

Farmer ID: _____ Surveyor: _____
 Plot number: _____ Survey date: _____

Total Score (A+B+C)	/100
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A Ecological integrity

Total Score A (sum of A1 to A4):	/40
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A1 What is the number of **positive indicators** in the plot? Tick all positive indicators below.

Note all positive indicators present as you walk a 'W' through the plot.

* Refers to wetland indicator species (see B1 overleaf)

Low: 0-4	0	Moderate: 5-8	5	High: 9+	10
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Positive indicators:

(tick those present)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedstraws & stitchworts | <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's smock
(Cuckooflower) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mints (all species) or Purple loosestrife | <input type="checkbox"/> Tormentil (Common & English) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdsfoot trefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser spearwort | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchids (all species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbels large (Angelica, Valerian, Hogweed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devil's bit scabious | <input type="checkbox"/> Louseworts (Common & Greater) | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxeye daisy | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbels small (Pignut, Yarrow, Wild carrot) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eyebrights | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh cinquefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragged robin | <input type="checkbox"/> Vetches & vetchlings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forget-me-nots | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh marigold | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedges | <input type="checkbox"/> Violets (all species), Harebell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heathers/Ling | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh pennywort | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-heal or Bugle | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow composites (Cat's ear, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits & Goat's beard) – not Dandelion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knapweeds (Common & Greater) | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh thistle or Meadow thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Sphagnum & Branched mosses | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow flag iris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's mantle | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadowsweet | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorrel (Sheep & Common) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow rattle (Hay rattle) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Small rushes (Woodrush, Spike rush, Heath rush) | |

A2 What is the combined **cover of all positive indicators** (listed above) throughout the plot? Cover is the proportion of the field taken up by all positive indicators present.

Low: Only a couple of individual plants present or you can take several steps without encountering any positive indicators at all.	0
Moderate: Positive indicators occur every few steps.	5
High: You encounter a positive indicators with every step taken.	10

A3 What is the combined cover of **negative indicator species** throughout the plot? (tick if present)

High >25%: Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field. Very visible in the sward.	-20
Moderate 5-25%: Occurring in medium to large patches in the field. Readily visible in the sward.	-10
Low <5%: None or scattered or small clumps of negative indicators. Where present, cover should be less than 5%.	0

- Docks** (NOT small sorrels)
- Thistles** (Creeping & spear)
- Perennial ryegrass**
- Ragwort**
- Nettles**

A4 Vegetation Structure. Note: If grassland is primarily grazed use A4(a); OR, if grassland is cut for hay or silage, use A4(b). Refer to the guidance for sward quality details

A4(a) What is the **vegetation structure in grasslands** that are **PRIMARILY GRAZED**?

Over-grazed: Sward short throughout grazeable area with little variation in height of vegetation. >75% very short. Few flowering plants.	-10
Moderate (over-grazed): Mostly short vegetation. 25-50% of field has short sward with occasional to frequent intermediate patches.	5
Good: >50% of field with sward having variety of taller and/or shorter sward with medium height sward throughout with positive indicators flowering.	20
Moderate (under-grazed): 25-50% of field has tall sward. Litter and dead vegetation occurring. Grazing largely confined to a few easily accessible, palatable areas.	10
Under-grazed: Rank vegetation across much of the site, litter accumulating, scrub encroaching.	-5

OR

A4(b) What is the **vegetation structure in grasslands** that are **PRIMARILY CUT FOR HAY or SILAGE**

Poor structure: No field margins present. Field topped right up to the field boundary line. No aftermath grazing. Little or no variation in sward height.	0
Moderate structure: Narrow field margins present (~1m). Low number of flowering plants and vegetation structure within the field margin is poor to moderate. Some aftermath grazing providing some structural variation.	10
Good structure: Wide field margins present (2m+) and or good headlands. Aftermath grazing takes place providing variations in height of sward; sward does not look uniform in appearance.	20

B Hydrological integrity (carbon capture)

Total Score B (sum of B1 to B3): / 60

B1 What **surface artificial drainage features** are present within the plot? Assess the **WORST 30 m of drain in the plot**

Only assess artificial drains and heavily modified watercourses, ignore unmapped natural streams, see guidance.

Functional: Drains predominantly free flowing (though may be dry at the time of survey), largely unvegetated and unblocked.	-20
Part functional: Drains present but flow is partially impeded (by vegetation etc.).	10
Non-functional: Drains absent or present but non-functioning. No flow, highly vegetated and/or dammed.	30

B2 To what extent are there any **subsurface drainage** features within the plot?

Present and functional	-30
Absent or present but non-functioning	0

B3 What is the **water table level** in the drain?

Only assess artificial drains and heavily modified watercourses, ignore unmapped natural streams, see guidance.

The assessment of effect of drain on field gets more weighting. Unaltered, natural streams should not be assessed.

Low: Water level typically > 1m below drain surface. Drains having significant effect on water-table of field.	-15
Moderate: Water level typically <1m but ≥40cm below drain surface. Drains having a moderate effect on water-table of field.	0
High: Water level typically <40cm below surface of drain. Assume highest water-table if no drains present. Drains having minor to no effect on water-table of field.	30

C Threats & pressures

Total Score C (sum of C1 to C4*):

C1 Is there any **evidence of damaging activities** to habitat or vegetation throughout the plot?

High: Damage occurring across a large area (≥21%) or of a serious nature if confined	-30
Moderate: Damage occurring across a moderate area (≥6-20%) or of a moderate nature if confined.	-20
Low: Damage occurring across a small area (≤5%) or of a minor nature if confined.	-10
None: No damaging activities.	0

Damaging activities:

(tick relevant and describe in comments)

- Damage from supplementary feeding
- Inappropriate herbicide use
- Quarrying
- Burning

- Dumping/rubbish
- Removal of mature scrub/trees
- Other (please specify)

C2 What is the extent of **bare soil & erosion** throughout the plot?

High: Excessive areas of bare soil within the body of the field. Bare soil may also be extending out significantly from the main feed sites and/or water troughs and/or livestock access points, where poaching evident. Significant rutting and soil disturbance caused by vehicle/tractor access.	-30
Moderate: Bare soil mainly along regularly used stock routes or congregation areas, with minor soil loss occurring at a few points. Bare soil may extend a short distance beyond the main feed site and/or water points and/or livestock access points. Minor rutting and soil disturbance caused by occasional vehicle/tractor access may be present.	-10
Low: Bare soil more or less restricted to regular stock paths, 'pinch' points & small congregation areas. No soil loss.	0

C3 What is the cover of **non-native invasive species** throughout the plot?

High: Abundant. Some forming dense clumps, many seedlings.	-20
Moderate: Frequent. Some flowering, many seedlings present.	-10
Low: Scattered. Plants mostly small and not flowering.	-5
None: No non-native invasive species present.	0

Non-native invasive species: *(tick if present)*

- Giant hogweed
- Giant rhubarb
- Himalayan balsam
- Himalayan honeysuckle
- Himalayan knotweed

- Japanese knotweed
- Montbretia
- Rhododendron
- Self-sown conifers
- Other *(please specify)*:

C4 What is the cover of **bracken** throughout the plot?

High: Very dense stands of bracken covering over half or more of the field, forming closed canopy.	-10
Moderate: Bracken forming dense stands covering parts of the field, mostly forming closed canopy.	-5
Low: Bracken absent or some scattered fronds and none forming closed canopy. Can include some isolated small patches or some larger patches on steep slopes.	0

Common management recommendations:

- Continue current management of this high quality grassland.
- Control the occurrence and spread of invasive species.
- Control the occurrence and spread of encroaching scrub.
- Control the occurrence and spread of encroaching bracken.
- Control reducing fertiliser inputs.
- Consider using supporting actions of slow or impede the flow of drains.
- Consider raising water table to restore peat soil; supporting actions available.
- Use stock to graze field more evenly.
- Improve stock management. e.g. Fencing/drinking facilities
- Move feeders/troughs regularly, and keep away from drains and rivers.
- No management advice
- Other (see comments box)

Management recommendation(s):