

Appendix 1

Attributes to be recorded for each of the habitat features on CECM SSSI

Ditch systems:

Criteria feature	Attribute
Habitat structure	Extent/composition of in-channel vegetation
	Extent/composition of Bankside vegetation
	Channel form
Aquatic vegetation	Native species richness
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Rare species and quality indicators
Indicators of negative change	Non-native plant colonisation
Habitat functioning-water quality	Water clarity
	Extent of algal dominance
	Water chemistry (NE to obtain through external data)
	Water availability

Grassland habitat features:

Lowland fens (including basin, flood-plain, open-water transition and valley fens, springs and flushes): S5 & S24

Criteria feature	Attribute
Habitat structure	Cover of litter
	Frequency and cover of exposed substrate
Habitat composition	Extent of individual components
Indicators of local distinctiveness	Rare species and quality indicators
Vegetation composition	Positive indicators: Cladium mariscus & Carex lasiocarpa
	Invasive non-native species
	Undesirable non-woody species
	Indicators of negative change - woody species

Invertebrate Habitat Proxy – recorded at habitat stops

Checklist for W211 open water on disturbed sediments & W314 rich fen

Water bodies – Ditches:

Type	Feature	Present?
Water body	Benthic layer	
	Water Column layer	
	Water Surface layer	
	Low emergent layer	
Margins	Wet muds, peats or thin water covered substrates	
	marginal hygrophilic vegetation - forbs	
	young to medium-aged scrub - often maintained by rotational coppice	
Preferred Features	in oligotrophic waters) good benthic vegetation structure	
	complex structure of submerged vegetation (where appropriate)	
	areas with high proportion of macrophytes with floating leaves	
	any emergents with abundant flowers	
	small patches of marginal scrub or trees	
	fallen wood in water	
	'beach' areas of bare wet sediment	
Negative Features	steeply shelving banks	
	deepening of shallow water	
	excessive stock access to banks	
	eutrophication characterised by green algal blooms	
	addition of large fish (trout & coarse fish) to otherwise fish-free water	
	removal of fallen timber from water	
	excessive marginal trees and scrub leading to excess shading >50% of margin	
	aquatic and marginal invasive species - Azolla, Lemna minuta, Crassula, Hydrocotyle etc etc	

Wetland - Grazing marsh / levels:

Type	Wetland Feature	Present?
Preferred Features	ditches with fairly shallow water (ca 30cm)	
	cattle trampled ditch edges	
	small areas of poaching in wet grassland element with water filled hoof prints and bare wet mud	
	at any one time a full cycle of ditch management phases from recently cleaned to choked	
	emergents with flowers	
	flowery areas, including those on other habitats (verges, sea banks, ruderal areas etc) including 'unwelcome' weeds such as ragwort and thistles	
Negative Features	clearance of all ditches at once with no rotation	
	steep ditch margins	
	all ditches deep (> 30cm)	
	scrub shading ditches	
	Invasives: aquatic invasives, parrot's feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> , New Zealand pygmyweed <i>Crassula helmsii</i> , <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> , floating fern <i>Azolla</i> spp, invasive duckweed <i>Lemna</i> species	