

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

Total Score
 (A+B+C) **/100**

Dominant grassland type: Wet grassland Dry grassland
Soil type: Mineral soil Peat soil

A Ecological integrity **Total Score A (sum of A1 to A4): /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.

* Refers to wetland indicator species (see B1 overleaf)

Low: 0-4	0	High: 9-12	10
Moderate: 5-8	5	Very high: 13+	15

- Positive indicators:** (tick those present)
- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedstraws & Stitchworts | <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's smock (<i>Cuckooflower</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchids | <input type="checkbox"/> Sphagnum & branched mosses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird's-foot-trefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser spearwort | <input type="checkbox"/> Ox-eye daisy | <input type="checkbox"/> Tormentil (<i>Common & English</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carline thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Louseworts (<i>Common & Marsh</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple loosestrife | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbels large (<i>and/or Common Valerian, Common hogweed</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cowslips & Primrose | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh cinquefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragged robin | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbels small (<i>Pignut, Yarrow, Wild carrot</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eyebrights | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh marigold | <input type="checkbox"/> Scabious (<i>Devil's-bit & field</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vetches & vetchlings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forget-me-nots | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh pennywort | <input type="checkbox"/> *Sedges | <input type="checkbox"/> Violets (<i>all species</i>); Harebell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heathers | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-heal & Bugle | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Thyme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney vetch | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadowsweet | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorrel (<i>Common & Sheep's</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Composites (<i>Cat's ear, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits & Goat's beard - not Dandelion</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knapweeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Small rushes (<i>Spike, Woodrushes, Heath</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow flag iris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's mantle | <input type="checkbox"/> Mints (<i>all species</i>) | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow rattle (<i>Hay rattle</i>) |

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

Low: None present or you can take several steps without encountering any positive indicators at all.	0
Moderate: You encounter a positive indicator with every few steps taken.	5
High: You encounter positive indicators with every step taken.	10
Very high: You encounter multiple different positive indicators with every step taken (and in between steps).	15

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

High >25%: Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field. Very visible in the sward.	-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Docks (<i>NOT small sorrels</i>)
Moderate 5-25%: Occurring in medium to large patches in the field. Readily visible in the sward.	-7	<input type="checkbox"/> Thistles (<i>Creeping & spear</i>)
Low <5%: None or scattered or small clumps of negative indicators. Where present, cover should be less than 5%.	5	<input type="checkbox"/> Perennial ryegrass
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ragwort
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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 with little variation in height of vegetation. Few plants in flower	-15
Moderate (over-grazed): Mostly short vegetation. >50% of field has short sward with occasional to frequent patches of tall vegetation.	5
Good: Field sward medium height throughout with positive indicators flowering. Areas of taller and /or shorter sward also occur	25
Moderate (under-grazed): Mostly tall vegetation. 50-75% of field has tall sward. Litter and dead vegetation occurring.	15
Under-grazed: Rank vegetation present throughout the field	-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 grazing of after-grass. Little or no variation in sward height.	-10
Moderate structure: Narrow field margins present (~1m). Low number of flowering plants and vegetation structure within the field margin poor to moderate. Some grazing of after-grass providing some structural variation.	15
Good structure: Wide field margins present (2m+) and or good headlands. Grazing of after-grass takes place providing variations in height of sward; sward does not look uniform in appearance.	25

B Hydrological integrity	Total Score B (sum of B1 to B3): /40
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B1 To what extent are there any **surface artificial drainage** features 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.	40

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

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

C Threats & pressures	Total Score C (sum of C1 to C4):
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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/bracken.
- Control reducing fertiliser inputs.
- Consider using supporting actions of slow or impede the flow of drains.
- 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):