

## Phase 1 / Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Fact Sheet



Originally used during the 1970s, the Phase 1 surveying method is a system that was developed in order to map wildlife habitats over large areas of countryside.

The aim of a **Phase 1 Habitat Survey** is to provide a record of the vegetation and wildlife habitat over a specific area. It is a relatively quick assessment technique and acts as the primary means of evaluation upon which further ecological surveys may be based.

An **Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey** follows the above procedure, but also includes an assessment of the site for protected species and species of conservation concern. This is a useful initial assessment for any site as it will outline evidence of protected species or the potential for these to occur. Having carried out this initial assessment additional species specific surveys may be required.

Methodology	Relevant Legislation
<b>Survey Timing</b>	<p>Attention should be given to dealing with the modification or development of an area in which protected plant species are present or the habitat type itself is deemed of UKBAP status.</p> <p><b>Protection of Wild Plants</b> All wild plant species receive a level of protection under the <b>Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA)</b>. Some more rare or vulnerable species (listed on Schedule 8 of WCA) are given added protection.</p> <p>A small number of wild plants occurring within the UK are classified as <b>European Protected Species (EPS)</b> under the <b>Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994</b>.</p> <p><b>Habitat Protection</b> In the UK, the governmental response to the Convention on Biological Diversity is the <b>UK Biodiversity Action Plan</b>, which depicts the biological resources of the UK and the detailed plans to protect them. These plans are presented in the form of 1,150 Species Action Plans (SAPs), 654 Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and 190 Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs).</p>
Mid March to Mid September	
<b>Survey Method</b>	
<p>The entire survey area is visited by a trained surveyor who maps vegetation details on to an Ordnance Survey map (usually 1:10,000 scale). Dominant and indicator vegetation is surveyed, allowing mapping of Phase 1 habitat types.</p> <p>JNCC guidelines are followed to classify and map the Phase 1 habitat types, using the appropriate standard colour codes. A map of the site, showing the locations of the different habitat classes, is then prepared for reporting purposes.</p> <p>Target notes describing interesting features, important species and past management, are also made and included within reporting.</p>	
<b>Useful Reference Material</b>	
Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit (JNCC, 2007)	