

ANNEX 1. CONDITION MONITORING FORM

Site name	Cape Wrath SAC / SSSI		
Surveyor and date	Gordon Haycock 29 th and 30 th July 2015		
Number of shaded boxes ticked			5

Insert details of datum used for extent, e.g. dates of aerial photography or NVC survey

Morris JM (2010). Previous cycle of monitoring – data and photographs
Birks and Ratcliffe habitat map

SUB-FEATURE: CLIFF SLOPE

Attribute	Target	Condition choice	Transect and/or walk #					Decision for SSSI
			W58	W59				
Extent*	If possible, compare extent on two dates (specify sources in box below) of photography/map . Is extent maintained? Natural cliff erosion is an acceptable form of loss, providing sediment for other parts of the coast	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
Physical structure: geomorphological naturalness [optional]	Coast protection absent, hydrology and flushes in natural condition	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
Vegetation structure: Information section – no targets here	Note the major cliff slope habitats present on one or more transects or walks. Document the types present using DAFOR values. This will act as a crude baseline.							
	Lichen-covered rocks		A	A				
	Unvegetated crevices		F	F				
	Unvegetated ledges		F	F				
	Vegetated crevices & ledges – no bird influence		F	A				
	Vegetated crevices & ledges – bird influence		O	O				
	Coastal heath		F	R				
	Scrub							
	Bracken							
	Mire and/or flush		O					
	Undercliff habitat (specify)							
	Maritime therophyte							
Other (specify)								
Vegetation structure: zonation*	Zones of maritime influence and their transitions to littoral and cliff-top habitats intact	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
Vegetation	If maritime therophyte vegetation (mainly	Yes – Favourable	N/a	N/a				

structure: annual vegetation [*mandatory if known to be present]	MC5) can be identified, then at least 10% of soil area should be bare	No – see report						
Vegetation structure: ledge sward [* mandatory if known to be present]	If tall herb or tall grass ledges are present, they should be mapped on first visit and subsequently these should retain a height of at least 10cm	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
Vegetation: composition* This is different to the UK guidance	At least five of the following species at least occasional [use DAFOR]							
	Distance from observer		5-30m	5-40m				
	Visual aid used (e.g. 10x50)		10x40	10x40				
	<i>Festuca rubra</i>		D	D				
	<i>Armeria maritima</i>		A	A				
	<i>Silene uniflora</i>		F	O				
	<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>		O					
	<i>Plantago maritima</i>		A	A				
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		R	O				
	<i>Sedum rosea</i>		A	A				
	<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>		F	F				
	<i>Daucus carota</i>							
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>			F				
	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i>							
	<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>		A	F				
	<i>Asplenium maritimum</i>							
	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>		O	R				
	<i>Cochlearia</i> sp.		R	O				
At least five recorded at occasional level. Report should note that mandatory standard is <i>Festuca rubra</i> plus two others	Yes – Favourable	X	X					
	No – see report							
Vegetation: negative indicators*	The following species should be no more than rare: <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>Cirsium</i> <i>vulgare</i> , <i>Lolium perenne</i> , <i>Rumex</i> <i>obtusifolius</i> , <i>Rumex crispus</i> , <i>Senecio</i> <i>jacobaea</i> , <i>Trifolium repens</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> .	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
	In exposed situations broad-leaved grasses such as <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> , <i>Dactylis</i> <i>glomerata</i> and <i>Holcus lanatus</i> should be sub-dominant to <i>Festuca rubra</i> .	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
) Invasive non-native plant species should be absent or rare if already present Use target notes	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						

Other negative indicators [optional UK, mandatory Scotland]	Stock grazing pressure and timing sufficient to allow flowering and fruiting of cliff slope vegetation to at least frequent level	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
	Rabbit grazing pressure sufficient to allow flowering and fruiting of cliff top vegetation to at least frequent level	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
		No - See report						
	Stock trampling absent	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
		No - See report						
	Visitor trampling largely restricted to narrow single paths with areas of continuous bare ground >0.5 m wide only occasional	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
		Yes - See report						
	Visitor impact more serious	Yes - See report						
	Vehicle damage absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				

	Vehicle damage occasional or more frequent	Yes - see report						
	Naval shell damage absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Naval shelling damage more frequent	No - See report						
	Cliff slope vegetation damaged by crop spray absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Crop spray damage more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Agricultural effluent impacts absent or only very minor in scale	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Effluent impacts more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Fly tipping absent or rare, impact very minor in scale	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Fly tipping more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Fire damage absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Fire damage more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Quarrying and excavation of soil and rock absent or rare, with only minor impacts if present	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Quarrying/excavation significant	Yes - See report						
	Nitrophilous indicators absent	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Nitroph. Indicators present	Yes - See report						

Indicators of local distinctiveness [optional]	Presence confirmed during visit (list species here, add DAFOR score, mark location(s) on map(s) in file)							
	No target set							

SUB-FEATURE: CLIFF TOP

Attribute	Target	Condition choice	Transect and/or walk #					Decision for SSSI
			W58	W59				
Extent*	If possible, compare extent on two dates (specify sources in box below) of aerial photography. Is extent maintained?	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
	(Probably only need to check for losses on inner edge due to agricultural improvement. Natural cliff erosion is an acceptable form of loss, providing sediment for other parts of the coast)	No – see report						
	If maritime heath present, is extent maintained?	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						

Zonation and natural processes Information section	Note the major cliff top habitats present on one or more transects or walks. Document the types present using DAFOR values. This will act as a crude baseline. No targets set – info only, but levels should be maintained in future monitoring rounds						
	Lichen-covered rocks		O	O			
	Perched saltmarsh						
	Ungrazed maritime cliff grassland		R	R			
	Grazed maritime cliff grassland		A	A			
	Guano-affected plateau vegetation of offshore islands		R	R			
	Coastal heath		A	F			
	Maritime therophyte						
	Scrub						
	Bracken						
Mire and/or flush		O/LF	O				
Vegetation structure: zonation and transition*	Is maritime-terrestrial zonation and transition intact?	Yes – favourable					
		No – see report	X	X			
Vegetation structure: grazed coastal grassland [* mandatory if present]	Grazed coastal grassland sward height generally lower than 10cm	Yes – Favourable	X	X			
		No – see report					
Vegetation structure: ungrazed coastal grassland [* mandatory if present]	<i>Festuca rubra</i> at least abundant and preferably dominant with frequency close to 100%	Yes – Favourable	X	X			
		No – see report					
Vegetation structure: annual vegetation [* mandatory if known to be present]	If maritime therophyte vegetation (mainly MC5) can be identified, then at least 10% of soil area should be bare	Yes – Favourable	N/a	N/a			
		No – see report					

Vegetation composition* Fit with Interagency guidance?	If maritime cliff grassland dominated by <i>Festuca rubra</i> present, at least five of the following species at least occasional [use DAFOR values]					
	<i>Armeria maritima</i>		A	F		
	<i>Silene uniflora</i>					
	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>		F	F		
	<i>Plantago maritima</i>		A/LD	A/LD		
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		A	O		
	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>		O	F		
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>					
	<i>Daucus carota</i>					
	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>					
	<i>Hyacinthoides non-scriptus</i>					
	<i>Scilla verna</i>					
	<i>Primula scotica</i>					
At least five recorded	Yes – Favourable	X	X			
Less than five recorded	Yes – see report					

	If coastal heath dominated by <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> and/or <i>Erica cinerea</i> is present, at least four of the following species at least occasional (use DAFOR):							
	<i>Festuca ovina</i>		A	F				
	<i>Plantago maritima</i>		LD	A				
	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		O	O				
	<i>Astragalus danicus</i>							
	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>		R	R				
	<i>Viola riviniana</i>			R				
	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>		R	R				
	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>							
	<i>Scilla verna</i>							
	<i>Primula scotica</i>							
	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>		O	O				
	<i>Thymus praecox</i>		F	F				
	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>		F	A				
	At least four recorded	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
Vegetation: negative indicators*	Invasive and alien species absent	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
	Report should give target notes and notes on abundance of each species e.g. bracken, <i>Petasites</i> , garden escapes	No – see report						

Other negative indicators:	Stock grazing pressure and timing sufficient to allow flowering and fruiting of cliff top vegetation to at least frequent level	Yes – Favourable	X	X				
		No – see report						
<i>Use target notes where appropriate</i>	Winter feeding impacts (poaching, patches of nitrophiles, spreads of straw and hay) absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Winter feeding impacts occasional or more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Rabbit grazing pressure sufficient to allow flowering and fruiting of cliff top vegetation to at least frequent level	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
		No - See report						
	Stock trampling absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Stock trampling occasional or more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Visitor trampling largely restricted to narrow single paths with areas of continuous bare ground >0.5 m wide only occasional	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Visitor impact more serious	Yes - See report						
	Vehicle damage absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Vehicle damage occasional or more frequent	Yes - see report						
	Naval shell damage absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X					
	Naval shelling damage more frequent	No - See report		X				
	Cliff top vegetation damaged by crop spray absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Crop spray damage more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Agricultural effluent impacts absent or only very minor in scale	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Effluent impacts more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Fly tipping absent or rare, impact very minor in scale	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Fly tipping more frequent	Yes - See report						
	Fire damage absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Fire damage more frequent	Yes - See report						
Quarrying and excavation of soil and rock absent or rare, with only minor impacts if present	Yes - Favourable	X	X					
Quarrying/excavation significant	Yes - See report							

	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> dominant or abundant in maritime grassland zone	No - Favourable	X	X				
		Yes – see report						
	Nitrophilous indicators absent or rare	Yes - Favourable	X	X				
	Nitroph. Indicators occasional-dominant	Yes - See report						

Indicators of local distinctiveness (* mandatory if notified for this)	Transition to terrestrial or other maritime habitat(s) intact	Yes – Favourable						
	Transition to terrestrial or other maritime habitat(s) disrupted	Yes - see report	X	X				
Rare species <i>(no target on this form – for info only)</i>	Presence confirmed during visit (list species here, add DAFOR score, mark location(s) on map(s) in file or on GIS) Full details should be recorded by vascular plant monitoring							
Other site-specific feature (specify)								
		See report						

As with the NVC, this applies to homogenous areas of vegetation, and ‘stops’ are simply stopping points on transects or walks.

- **Dominant:** the species appears at most (>60%) stops and it covers more than 50% of each sampling unit.
- **Abundant:** species occurs regularly throughout a stand, at most (>60%) stops and its cover is less than 50% of each sampling unit.
- **Frequent:** species recorded from 41-60% of stops.
- **Occasional:** species recorded from 21-40% of stops.
- **Rare:** species recorded from up to 1-20% of stops.