

Assessing habitats



Habitat classifications

18 categories (Sources: UK Habitat Classification Working Group, 2018; UK Habitat Classification Field Key 2018)

‘Level 3’ habitat categories for all surveys.

Additional ‘Level 4’ habitat categories for wall lizards in built-up areas.

Level 1	Level 2
Terrestrial	Grassland
	Woodland and forest
	Heathland and shrub
	Wetland
	Cropland
	Urban
	Sparsely vegetated land
Freshwater	Rivers and lakes



Rep-watch...JE

Grassland

Vegetation, not on waterlogged soils, with more than 75% cover of herbaceous species (grasses, sedges, rushes, herbs, forbs) with salt-tolerant species absent or occasional.

g1: Acid grassland	Dominated by grasses and herbs on a range of lime-deficient soils which have been derived from acidic bedrock or from superficial deposits such as sands and gravels. Such soils usually have a low base status, with a pH <5.5. (most of Jersey, incl. coastal heath and vegetated cliffs)
g3: Neutral grassland	Dominated by grasses and herbs on a range of neutral soils usually with a pH between 4.5 and 6.5.
g4: Modified grassland	Dominated by a few fast-growing grasses on fertile, neutral soils. It is frequently characterised by abundance of rye grass <i>Lolium spp.</i> and white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> .



Grassland: g1

g1: Acid grassland

Most of Jersey, including coastal heath and vegetated cliffs. Generally sand, gravel, siliceous rocks. Vegetated dunes. Warm dry areas. Areas containing orchids.



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Grassland: g3

g3: Neutral grassland

Generally clay and loam. Species-rich hay meadows. Grazing pasture. Can include floodplains / wet areas.



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Reptilewatch...

Grassland: g4

g4: Modified grassland

Characterised by rye-grass and white clover.

Rye grass (*Lolium* spp.)



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White clover (*Trifolium repens*)



Photo by: Algirdas



Woodland and forest

Land with >25% cover of trees more than 5m in height.

w1:
Broadleaved
mixed and
yew
woodland

Vegetation dominated by trees >5m high when mature, which form a distinct, although sometimes open canopy with a canopy cover >25%. It includes stands of both native and non-native broadleaved tree species and Yew *Taxus baccata*, where the percentage cover of these trees in the stand exceeds 20% of the total cover of the trees present.

w2:
Coniferous
woodland

Vegetation dominated by trees that are more than 5m high when mature, which form a distinct, although sometimes open canopy which has a cover >20%, with stands of both native and non-native coniferous tree species (with the exception of Yew) where the percentage cover of these trees in the stand exceeds 80% of the total cover of the trees present.

Heathland and shrub

Vegetation with >25% cover of dwarf shrub species <1.5m high, or woody species up to 5m high.

h1: Dwarf shrub heath	Vegetation that has >25% cover of plant species from the heath family (ericoids). (e.g. heather)
h2: Hedgerows	A boundary line of shrubs, provided that at one time the shrubs were stock proof and more or less continuous.
h3: Dense scrub	Patches of shrubs < 5 m tall (can contain occasional trees) with continuous (>90%) cover. (e.g. blackthorn, hazel, bramble, gorse, hawthorn, rhododendron)



Wetland

Any habitat that is waterlogged (water table at surface with standing water for between 50 and 70% of the year)

f1: Bog	Rain fed inundated or waterlogged habitats where peat has formed in the past. (e.g. sphagnum, purple moor-grass)
f2: Fen marsh and swamp	Inundated or waterlogged lowland habitats differing from bogs in that water is supplied by ground water or slow-moving rainwater and this flows through them and peat does not form. (e.g. purple moor-grass, common reed, rushes)



Cropland

Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats.

c1: Arable
and
horticulture

Arable cropland (including perennial, woody crops, and intensively managed, commercial orchards), commercial horticultural land (such as nurseries, commercial vegetable plots and commercial flower growing areas), freshly-ploughed land, annual leys, rotational set-aside and fallow.

Excludes gardens and allotments.



Urban

Constructed, industrial and other artificial habitats

For wall lizards!!

u1: Built-up areas and gardens

Urban and rural settlements, farm buildings, caravan parks and other man-made built structures such as industrial estates, retail parks, waste and derelict ground, urban parkland and urban transport infrastructure.

Includes allotments and gardens.

u1a: Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land

u1b5: Developed land; sealed surface - Buildings

u1b6: Developed land; sealed surface - Other developed land

u1c: Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface (e.g. land cleared for development)

u1d: Suburban/ mosaic of developed/ natural surface (e.g. housing and gardens in suburban areas)

u1e: Built linear features (e.g. roads, walls, fences, surfaced paths)

Sparsey vegetated land

Unvegetated, disturbed (regularly or drastically periodically) or sparsely vegetated habitats (permanently or periodically naturally unvegetated areas) inhabited by stress tolerating vegetation. **Includes dunes.**

s1: Inland rock

Natural and artificial exposed rock surfaces which are mappable, e.g. inland cliffs, caves, and screes and limestone pavements, as well as various forms of excavations and waste tips such as quarries and quarry waste.

s2: Supralittoral Rock

The region of rocky shore including cliffs and slopes immediately above the highest water level in the splash zone. Features that may be present include vertical rock, boulders, gullies, ledges and pools, depending on the wave exposure of the site and its geology.

s3: Supralittoral Sediment

The region of shore immediately above the highest water level in the splash zone). **Includes sand dunes.**

Rivers and lakes

Inland surface waters (freshwater ecosystems)

r1: Standing open water and canals

Natural systems such as lakes, meres and pools, as well as man-made waters such as reservoirs, canals, ponds and gravel pits.

r2: Rivers and streams

Rivers and streams from bank top to bank top, or, where there are no distinctive banks or banks are never overtopped, it includes the extent of the mean annual flood.

