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

Neutral Grassland – Lowland & Fen and Marsh:

Applicable attributes are highlighted for each NVC type to be monitored

		Neutral Grassland – Lowland			Fen and Marsh					
Criteria feature	Attribute	MG5	MG8	MG11	MG13	Ag-Cx	M22	M23	M24	M25
Extent Sward composition	Extent (field observations and aerial imagery) frequency of positive indicator species									
Sward composition: negative indicator species	frequency of negative indicator species									
Sward composition	frequency and % cover of all scrub and tree species									
Sward composition: negative indicator species	frequency of Senecio aquaticus Marsh ragwort									
Sward composition: indicators of waterlogging	% cover of Juncus spp + Deschampsia cespitosa + large Carex spp.+ large grasses									
Sward composition	% cover of Juncus spp. in Group A and B									
Sward composition: indicators of waterlogging	% cover of Deschampsia cespitosa, large grasses									
Sward composition: indicators of waterlogging	% cover of large Carex spp									
Sward composition	frequency and % cover of Molinia caerulea									
Sward composition	% cover of Phragmites australis	-								
Sward composition	% cover of Myrica gale	-								
Sward composition	% cover of Cirsium palustre									
Sward composition	grass/herb (i.e. non-Graminae) ratio									
Sward structure	average height of sward									
Sward structure	cover of litter									
Sward structure	extent of bare ground									

Invertebrate Habitat Proxy – recorded at habitat stops

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

Water bodies – Ditches:

Туре	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	in oligotrophic waters) good benthic vegetation structure	
Features	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	steeply shelving banks	
Features	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:

Туре	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 Myriophyllum	
	aquaticum, New Zealand pygmyweed Crassula helmsii,	
	Hydrocotyle ranunculoides, floating fern Azolla spp, invasive	
	duckweed <i>Lemna</i> species	