

Appendix 1 - Distinctiveness Bands for the Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot

This Appendix is designed to be used alongside the Guidance for offset providers, and the Guidance for developers. Both these documents are available on Defra's website at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/biodiversity/uk/offsetting/>

Proposed rules of applying distinctiveness scores

The habitat parcel is first scored on its main habitat (primary not secondary category¹).

If one or more secondary categories are also allocated to the parcel, the highest distinctiveness score takes precedence. e.g. an improved grassland, wood-pasture and parkland parcel would be scored 3 because the distinctiveness score of wood-pasture and parkland (3) takes precedence over that of improved grassland (1). However, a secondary category with a lower distinctiveness score has no effect e.g. scattered bracken (1) on lowland calcareous grassland (3).

Note the rows are ordered by descending distinctiveness, main habitats before secondary categories, Integrated Habitat System (IHS)² order. Blue font shows a Priority Habitat³ or Annex 1 habitat⁴, or a child category of one of these. Indented codes and labels show the IHS hierarchy.

Please Note: This table is provided purely for use in the offsets pilot. Some of the rows have been removed, with permission from Bill Butcher, to simplify the table for this use.

(c) Treweek Environmental Consultants 2011. Not for distribution or onward transmission without the written consent of TEC. All rights reserved

¹ secondary categories are included for use in combination with a main habitat, where present.

² <http://ihs.somerc.co.uk/>

³ Section 41(S41) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. Further information about this list can be found here:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

⁴ <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1523> - Habitats Directive Annex I habitat types presently known to occur within the UK

IHS Code	IHS Label	Distinctiveness recommendation	secondary category	Distinctiveness Band for the Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot
WB3	Broadleaved woodland	3		High
WB31	Upland oakwood [=Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles(AN1)]	3		High
WB32	Upland mixed ashwoods	3		High
WB321	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines [upland]	3		High
WB32Z	Other upland mixed ashwoods	3		High
WB33	Beech and yew woodlands	3		High
WB331	Lowland beech and yew woodland	3		High
WB3311	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	3		High
WB3312	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	3		High
WB3313	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	3		High
WB331Z	Other lowland beech and yew woodland	3		High
WB33Z	Other beech and yew woodlands	3		High
WB34	Wet woodland	3		High
WB341	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	3		High
WB342	Bog woodland	3		High
WB34Z	Other wet woodland	3		High
WB35	Upland birchwoods	3		High

WB36	Lowland mixed deciduous woodland	3		High
WB361	Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains	3		High
WB362	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the <i>Carpinus betuli</i>	3		High
WB363	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines [lowland]	3		High
WB36Z	Other lowland mixed deciduous woodland	3		High
WB3Z	Other broadleaved woodland	3		High
WC1	Native pine woodlands	3		High
WC11	Caledonian forest	3		High
WC1Z	Other native pine woodlands	3		High
GA1	Lowland dry acid grassland	3		High
GA11	Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	3		High
GA1Z	Other lowland dry acid grassland	3		High
GC0	Calcareous grassland	3		High
GC1	Lowland calcareous grassland	3		High
GC11	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates [<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>]	3		High
GC12	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates [<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>] [important orchid sites]	3		High
GC2	Upland calcareous grassland	3		High
GC21	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	3		High
GC22	Species-rich <i>Nardus</i> grassland on siliceous substrates in mountain areas	3		High
GN1	Lowland meadows	3		High
GN11	Lowland hay meadows [<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>]	3		High
GN1Z	Other lowland meadows	3		High
GN2	Upland hay meadows [= Northern hay meadows (AN1)]	3		High
HE0	Dwarf shrub heath	3		High

HE1	European dry heaths	3		High
HE2	Wet heaths	3		High
HE21	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	3		High
HE22	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica ciliaris</i> and <i>Erica tetralix</i>	3		High
HE2Z	Other wet heaths	3		High
HE3	Lichen/Bryophyte heath	3		High
HEZ	Other dwarf shrub heath	3		High
EO0	Bog	3		High
EO1	Blanket bog [=Blanket bogs (AN1)]	3		High
EO2	Lowland raised bog	3		High
EO21	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	3		High
EO22	Active raised bogs	3		High
EO2Z	Other lowland raised bogs	3		High
EM0	Fen, marsh and swamp	3		High
EM1	Swamp	3		High
EM11	Reedbeds	3		High
EM12	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Carex davalliana</i>	3		High
EM13	Upland flushes, fens and swamps [swamps]	3		High
EM1Z	Other swamp vegetation	3		High
EM2	Marginal and inundation vegetation	3		High
EM21	Marginal vegetation	3		High
EM22	Inundation vegetation	3		High
EM3	Fens	3		High
EM31	Lowland fens	3		High
EM311	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Carex davalliana</i>	3		High
EM312	Springs	3		High
	Petrifying springs with tufa formation [Cratoneurion]	3		High

EM3121				
EM312Z	Other springs	3		High
EM313	Alkaline fens [lowland]	3		High
EM314	Transition mires and quaking bogs [lowland]	3		High
EM315	Depressions on peat substrates (Rhynchosporion)	3		High
EM31Z	Other lowland fens	3		High
EM32	Upland flushes, fens and swamps [flushes and fens]	3		High
EM321	Alpine pioneer formations of <i>Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae</i>	3		High
EM322	Alkaline fens [upland]	3		High
EM323	Transition mires and quaking bogs [upland]	3		High
EM32Z	Other upland flushes and fens	3		High
EM3Z	Other fens, transition mires, springs and flushes	3		High
EM4	Purple moor grass and rush pastures [<i>Molinia-Juncus</i>]	3		High
EM41	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils [<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>]	3		High
EM4Z	Other purple moor grass and rush pastures [<i>Molinia-Juncus</i>]	3		High
AS11	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	3		High
AS111	Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes [dystrophic]	3		High
AS112	Dystrophic ponds	3		High
AS21	Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes [oligotrophic]	3		High
AS211	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	3		High
AS212	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>littorella uniflorae</i> and/or the <i>Isoeto-nanojuncetea</i>	3		High
AS21Z	Other oligotrophic lakes	3		High
AS3	Mesotrophic standing waters	3		High
AS31	Mesotrophic lakes	3		High
AS311	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	3		High

AS312	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the littorella uniflorae and/or the Isoeto-nanojuncetea	3		High
AS31Z	Other mesotrophic lakes	3		High
AS3Z	Other mesotrophic standing waters	3		High
AS41	Eutrophic standing waters	3		High
AS411	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation	3		High
AS41Z	Other eutrophic standing waters	3		High
AS7	Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating water bodies	3		High
AR1	Rivers	3		High
AR11	Headwaters	3		High
AR111	Chalk headwaters	3		High
AR1111	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation (headwaters on chalk)	3		High
AR11111	Tufa streams (Ranunculion fluitantis)	3		High
AR1111Z	Non-tufa Ranunculion fluitantis headwaters	3		High
AR1112	Other tufa streams	3		High
AR111Z	Other chalk headwaters	3		High
AR112	Exposed riverine sediments [headwaters]	3		High
AR11Z	Other headwaters	3		High
AR12	Chalk rivers (not including chalk headwaters)	3		High
AR121	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation (chalk substrate)	3		High
AR12Z	Other chalk rivers	3		High
AR13	Exposed riverine sediments [non headwaters]	3		High
AR131	Active shingle rivers [non headwaters]	3		High

AR132	Exposed riverine sediments predominantly sandy	3		High
MH1	Mountain heaths and willow scrub	3		High
MH11	Alpine and boreal heaths	3		High
MH12	Siliceous Alpine and Boreal grassland	3		High
MH1Z	Other montane heaths	3		High
CR61	Arable field margins	3		High
RE111	Inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	3		High
RE1111	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	3		High
RE1112	Calcareous and calschist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	3		High
RE1113	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	3		High
RE1114	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	3		High
RE111Z	Other inland rock outcrop and scree habitats	3		High
RE141	Caves not open to the public	3		High
LF11	Hedgerows	3		High
LF111	Important hedgerows	3		High
LF11Z	Non-important hedgerows	3		High
SR11	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	3		High
SS1	Coastal sand dunes	3		High
SS11	Embryonic shifting dunes	3		High
SS12	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ["white dunes"]	3		High
SS13	Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ["grey dunes"]	3		High
SS14	Decalcified fixed dunes	3		High
SS141	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes [Calluno-Ulicetea]	3		High
SS142	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	3		High
SS15	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> [Salicion arenariae]	3		High
SS16	Dunes with Sea buckthorn [Hippophae rhamnoides]	3		High

SS17	Humid dune slacks	3		High
SS18	Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	3		High
SS1Z	Other sand dunes	3		High
SS31	Coastal vegetated shingle	3		High
SS311	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	3		High
SS312	Annual vegetation of drift lines	3		High
LR1	Intertidal chalk	3		High
LR2	Tide-swept channels [intertidal]	3		High
LR21	Submerged or partly submerged sea caves	3		High
LR2Z	Other intertidal surge gullies and caves	3		High
LR3	<i>Sabellaria alveolata</i> reefs	3		High
LR4	Fragile sponge and anthozoan communities on rocky habitats	3		High
LR5	Intertidal underboulder communities	3		High
LS1	Blue mussel beds on sediment [littoral]	3		High
LS2	Seagrass beds [<i>Zostera noltii</i>]	3		High
LS3	Coastal saltmarsh	3		High
LS31	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	3		High
LS32	<i>Spartina</i> swards [<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>]	3		High
LS33	Atlantic salt meadows [<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>]	3		High
LS34	Mediterranean salt meadows [<i>Juncetalia maritima</i>]	3		High
LS35	Inland salt meadows [<i>Sarcocornetea</i>]	3		High
LS36	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs [<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>]	3		High
LS3Z	Other saltmarsh	3		High
LS4	Intertidal mudflats	3		High
LS41	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by sea water at low tide	3		High
LS4Z	Other intertidal mudflats	3		High
LS5	Sheltered muddy gravels	3		High
LS6	Peat and clay exposures with piddocks [littoral]	3		High

IR1	Reefs	3		High
IR11	Chalk reefs	3		High
IR1Z	Other subtidal reefs	3		High
IR2	Sabellaria spinulosa reefs	3		High
IR3	Sheltered sublittoral cliffs [in rias]	3		High
IR5	Tide-swept channels [subtidal]	3		High
IR6	Subtidal chalk	3		High
IR7	Horse mussel beds	3		High
IR8	Peat and clay exposures with piddocks [sublittoral]	3		High
IR9	Submerged or partly submerged sea caves	3		High
IRZ	Other sublittoral rock	3		High
IS1	Mud habitats in deep water	3		High
IS2	Subtidal sands and gravels [inshore]	3		High
IS21	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	3		High
IS2Z	Other sublittoral sands and gravels [inshore]	3		High
IS3	Seagrass beds [<i>Zostera marina</i> & <i>Z. angustifolia</i>]	3		High
IS4	Maerl beds	3		High
IS5	Saline Lagoons [= Coastal lagoons (AN1)]	3		High
IS6	Serpulid reefs	3		High
IS7	Blue mussel beds on sediment [sublittoral]	3		High
IS8	File shell beds	3		High
OS1	Subtidal sands and gravels [Offshore]	3		High
CS1	Carbonate mounds	3		High
CS2	Deep-sea sponge communities	3		High
OC1	Seamount communities	3		High
TS1	Scattered trees some veteran	3	1	High
TS11	Broadleaved	3	1	High
TS12	Mixed	3	1	High
TS13	Coniferous	3	1	High

AC111	Species-rich drains, rhyes and ditches	3	1	High
AP11	Pond [UK BAP Priority Pond]	3	1	High
WM2	Coppice with standards	3	1	High
WM3	Pure coppice	3	1	High
WM5	Wood-pasture and parkland	3	1	High
WM51	Currently managed wood pasture/parkland	3	1	High
WM52	Relic wood pasture/parkland	3	1	High
WM6	Pollarded woodland	3	1	High
CL31	Traditional orchards	3	1	High
HL1	Lowland Heathland	3	1	High
HU1	Upland Heathland	3	1	High
CF1	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	3	1	High
ES11	Estuarine rocky habitats	3	1	High
LP1	Limestone pavement	3	1	High
MC1	Maritime cliff and slopes	3	1	High
MA1	Machair [= Machair (AN1)]	3	1	High
PI1	Calaminarian Grasslands [=Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia Calaminariae(AN1)]	3	1	High
PI2	Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land	3	1	High
WB1	Mixed woodland	2		Medium
WB2	Scrub woodland	2		Medium
GAZ	Upland acid grassland	2		Medium
GNZ	Other neutral grassland	2		Medium
GU0	Grassland, possibly unimproved	2		Medium
BR1	Continuous bracken communities with a diverse vernal flora (NVC U20a)	2		Medium
EOZ	Other bogs	2		Medium
AS1Z	Other dystrophic standing water	2		Medium
AS2	Oligotrophic standing waters	2		Medium

AS2Z	Other oligotrophic standing waters	2		Medium
AS4	Eutrophic standing waters	2		Medium
AS4Z	Other eutrophic standing waters	2		Medium
AS5	Marl standing water	2		Medium
AS6	Brackish standing water with no sea connection	2		Medium
ASZ	Other standing open water and canals	2		Medium
MHZ	Other montane habitats	2		Medium
CR32	Withy beds	2		Medium
CR6	Arable headland or uncultivated strip	2		Medium
CR6Z	Other arable headland or uncultivated strip	2		Medium
RE14	Caves	2		Medium
RE14Z	Other caves	2		Medium
RE1Z	Other natural rock exposure feature	2		Medium
LF12	Line of trees	2		Medium
LF273	Transport corridor with natural land surface	2		Medium
SR1	Hard rock sea cliffs	2		Medium
SR2	Boulders and rock above the high tide mark	2		Medium
SR3	Soft rock sea cliffs	2		Medium
SRZ	Other Supralittoral rock	2		Medium
SS3	Shingle above high tide mark	2		Medium
SS3Z	Other shingle above high tide mark	2		Medium
SS4	Strandline vegetation	2		Medium
SSZ	Other supralittoral sediment	2		Medium
LRZ	Other littoral rock	2		Medium
LSZ	Other littoral sediment	2		Medium
ISZ	Other inshore sediment	2		Medium
OSZ	Other offshore Shelf Sediment	2		Medium
CSZ	Other Continental Shelf Slope	2		Medium
OCZ	Other oceanic seas	2		Medium

WA1	Ancient woodland site	2	1	Medium
WCZ	Other coniferous woodland	1		Low
GIO	Improved grassland	1		Low
GPO	Grassland, probably improved	1		Low
BR0	Bracken	1		Low
BRZ	Other continuous bracken	1		Low
ARZ	Heavily modified rivers and streams	1		Low
CR1	Grass and grass-clover leys	1		Low
CR2	Cereal crops	1		Low
CR3	Non-cereal crops including woody crops	1		Low
CR31	Intensively managed orchards	1		Low
CR33	Vineyards	1		Low
CR34	Game crops	1		Low
CR35	Miscanthus	1		Low
CR3Z	Other non-cereal crops including woody crops	1		Low
CR4	Freshly ploughed	1		Low
CR5	Whole field fallow	1		Low
CR7	Freshly harvested/stubble	1		Low
CRZ	Other arable and horticulture	1		Low
RE2	Artificial rock exposures and waste	1		Low
RE21	Quarry	1		Low
RE23	Mine	1		Low
RE2Z	Other artificial rock exposure and waste	1		Low
LF1Z	Other hedges/line of trees	1		Low
LF2	Other boundaries and linear features	1		Low
LF21	Line of trees (not originally intended to be stock proof)	1		Low
LF22	Bank	1		Low
LF23	Wall	1		Low
LF24	Dry ditch	1		Low

LF25	Grass strip	1		Low
LF272	Transport corridor associated verges only	1		Low
UR0	Built-up areas and gardens	1		Low
OV0	Unknown terrestrial vegetation	1		Low
OV1	Other unknown terrestrial vegetation, possibly wetland	1		Low
OV2	Undetermined gorse	1		Low
OV3	Undetermined young woodland	1		Low
OVZ	Other unknown terrestrial vegetation	1		Low
SRO	Supralittoral Rock	1		Low
RE22	Spoil heap	0		0
RE24	Refuse tip	0		0
LF26	Fence	0		0
LF27	Transport corridors	0		0
LF271	Transport corridor without associated verges	0		0