

Farmer ID:

Surveyor:

Total Score

Plot number:

Survey date:

(A+B+C)

/100

A Ecological integrity

Total Score A (sum of A1 to A3):

/60

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.

Low: 0-2	0	Moderate: 3-5	3	High: 6+	7
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Positive indicators:
(tick those present)

Moss layer:

- Branched mosses
- Non-crustose bushy lichens
- Sphagnum mosses
- Liverworts

Shrub layer:

- Bell Heather
- Cross-leaved heath
- Ling heather
- Bilberry
- Bog myrtle
- Western gorse

Grass/herb layer:

- Bog asphodel
- Bog bean
- Bog cotton
- Lousewort
- Sundews
- White-beaked sedge
- Black bog rush

A2 What is the combined **cover of all positive mosses, liverworts & lichens** (listed above) throughout the plot?

Cover is the proportion of the field taken up by all positive mosses, liverworts & lichens present.

Low: <10% cover across the plot.	0
Moderate: 10-30% cover across the plot.	12
High: >30% cover across the plot.	18

A3 What is the **vegetation structure**?

Overgrazed: Vegetation height is uniformly low. Little or no heather present on wet heaths. Often lacking moss and dwarf shrub layer.	-15
Moderate (over-grazed): Significant areas (>25%) of the plot have low uniform vegetation, although not throughout.	10
Good: Sward in good condition; abundant grass and sedge-like vegetation on blanket bog with hummock, hollow, and pool complexes. On heath, all stages of heather/shrub growth present, mostly >30cm. Mix of bog and/or heath vegetation at various heights throughout. Well-structured vegetation with all three layers (moss, sedge/herb, and shrub) well represented.	35
Moderate (under-grazed): Significant areas (>25%) of the plot have rank vegetation although not throughout.	15
Under-grazed: Rank sward. Purple moor-grass/mat-grass and rank senescent heather dominating. Litter cover high, thatch forming in large continuous patches. Poorly developed ground layer.	-10

B Hydrological integrity

Total Score B:

/40

B1 Surface hydrology and artificial drainage features present within the plot? Assess disturbance, artificial drains and heavily modified watercourses, ignore unmapped natural streams and flushes, see guidance.

Significantly altered bog/heath hydrology: Frequent widespread free-flowing drains on plot with notable effect on surrounding vegetation of bog/heath. >20% of plot affected.	-30
Moderately altered bog/heath hydrology: Free flowing drains in plot with notable effect on surrounding vegetation of bog/heath. <20% of plot affected.	-15
Slightly altered bog/heath hydrology: Drains present in plot although are somewhat impeded and little effect on surrounding bog/heath.	5
Moderately intact bog/heath hydrology: Bog/heath surface largely intact, although some evidence of historic disturbance (cutting, drainage, erosion channels) across any part of plot. Vegetation and hydrology largely recovered/stabilised.	20
Intact bog/heath hydrology: Intact bog/heath surface, no evidence of past drainage or disturbance across plot.	40

C Threats & pressures

Total Score C (sum of C1 to C6):

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

(excluding 20 m adjacent to any watercourse)

High: Damage occurring across a large area ($\geq 21\%$) or of a serious nature if confined	-30
Moderate: Damage occurring across a moderate area ($\geq 6-20\%$) or of a moderate nature if confined.	-20
Low: Damage occurring across a small area ($\leq 5\%$) 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.	-20
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

C3a Are **non-native invasive species** present?

Present:	-10	Absent:	0
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C3b What is the cover of **non-native invasive species** throughout the plot?

(excluding 20 m adjacent to any watercourse)

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 or < 5 self-sown conifers	0

Non-native invasive species:

(tick if present)

- Cherry laurel
- Cotoneaster
- Giant hogweed
- Giant rhubarb
- Himalayan balsam
- Himalayan honeysuckle
- Himalayan knotweed
- Japanese knotweed
- Montbretia
- Rhododendron
- Self-sown conifers
- Other (please specify):

C4 Is there any evidence of **damage due to turbarry activity**?

High: Active peat cutting and associated works >10% of the field affected. High proportion of bare peat due to peat extraction. Sausage machine cutting taking place in any part of the field (regardless of the extent).	-30
Moderate: Active peat cutting (mechanical cutting from face-bank, hand cutting, milling etc.) and associated works <10% of the field affected.	-10
Low: No evidence of peat cutting during the most recent season.	0

C5 What is the extent of **spreading immature scrub**? (refer to Project team if 'moderate' or 'high')

High: Gorse-dominated scrub occurring throughout the site or concentrated in large areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moderate: Small areas of gorse-dominated scrub occur occasionally throughout the site.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low: Little or no scrub present.	<input type="checkbox"/>

C6 What is the cover of **bracken**? (refer to Project team if 'moderate' or 'high')

High: Very dense stands of bracken covering over half or more of the plot, forming closed canopy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moderate: Bracken forming dense stands covering parts of the plot, mostly forming closed canopy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Common management recommendations:

- Continue current management of this high-quality peatland.
- Control the occurrence and spread of invasive species.
- Control the occurrence and spread of encroaching scrub/bracken.
- Consider using supporting actions of slow or impede the flow of drains.
- Consider raising water table to restore peatland; 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):