

HHP Bog/Heath Scorecard

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of scoring: \_\_\_\_\_ Surveyor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Herd number \_\_\_\_\_ Field Number: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Bog/Heath structure integrity

A.1.1. Habitat structure

	Poor	Moderate	Good
Comment	Bog Cotton, Heathers, Sphagnum and Cladonia lichens rare. Heather cover is low or absent. Parcel dominated by Molinia. No Heather taller than 30cm present. Areas of bare ground or peat hags frequent. Grazing resistant species Heath Rush and Mat Grass abundant. High proportion of Heather grazed to short carpet-like habit. Abandoned, unmanaged sites and fields with widespread and serious overgrazing.	Bog Cotton, Heathers, Sphagnum and Cladonia lichens occur but cover is low. Little mature Heather present (Note: Heather may be less vigorous on very wet blanket bog sites). Sphagnum occurs but not in large hummocks. Very little or no evidence of grazing with litter building up. Remember that apparent litter levels may change dramatically through the assessment season as Molinia matures. Heather often very uniform in size and growth habit. High cover of Molinia particularly on gentle slopes <b>OR</b> signs of overgrazing present but not throughout. Very little Heather >30cm tall. Includes many sites with historic damage caused by fires or overgrazing.	Bog Cotton, Heathers, Sphagnum and Cladonia lichens (Clumps >15cm across) throughout and abundant. Sward in good condition with undamaged Sphagnum layer, Sphagnum hummocks present and pools often filled with bright green Sphagnum. Grass and sedge-like vegetation abundant on blanket bog. Good mix of heathers grasses and sedges on wet heath areas. On Heath, all stages of Heather growth are present with significant amounts of Heather >30cm. Some areas of mature heather (height > 45cm). Mix of bog and/or heath vegetation at varying heights throughout.
Score	0	20	40

A.1.2 Scrub structure & cover

	Poor	Moderate	Good
Comment	Gorse-dominated scrub occurring throughout the site or concentrated in large areas (>0.2ha) with a clear impact on the surrounding hydrology.	Small areas (<0.1ha) of Gorse-dominated scrub occur occasionally throughout the site.	No scrub <b>OR</b> some natural areas of Willow-dominated scrub (in river valleys or on slopes) or Bog Myrtle present. Isolated gorse bushes permissible.
Score	-10	0	10

A.2 Soil integrity

	Poor	Moderate	Good
Comment	Areas of bare and eroding soil found at intervals along regularly used routes and/or evidence of sheet/ rill erosion or gullying. Significant rutting caused by vehicles/machinery particularly going between access gate. Excessive poaching and/or >5% bare and eroding soil.	Bare soil occurring along regularly used routes but little or no erosion. May also be a few isolated bare patches along stock paths and perhaps some damage from vehicles. Areas of bare peat very restricted in distribution and not excessive i.e. <5% of the site. No areas with more than 10% bare peat larger than 0.1 ha.	Little or no bare soil seen over the assessment area other than isolated hoof prints. Some bare soil at 'pinch' points along regularly used routes (e.g. gateways, gaps in walls) is acceptable as long as no signs of erosion are visible.
Score	-20	0	10

A.3 Hydrological integrity

A.3.1 Drainage: Describe the impact of Drainage on Peatland Hydrology.

	High	Moderate	Low
Comment	Drains have been recently dug out or evidence of recent (last 3 years) active management to maintain drain function (excluding roadside drains).	Drains present but no new drains or evidence of recent maintenance to enhance drainage function (in the last 3 years). Maintenance of roadside drains is permitted in this category.	Very little if any impact from artificial drainage, no drains present or drains have been blocked.
Score	-20	0	10

A.3.2 Impact of Management Activities on Water Resources.

	High	Moderate	Low
Comment	Severe damage to banks and channels caused by livestock/ vehicles. Livestock and vehicles ford watercourses on a regular basis causing significant damage. Direct routes from damaged areas to receiving channels.	Natural water supply but limited access by livestock, bankside vegetation remains largely intact. Some poaching but no significant effect. Damaged areas if present are remote from watercourses with no direct linkages.	No obvious damage. Water supply through troughed system or via natural water sources but with no damage to watercourses by livestock or vehicles, no evidence of damage to the bank, erosion or eutrophication.
Score	-20	5	10

**B. Threats and Future Prospects**

**B.1 What is the total cover of negative indicators/agriculturally favoured weeds throughout the site? \*Soft Rush cover in flushes or small areas of Heath/ Grassland mosaics can be excluded.**

Cover	Very High: >30%	High: 16-30%	Moderate 6-15%	Low: 1-5%	None/ Negligible
Score	-40	-20	-10	0	10
Rhododendron			Japanese Knotweed		
Self-sown conifers			Nettles/Thistles/Docks		
Soft Rush			Other Weeds or Invasive Species		
European Gorse/Furze					

**B.2 Presence of Rhododendron or self-sown conifers**

E.g. Rhododendron, Self-

Number	Present	Absent
Score	-10	0
	Rhododendron _____	Self Sown Conifers _____

**B.3 Burning damage**

	High	Moderate	Low
Comment	Extensive unprescribed burning >5% of the site affected. Note unplanned, uncontrolled burning may have taken place during the legal burning period.	Burning only takes place in accordance with prescribed burning programme. No damage caused to moss layer. Up to 5% of the site affected by burning in the previous 3 years.	No evidence of recent burning on site.
Score	-20	0	10

**B.4 Turbary** *The area affected by turbary operations is the actively cut area and any areas used for drying or storage of turf.*

	High	Moderate	Low
Comment	>30% of the site affected by turbary operations irrespective of method <b>OR</b> more than 5% of the site affected by sausage machine cutting. High proportion of bare peat affecting more than 10% of the site	Any sausage machine cutting or 6-30% of area affected by turbary irrespective of method employed.	No evidence of turbary activity on site, historic turbary only or very small (up to 5% of site) being cut on the vertical face only.
Score	-30	-20	0

**B.5 Damage due to supplementary feeding**

Type of Supplementary Feeding

	High	Moderate	Low/ None
Comment	Damage at multiple supplementary feeding sites <b>OR</b> Any supplementary feeding sites at vulnerable locations e.g. close to a watercourse <b>OR</b> >5% of area damaged due to poaching at supplementary feeding site <b>OR</b> severe poaching damage extending further than 30m from the feeding site(s). Damaged areas may not have revegetated by the following summer or be dominated by annual weeds.	Damage from a single supplementary feeding site with damage accounting for <5% of the area and extending less than 30m from the feeding site(s). Some weeds associated with disturbance present.	No damage due to supplementary feeding.
Score	-20	-10	0

**B.6 Bracken cover**

	High: >50%	Moderate: 11-50%	Low: <10%
Comment	Dense Bracken extending over 50% of the site, very little vegetation under the Bracken canopy, abundant Bracken Litter even in summer.	Bracken extending over 11-50% of the site, most Bracken is short with an open canopy, vegetated underneath.	Bracken is occasional on the site, very small areas with dense canopy, small patches of bracken as a mosaic with other habitats.
Score	-20	-10	0

**B.7 Damaging Activities**

Type of Damaging Activity \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the scale of the impact from other damaging activities.

	High	Moderate	Low	None/ Negligible
Comment	Large scale dumping or dumping at multiple locations. Any damage to soil/ vegetation or water arising from pollution with hazardous or toxic materials. Broadcast spraying of herbicides. Use of poison baits. Active quarry or sand pit. Current construction/ demolition, Wind Turbines.	Minor dumping issues, small in scale and limited to a single site. Serious litter problem across the site. Recent dumping of organic farm wastes or fodder, redundant fencing materials or construction materials remaining on site. Vehicle traffic over the bog surface is evident.	Historic dumping of FYM or silage (now largely decayed), Occasional Quad bike tracks on bog. Significant amount of litter. Unmarked permanent fencing.	Occasional litter
Score	-30	-20	-10	0

Score \_\_\_\_\_