassland refugia need to be measured during assessment to refine woodland habitat extent and to enable extent of this aspect of site quality to be assessed. These scattered areas of grassland are associated with the limestone outcrops within the woodland and are supporting habitat for several species within the Vascular Plant Assemblage. |

**Table 2a Species population objectives**

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Population balance</b> | To maintain the designated species in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to their population attributes. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards.                       |
|                           | On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the population of each designated species or assemblage. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in size of population or assemblage. |

| <b>Species Feature (species or assemblage)</b>                                 | <b>List supporting BAP Broad Habitats</b>           | <b>Population Attribute (eg presence/absence, population size or assemblage score)</b> | <b>Site Specific Target range and Measures (specify geographical range over which target applies ie site, BAP broad habitat or more specific)</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Hibernating population of Lesser Horseshoe Bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> | Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland/<br>Inland Rock | Presence/absence                                                                       | Bats recorded as present on at least one occasion per winter.                                                                                     |                 |

| <b>Audit Trail</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rationale for species population attributes</b><br>(Include methods of estimation (measures), and the approximate degree of change which these are capable of detecting).                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| This table not included in the previous draft from 2009. Habitat attributes and their assessment to be found in Table 3e.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Other Notes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Above suggested text copied from FCT for Westbury Brook Ironstone Mine SSSI which also has a hibernating population of LHBs.<br><br>In addition, it would appear from data received from Dave Priddis (local bat expert) that hibernating Greater Horseshoe bats also occur in significant numbers which would qualify this species also as an additional Notified Feature – 99 in 2011, 121 in 2012. |

**Table 3a Site specific Habitat condition objectives**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To maintain the <b>Broadleaved, mixed and Yew woodland</b> at <b>Upper Wye Gorge SSSI</b> in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards: |
| <b>Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                      |
| This objective is required to cover not only the NVC types (derived from Peterken on which the site was selected and designated) but also the European Site (SAC) woodland types based on the Corine classifications.<br>Map 2 identifies the relationship between these types.                 |

**Site-specific standards defining favourable condition**

| Criteria feature                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Attribute term in guidance | Measure                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>W8 Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre-Mercurialis perennis</i><br><br><i>W10 Quercus robur-Pteridium aquilinum-Rubus fruticosus</i><br><br><i>W12 Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre-Mercurialis perennis</i><br><i>W12a Mercurialis perennis</i> sub-community<br><i>W12c Taxus baccata</i> sub-community<br><br><i>W14 Fagus sylvatica-</i> | Area                       | Extent & location of stands assessed by field survey and/or aerial photography, in relation to baseline NVC Map: NVC survey 1998 (including CCW data for Welsh part of site), and WT Doward Survey (200?) | <p>No loss of ancient semi-natural stands.</p> <p>At least current area of recent semi-natural stands maintained, although their location may alter.</p> <p>For wood pasture/parkland: No loss of semi-natural wood-pasture mosaic area.</p> <p>No loss of ancient woodland.</p> <p>No reduction in the number of veteran trees.</p> | <p>Stand loss due to natural processes e.g. in minimum intervention stands may be acceptable. (N.B. Unit 16 – non-intervention)</p> <p>Beech may not be abundant throughout the W14 stand (Unit 13), particularly in regeneration patches, but this does not count as stand loss.</p> <p>Stand destruction may occur if the understorey and ground flora are irretrievably damaged even if the canopy remains intact. As a guideline, loss can be defined</p> | Yes                           |

| Criteria feature                                                                                                                            | Attribute term in guidance      | Measure                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Betula spp-Deschampsia flexuosa</i><br><br>W16 <i>Quercus spp. – Betula spp. Deschampsia flexuosa</i><br><br>and corresponding SAC types |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | as at least 0.5 ha or 0.5% of the stand area, whichever is the smaller. 20% canopy cover is conventionally taken as the lower limit for an area to be considered as woodland.<br><br>Maintain extent of glades and limestone cliff and grassland refugia (see map 3) – extent needs to be mapped on site visit.<br><br>Wood-pasture occurs in unit 7 but extent not mapped.                                                    |                               |
| As above                                                                                                                                    | Structure and Natural processes | Age/size class variation within and between stands; presence of open space and old trees; dead wood lying on the ground; standing dead trees assessed by field survey using structured walk and/or transects. | <b>Canopy cover</b> present over 30-90 % of stand area (except in parkland stands).<br><br><b>Understorey</b> (2-5m) present over at least 20% of total stand area (except in parkland).<br><br><b>Ground flora</b> present over at least 50% of area in W8 stands. | In coppiced stands a lower canopy cover (of standards) can be accepted, as will also be the case in parkland.<br><br>W10/W14 areas – The understorey may range from virtually non-existent to impenetrable holly/yew. If understorey is very dense it may be affecting the ground flora or lichen growth on the lower trunks of trees.<br>W8 areas – ground flora may appear sparse in places late in season where colonies of |                               |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance | Measure                                                                                           | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  |                            |                                                                                                   | <p>Ground flora in W10/14 stands present over at least 30% of area or current extent in mature stands, whichever is the greater.</p> <p>At least three <b>age classes</b> spread across the average life expectancy of the commonest trees.</p> <p>Some areas of relatively undisturbed <b>mature/old growth</b> stands or a scatter of large trees allowed to grow to over-maturity/death on site (e.g. a minimum of 10% of the woodland or 5-10 trees per ha).</p> <p>A minimum of 3 <b>fallen lying trees</b> &gt;20 cm diameter per ha and 4 trees per ha allowed to die standing.</p> | <p>Allium have died back. Ground flora is generally very sparse under beech stands, particularly on acid sites or where there is a well-developed understorey. W12c areas – The ground flora and shrub layer are frequently totally absent over most of the stand, so no target is set for them.</p> <p>Targets not applicable in parts of Little Doward parkland area (Unit 7)</p> |                               |
| As above         | Composition                | Cover of native vs non native species (all layers) assessed by field survey using structured walk | At least 95% of cover in any one layer of site-native or acceptable naturalised species.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Sycamore and Sweet Chestnut are regarded as non-native on this site (have been planted in past). Sweet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                               |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance | Measure           | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  |                            | and/or transects. | <p>Minimum levels of particular native tree/shrub species (where important and appropriate – see text)</p> <p>W14/W10/W12 areas – Beech present in mature canopy with at least 30% cover for the feature as a whole.</p> <p>W12c – At least 50% of canopy/understorey is to be comprised of Yew.</p> <p>Death, destruction or replacement of native woodland species through effects of introduced fauna or other external unnatural factors not more than 10% by number or area in a five year period.</p> | <p>Chestnut stands are largely stable and not spreading and so are acceptable where already present as established stand – they should not, however, be allowed to expand.</p> <p>Sycamore, however, is invasive and spreading on this site and the objective should be to prevent it expanding into new areas and to control/remove (select against) existing stands.</p> <p>Where cover in any one layer is less than 100% then the 95% target applies to the area actually covered by that layer.</p> <p>Factors leading to the death or replacement of woodland species could include pollution or new diseases. Damage to species by non-native species that does not lead to their death is not necessarily unacceptable. Excessive browsing/grazing, even by native ungulates, may be undesirable if it causes shifts in the composition/ structure of the stand.</p> |                               |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance | Measure                                                                                                                                                        | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| As above         | Regeneration potential     | Successful establishment of young stems in gaps or on the edge of a stand assessed by field survey using structured walk and/or transects in spring or summer. | <p>Signs of seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees at sufficient density to maintain canopy density over a 10 yr period</p> <p>Unbrowsed regrowth from coppice stumps reaching 1.5m within 2 yrs on 95% of stumps</p> <p>W12c – Signs of seedlings growing through to saplings to young trees at sufficient density to maintain canopy density over a 20 yr period.</p> <p>No more than 20% of areas regenerated by planting. All planting material of locally native stock. In W12c - No more than 5% of areas regenerated by replanting</p> <p>No planting in sites where it has not occurred in the last 15 years other than in wood pasture areas of Unit 7 (Little Doward)</p> | <p>A proportion of gaps at any one time may develop into permanent open space; equally some current permanent open space/glades may in time regenerate to closed canopy. Assess this attribute by site visit in Spring/Summer.</p> <p>Regeneration may often occur on the edges of woods rather than in gaps within it. The density of regeneration considered sufficient is clearly less in parkland sites than in high forest; in coppice most of the regeneration will be as stump regrowth. The minimum level of regeneration to be acceptable from a nature conservation viewpoint is likely to be much less than that needed where wood production is also an objective.</p> | Yes                           |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance          | Measure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | where recruitment of new parkland trees is required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                               |
| As above         | Indicators of local distinctiveness | <p>Ground flora type assessed by field survey using structured walk and/or transects, or as appropriate to feature in spring or summer.</p> <p>Distinctive and desirable species which are elements of the notified features.</p> <p>Patches of associated habitats and transitions</p> | <p>80% of ground flora cover referable to relevant NVC community (W8, W12a, W14, W10, W12c, W16)</p> <p><b>Maintain conditions suitable for:</b><br/> <b><i>Boletus satanus</i></b> (fungus) (see map 3)</p> <p><b>Limestone cliffs and grassland refugia</b>—important for a variety of plant species in addition to the Nationally Scarce species.</p> <p><b>Tufa flushes</b> eg Dropping Wells, spring and falls</p> <p><b>River Wye edge habitats</b></p> | This attribute is intended to cover any site-specific aspects of this habitat feature (forming part of the reason for notification) which are not covered adequately by the previous attributes, or by separate guidance (e.g. notified species features). | Yes                           |

|                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Audit Trail</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site</b>                                                                                                                   |
| Unit 7 (Little Doward) is a mixture of parkland and replanted stands. Therefore, targets only apply to defined woodland NVC communities within this unit (see map 2).                    |
| <b>Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)</b>                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)</b>                                                                        |
| (The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species). |
|                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Other Notes</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Although the table requires conditions to be maintained for the fungus <i>Boletus satanus</i> , there are no specific details mentioned.                                                 |

**Table 3b Site specific Habitat condition objectives**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To maintain the <b>Vascular Plant Assemblage</b> at <b>Upper Wye Gorge SSSI</b> in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>The occurrence of the woodland species included in this assemblage is poorly recorded and requires updating through re-evaluation of existing data and re-survey. However, as they could occur throughout the woodland areas, targets apply across the whole site.</p> <p>The limestone species listed are largely restricted to limestone cliff and refugia areas identified in Map 3 – details of the <i>Sorbus</i> species and locations have been updated recently by Dave Green but are not yet available. Details of other limestone refugia species are given in Seven Sisters Rocks report (1994) by John Bingham on Science - Botany file – but these also need updating.</p> |

**Site-specific standards defining favourable condition**

| Criteria feature                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Attribute term in guidance           | Measure                       | Site-specific Targets     | Comments                                                                                                                                      | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <p>Vascular plant species within woodland (including rides &amp; glades)</p> <p><i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>,<br/> <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i><br/> <i>Cardamine impatiens</i>,<br/> <i>Helleborus foetidus</i>,<br/> <i>Festuca altissima</i></p> <p>&amp;</p> <p>Vascular plant species of limestone rocks, pavement and cliffs - including range of rare <i>Sorbus</i> sp. and</p> | Presence/absence of woodland species | Identification of the species | Species should be present | If all other targets are met but the species cannot be found then the feature should be referred to the Country Agency botanical specialists. | <b>Yes</b>                    |

| Criteria feature                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Attribute term in guidance          | Measure                         | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                              | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| hybrids<br><i>Carex montana</i> , <i>Carex humilis</i> , <i>Carex digitata</i> ,<br><i>Sorbus eminens</i> ,<br><i>S. anglica</i> ,<br><i>S. porrigentiformis</i> , <i>S. rupicola</i> (and <i>Sorbus</i> hybrids) |                                     |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Population size of woodland species | Count of functional individuals | At least a minimum viable population sizes present<br><br>No decline of more than 10% in overall number or<br>No decline greater than one population size category | The species in this suite are commonly found scattered throughout a site, or occur in clumps, stands or colonies. These may vary in their overall distribution within a site as suitable conditions occur i.e. open patches for germination and establishment of young plants. Unless there are fewer than 100 individuals (when an individual count is generally possible) on the site, counts of clumps, stands or colonies should be made or assessed in the categories (101-300; 301-1 000; 1 001-3 000; 3 001-10 000; more than 10 000). | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Successful                          | Identification of the species;  | Presence of range of                                                                                                                                               | This is important for                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Yes</b>                    |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance                   | Measure                         | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                 | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  | regeneration of woodland species             | Count of individuals            | young and old plants; At least a minimum number/proportion of young plants or seedlings or full seed heads or flowers | understanding the viability of a population, but may be difficult to assess for some species. See sect. 5.8 of guidance for details. Some of the species require light and or disturbance for success and may be adversely affected by excessive deer or other stock grazing                                                                                     |                               |
|                  | Population size: number of limestone species | Count of functional individuals | No decline of more than 10% in overall number                                                                         | All the Sorbus species will be identifiable as individual trees or saplings, whilst the other species in this suite grow in clumps or groups. Where there are fewer than 100 individuals a full count should be made. Larger populations, clumps or groups should be assessed in the categories 101-300, 301-1 000, 1 001-3 000, 3 001-10 000, more than 10 000. | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                  | Successful regeneration of limestone         | Visual assessment               | At least 10% of the total population producing fruits, spores or seeds                                                | In most cases it will be possible to establish whether regenerative                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Yes</b>                    |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance                                | Measure                         | Site-specific Targets                                         | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  | species                                                   |                                 |                                                               | material is produced even if plants are viewed through binoculars.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                               |
|                  | Niche availability of limestone species                   | Mapping (either area or length) | No net loss of area of grassland, pavement or length of cliff | Baseline extent of available niche may need to be determined by a specialist. Such situations tend to require little or no management, although some may be prone to invasion by alien species, especially shrubs. Maintaining the open area may involve some direct intervention (e.g. scrub control) or even the use of controlled browsing livestock (but see below). | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                  | Negative indicators: physical damage to limestone species | Visual assessment               | Signs of stock grazing no more than occasional                | None of the species here are particularly tolerant of continuous grazing and many are highly intolerant. There should be no more than light grazing pressure and minimal levels of ground disturbance especially during the spring and early summer months. Some browsing animals may assist in the control                                                              | <b>Yes</b>                    |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance                        | Measure           | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                   | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  |                                                   |                   |                                                                                                                         | of invasive woody species but care should be taken in their use, especially in the spring and early summer.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |
|                  | Negative indicators: shading of limestone species | Visual assessment | Tree/shrub cover should be < 10% and any associated vegetation should be open and should not overtop the target species | <p>The species listed here are generally light demanding species requiring relatively open conditions to induce flowering and achieve seed set. A woody overstorey should not be allowed to develop and may need controlling manually although light browsing may help in this respect. Exception is in relation to Sorbus species which themselves are included in this feature and therefore need to be retained.</p> <p>The species listed here are generally poorly competing species requiring relatively open, competition-free conditions for survival. A bulky competitive sward should not be allowed to</p> | <b>Yes</b>                    |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance | Measure | Site-specific Targets | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  |                            |         |                       | develop. Such favourable conditions will normally be produced by summer droughts. However, some management input may be required (usually very carefully controlled grazing) if the site has a tendency to develop an aggressively bulky community. |                               |

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| <b>Audit Trail</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)</b><br>(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species). |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Other Notes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Table 3c Site specific Habitat condition objectives**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| To maintain the <b>Breeding Bird Assemblage</b> at <b>Upper Wye Gorge SSSI</b> in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>This feature is based on a range of wood land birds including species preferring open woodland/parkland habitats (Tree Pipit, Wood Warbler, Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher) and Annex 1 species (Raven, Peregrine and, since notification, Goshawk). It is highly likely that there has been significant changes since notification – this feature requires re-survey and re-evaluation.</p> <p>The baseline is a 1986 RSPB birds survey which focussed on three key areas: Lords Wood, Court/Elliots Wood and Little Doward Deer Park– and also nest box scheme in Woodside reserve (Unit 5).</p> |

**Site-specific standards defining favourable condition**

| Criteria feature             | Attribute term in guidance                                                  | Measure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                                                             | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assemblage of breeding birds | Assemblage score (BTO index) [features qualifying under criterion 3.5 only] | Record presence/absence of breeding species within the assemblage. Methods of survey will be a combination of those given in Part 2 depending on the species within the assemblage. Breeding must be confirmed as proven or probable according to generic proof of breeding codes (Appendix 1). A count of the numbers of breeding pairs/units in a site is not needed. On the basis of presence/absence recalculate the assemblage | Maintain assemblage diversity:<br>If the total score calculated for a breeding bird assemblage falls by the equivalent of 25% or more in points then the assemblage is in unfavourable condition. | Data on rare and common species will be needed. Many data may already be available - see Section 5 and Part 2 (available on JNCC website).<br><br>Note: Site notified pre 3.5 criterion – species list requires re-evaluation against criteria | <b>Yes</b>                    |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance | Measure                                                                                                                                                                                     | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                 | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  |                            | score using the SSSI Guidelines for the relevant habitat. The species present at designation and each monitoring event do not need to be the same as this is a score-based assessment only. |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                               |
|                  | Habitat extent             | Extent of all habitat types within the boundary of the SSSI (map 2)                                                                                                                         | Maintain the area of the woodland and parkland habitats (including associated rides and other open space) in the site | When sites have designated habitat features the data for assessing this attribute may need to be collected according to the relevant habitat guidance. In these cases additional data may not be needed for this attribute. Habitat requirements for birds are described in Part 2 (available on JNCC website). | <b>Yes</b>                    |

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| <b>Audit Trail</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)</b><br>(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species). |

|                    |
|--------------------|
|                    |
| <b>Other Notes</b> |
|                    |

**Table 3d Site specific Habitat condition objectives**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| To maintain the <b>Invertebrate Assemblage</b> at <b>Upper Wye Gorge SSSI</b> in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>The invertebrate assemblage feature of this site needs thorough review – it is based on a suite of species taken from the ISR and notified under the 1979 criteria – the status of many species have now changed and the assemblage is probably not fully representative of the key habitats of importance at this site.</p> <p>Detailed tables have been drafted for woodland open space habitats (including limestone glade and river edge habitats) and also for wood-pasture/parkland habitats. An additional table is probably required for woodland field layer (shady wood) invertebrates (currently advice awaited on this). The notified assemblage of species does not include river habitat species and the river itself is specifically excluded from the SSSI, so no specific advice has been included for this category (but HQ specialist advises that this category should be taken into account).</p> <p>The requirements of invertebrates have not featured in previous condition assessment and surveys and so little direct evidence is available for target setting – hence areas are identified for further input.</p> |  |  |  |  |  |

**Site-specific standards defining favourable condition**

| Criteria feature                                                                            | Attribute                  | Measure                                                                                     | Site-specific Targets                                                   | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Use for CA? |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Assemblage of woodland ride, limestone glade (F31), stream/river edge (W21) and bark/deadwo | Direct sampling of species | Guidance on survey methodology is in preparation to allow for a standard sampling protocol. | Assemblages of equivalent value are present on each monitoring occasion | The resulting samples will be analysed using ISIS: Invertebrate Species - habitat Information System (Webb and Lott 2006). It is expected that, initially, ISIS will be housed and operated by English Nature Specialists although it is hoped that the system will be available on the intranet in the near future. In the intervening period all the results from site monitoring should be copied on to Jon Webb for analysis using ISIS (when it is available on the intranet other staff will be able to undertake such analysis). |             |

| Criteria feature           | Attribute                          | Measure                                                 | Site-specific Targets                 | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Use for CA? |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| od/ parkland (A21) species | Flowers: Nectar and pollen sources | Sample based – SRS                                      | Percentage occupation (to be defined) | It is a purely qualitative estimate but should be considered separately from assessing simply the presence or absence of nectar and pollen bearing species during vegetation monitoring. This includes all the forbs and grasses (a few pollen-feeding species use grass pollen) though the latter should not dominate the sward and so be recorded as favourable in the absence of forbs, and would also include shrubs such as hawthorn but not the trees such as ash or oak.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |
|                            | Water                              | Sample based – SRS                                      | No loss of known water features       | This site include a number of water features most notable the margins of the River Wye, tufa seepages and falls, small streams, woodland pools.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |
|                            | Cover and Over-wintering sites     | % cover (litter)<br>% occupation (over wintering cover) | Sample based – SRS<br>(To be defined) | Generally, the litter targets taken from the botanical habitat assessments may be suitable to maintain this resource for invertebrates, <i>providing that a lower limit is understood as well as an upper limit.</i><br><br>Assessment of cover for over-wintering species provided by <u>seed heads and broken stems</u> is made in the same fashion as with the summer nectar resource. The ability of the sward to retain the seed head resource throughout the winter is assessed, again using the concept of 'percentage occupation' across the unit. The seed head resource can be taken as a proxy measure for a whole range of structural attributes, including the seed heads themselves, the range of stem heights and diameters (some being hollow), the litter of the previous season, attached dried curled leaves etc. |             |

| Criteria feature                                                                                                     | Attribute                                                                                                            | Measure            | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                |                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Preferred surface ? |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Assemblage of woodland ride limestone glade (F31), stream/river edge (W21) and bark/deadwood/ parkland (A21) species | Vegetation heterogeneity of <b>woodland open-space habitats</b> (including rides, glades, stream/river edge species) | Sample based – SRS | Surfaces 1, 2 and 5 present in 10% of SRSs<br><br>Surface 6 present mainly or exclusively along unit edges<br><br>3+ different surfaces present in at least 20% of SRSs<br><br>single surface present in no more than 50% of SRSs | Surface Number | Description                                                                            | Typical example species                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                     |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                      |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | surface 1      | bare ground or sparse lichen/bryophyte cover                                           | none - or very sparse with occasional ruderals, lichens, & bryophytes                                                                                                                                                   | Yes                 |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                      |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | surface 2      | short swards in rides & glades (usually maintained by regular mowing)                  | <i>Poa annua</i> , <i>Gnaphalium</i> spp, <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> , etc, <i>Bellis perennis</i> , <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , <i>Potentilla repens</i> etc                                                              | Yes                 |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                      |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | surface 3      | longer grasses/forbs usually maintained by intermittent or rotational mowing           | <i>Primula vulgaris</i><br><i>Centaurea nigra</i> ,<br><i>Melampyrum pratense</i>                                                                                                                                       | Yes                 |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                      |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | surface 4      | coarse & tussocky grasses larger forbs, usually mown once per year or every other year | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i><br><i>Angelica sylvestris</i> & other umbellifers<br><i>Cirsium</i> species etc<br><i>Carex pendula</i> , etc                                                                                 | Yes                 |
|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                      |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | surface 5      | young scrub maintained by rotational coppice                                           | <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> ,<br><i>Urtica dioica</i> flowering shrubs such as<br><i>Crataegus</i> , <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , <i>Viburnum</i> ,<br><i>Ligustrum</i> , <i>Rubus</i> spp<br>tree saplings. <i>Corylus</i> | Yes                 |

| Criteria feature | Attribute                                                         | Measure            | Site-specific Targets                                                                                              |           |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Preferred surface ? |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                  |                                                                   |                    |                                                                                                                    | surface 6 | mature scrub & trees - (emphasis on edges of areas of open ground and often set back from the actual edge) | as above - includes edge of woodland tree canopy                                                                                                                                                             |                     |
|                  | Vegetation heterogeneity of <b>wood pasture/parkland habitats</b> | Sample based – SRS | Surfaces 3 & 5 present in 10% of SRSs<br><br>Surfaces 6 and 7 should mainly be on tree age structure and condition | surface 1 | bare ground                                                                                                | none - or very sparse with occasional ruderals, lichens, & bryophytes                                                                                                                                        |                     |
|                  |                                                                   |                    |                                                                                                                    | surface 2 | short swards grassland                                                                                     | various grasses and grazed grassland forbs such as <i>Bellis</i> , <i>Achillea</i> etc                                                                                                                       | Yes                 |
|                  |                                                                   |                    |                                                                                                                    | surface 3 | longer coarser grasses/forbs & tussocks                                                                    | <i>Holcus</i> , <i>Dactylis</i> & <i>Deschampsia</i> , with umbellifers ( <i>Heracleum</i> , <i>Angelica</i> ) and composites ( <i>Cirsium</i> & <i>Senecio</i> species, <i>Achillea</i> etc) Nettle patches | Yes                 |
|                  |                                                                   |                    |                                                                                                                    | surface 4 | bracken                                                                                                    | <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>                                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |
|                  |                                                                   |                    |                                                                                                                    | surface 5 | scrub (and young trees)                                                                                    | <i>Crataegus</i> spp, <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , , <i>Rubus</i> spp <i>Corylus</i> . tree saplings.                                                                                                             | Yes                 |
|                  |                                                                   |                    |                                                                                                                    | surface 6 | veteran trees that have 'grown downward' by death of higher canopy                                         | main tree species of wood-pasture/ parkland:- eg oaks, beech, ash, field maple, lime, sycamore, sweet & horse chestnut                                                                                       | Yes                 |

| Criteria feature | Attribute | Measure | Site-specific Targets |           |                                                 |                                                                                                                        | Preferred surface ? |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                  |           |         |                       | surface 7 | tall veterans and mature, but not veteran trees | main tree species of wood-pasture/ parkland:- eg oaks, beech, ash, field maple, lime, sycamore, sweet & horse chestnut | Yes                 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Audit Trail</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)</b><br>(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species). |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Other Notes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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**Table 3e Site specific Habitat condition objectives**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| To maintain the <b>Hibernating population of Lesser Horseshoe Bats</b> at <b>Upper Wye Gorge SSSI</b> in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards: |
| <b>Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Occurrence of known bat hibernation locations are shown on Map 3.</p> <p>Note: this feature is included due to post-notification survey revealing that this species is present at qualifying levels and the inclusion of this species as a feature of the Wye Valley Woodland SAC.</p>                   |

|                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Site-specific standards defining favourable condition</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|

| Criteria feature                                      | Attribute term in guidance | Measure                                              | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                               | Comments                                              | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Hibernating population of Lesser Horseshoe Bat</b> | State of entrance          | Size of entrance(s) available to bats                | Unobstructed; no unplanned new entrances causing a change to ventilation. No change in size sufficient to affect air-flow and internal temperature.                 | Needs comparison with previous reports or photographs | Yes                           |
|                                                       | Entrance security          | State of grille or security fence (if present)       | Grille in good condition with no evidence of forced entry through or around the grille and no damage cause by attempts at entry. Security fence in sound condition. | Repairs should be undertaken as soon as practicable.  | Yes                           |
|                                                       | External condition         | Presence of vegetation or artificial lighting around | Vegetation present close to entrance but not obstructing it.                                                                                                        | Depends greatly on history of the site.               | Yes                           |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance | Measure                                    | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                            | Comments                                                                               | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  |                            | entrance.                                  | No artificial lights shining on entrance.                                                                                                                        | Significant changes may require management.                                            |                               |
|                  | Disturbance                | Noise, human activity, unauthorised access | Human access to site controlled and limited; no significant change since previous visit.                                                                         | Acceptable limits will depend on what bats have traditionally accepted.                | Yes                           |
|                  | Internal conditions        | Temperature, light level, ventilation.     | Cool (6-10 degrees C) and dark, once beyond the entrance zone. No significant unplanned change to ventilation or temperature regime. No toxic substances present | Requires specialist input to provide measurements and to interpret their significance. | Yes                           |
|                  | Use by bats                | Hibernating bats present in winter         | Bats seen on at least 1 occasion per winter                                                                                                                      | Optional as requires specialist input. Licence needed to disturb bats + H&S issues     | Yes                           |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Audit Trail</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)</b><br>(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species). |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Other Notes                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| It is suggested in Table 2a that hibernating Greater Horseshoe bats should also be included as a Notified Feature. |

**Table 3f Site specific Habitat condition objectives**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To maintain the <b>Finite mineral, fossil or other geological interest (FM) Pleistocene Vertebrata</b> at <b>Upper Wye Gorge SSSI</b> in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards: |
| <b>Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Standards only apply in respect of three localised cave sites identified on Map 2 – locations of the notified GCR sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

**Site-specific standards defining favourable condition**

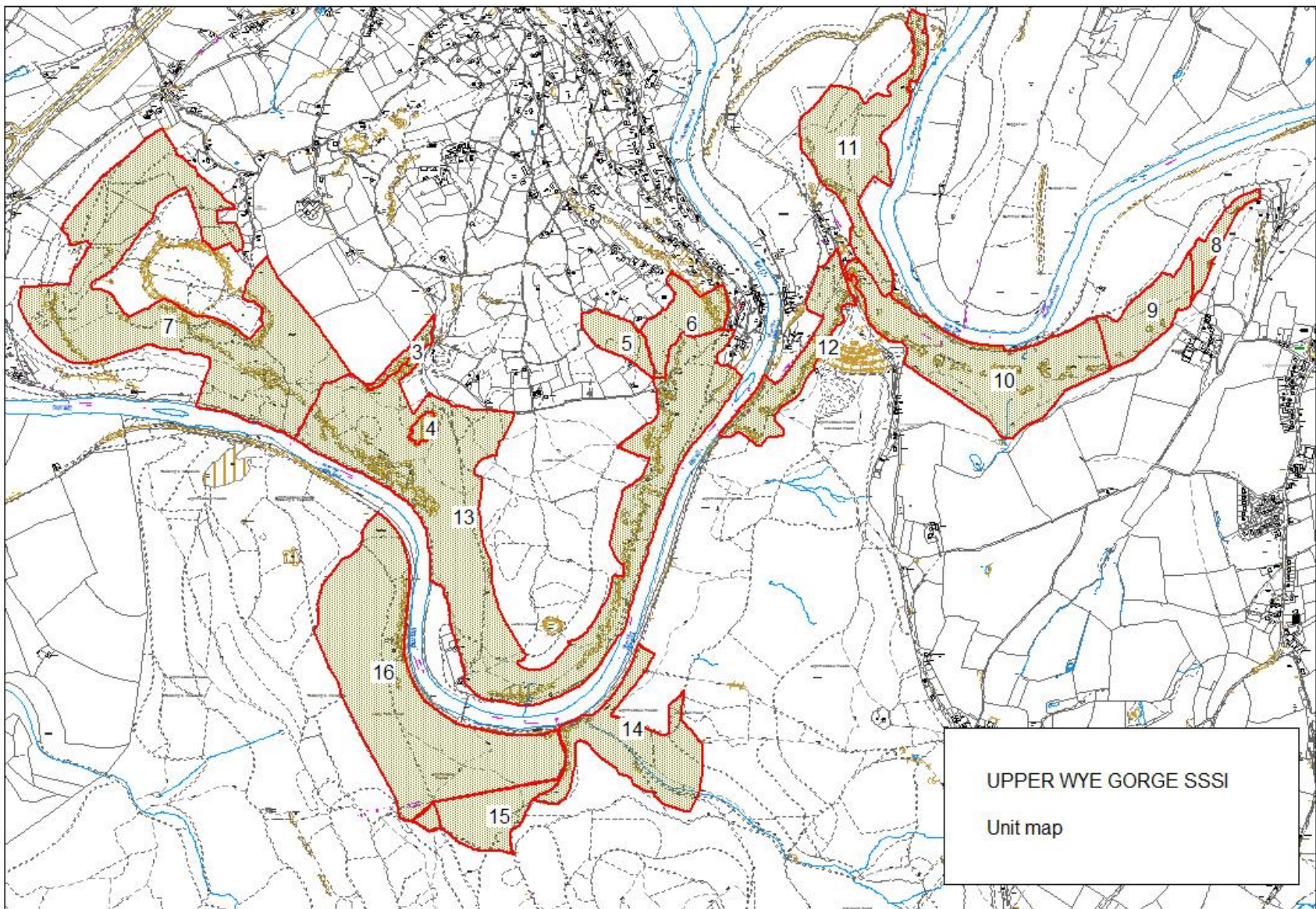
| Criteria feature                                                                       | Attribute term in guidance       | Measure                         | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                                                            | Comments            | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Finite mineral, fossil or other geological interest (FM)<br><br>Pleistocene Vertebrata | Exposure of features of interest | Visual/ fixed-point photography | The features of interest are exposed or can practically be re-exposed if required and this should be maintained (refer to monitoring photographs (to be taken)). |                     | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                                                                                        | Vegetation                       | Visual/ fixed-point photography | Vegetation is not obscuring or damaging the features of interest and this should be maintained (refer to monitoring photographs (to be taken)).                  |                     | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                                                                                        | Tipping or landfill              | Visual/ fixed-point photography | There is no unconsented tipping or landfill obscuring or damaging the features of interest                                                                       |                     | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                                                                                        | Tree planting                    | Visual/ fixed-point             | There is no tree planting                                                                                                                                        | Tree planting could | <b>Yes</b>                    |

| Criteria feature | Attribute term in guidance | Measure                         | Site-specific Targets                                                                                                    | Comments                                                                                                                                | Use for Condition Assessment? |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                  |                            | photography                     | obscuring or damaging the features of interest and this should be maintained.                                            | potentially damage this site and any proposal to plant trees should be discouraged.                                                     |                               |
|                  | Engineering works          | Visual/ fixed-point photography | There are no unconsented engineering works obscuring or damaging the features of interest and this should be maintained. | Temporary structures may be permissible provided that they do not damage the interest features.                                         | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                  | Drainage                   | Visual/ fixed-point photography | There are no unconsented drainage works on the site and this should be maintained.                                       | The drainage on site should be maintained as close to its natural state as possible. Grip blocking should be encouraged as appropriate. | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                  | Specimen collecting        |                                 | There is no irresponsible or inappropriate specimen collecting and this should be maintained.                            | Public access to the caves is difficult. Specimen collecting, other than for research, should be discouraged.                           | <b>Yes</b>                    |
|                  | Removal of material        |                                 | There is no unconsented removal of rock from the site and this should be maintained.                                     | Water worn limestone should not be used as ornamental stone, promote the use of alternatives.                                           | <b>Yes</b>                    |

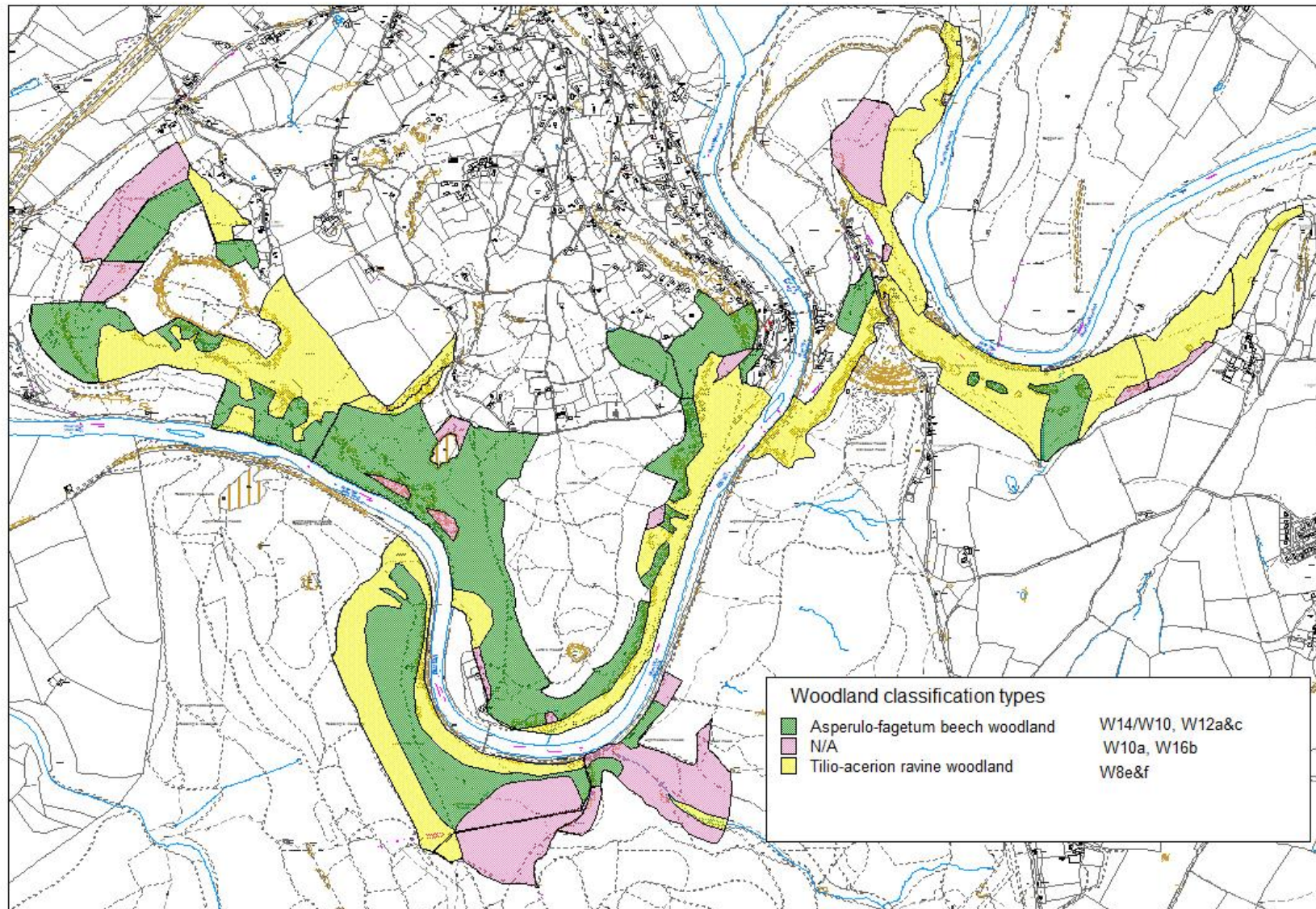
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Audit Trail</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)</b><br>(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species). |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Other Notes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**Annex 1 Map of key areas for monitoring**

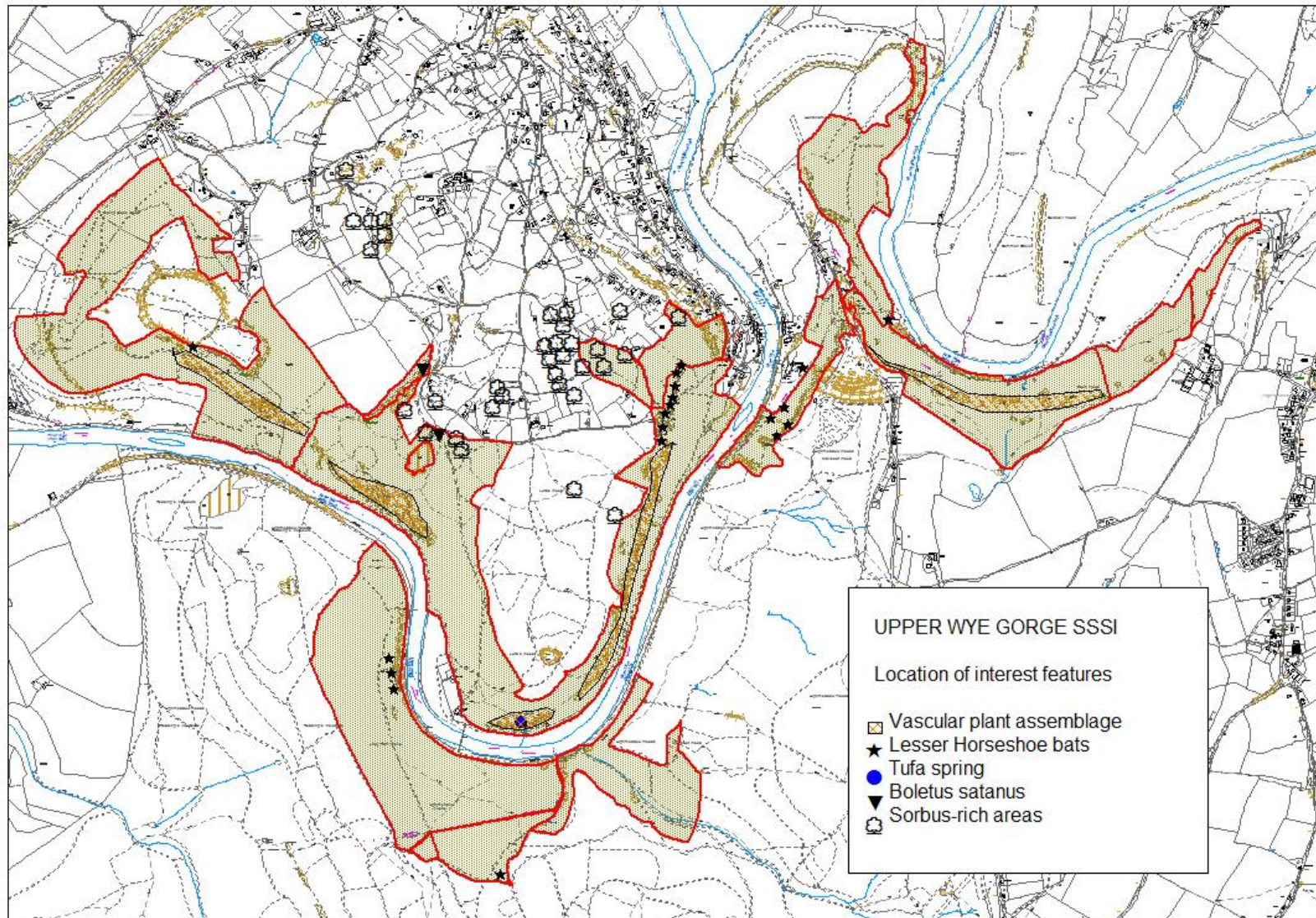
**Map 1 - Upper Wye Gorge SSSI - Unit Map (note all units except Unit 7 are included within the Wye Valley Woodland SAC)**



## Map 2 – Woodland classification types



Map 3 – Location of interest features



## Annex 2 Location of features by unit

| Features | units | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 16 |
|----------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| W8       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| W10      |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| W12      |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| W14      |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| W16      |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|          |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |

Map 2 mostly based on surveys using Peterken stand types (transposed into Corine and nearest NVC types).  
Repeat survey has been recommended for this SSSI using NVC classification in order to identify location and extent.