

HHP Scrub and Native Woodland Assessment Scorecard

Landowner: _____ **Herd No.** _____ **Surveyor:** _____
Field Number: _____ **Date of scoring:** _____

*Note: This card should be used to assess scrub of 0.2 Ha in size or larger.
 Very open scrub or patches smaller than 0.2 ha are considered as part of the grasslands or peatlands cards as appropriate.*

A. Ecological integrity (species richness and composition)

A.1 What is the scrub/woodland diversity and structure?

	Poor	Moderate	Good	Excellent
Scrub. <i>Areas that are dominated by at least 50% cover of woody shrubs, stunted trees or brambles. Canopy generally less than 5m in height or 4m in the case of wet or bog areas</i>	Gorse dominated scrub of varied height and irregular edge. Herb layer very sparse under a dense canopy.	Scrub with more than one species excluding Gorse e.g. Willow, Whitethorn. Well vegetated base of Bramble and/or Bracken present. Suitable nesting area for small birds or for Hen Harrier	Scrub with more than two species common throughout excluding Gorse e.g. Willow, Whitethorn. Well vegetated base of Bramble and/or Bracken present. Suitable nesting area for small birds or for Hen Harrier	Scrub with more than 2 species e.g. Willow, Whitethorn with occasional emergent tree growth. Bramble and/or Bracken may be present. Varied height and edge structure throughout. NOTE: Scrub with Bramble understorey examples in breeding themed areas may make suitable sites for the Safer Nest Sites Habitat Support Action.



	Poor	Moderate	Good	
Native Woodland <i>Area must be dominated by trees and be greater than 5m. It is considered woodland once it's over 4m in wetland or bog areas</i>	Native woodland with frequent conifers or non-native deciduous tree species present. Understorey absent or consisting of non-native deciduous trees. Shrub layer absent	Native woodland with very occasional conifers or non-native deciduous tree species present. Understorey present and consisting of native trees. Shrub layer present	Native woodland with no conifers or non-native tree species present. Understorey present and healthy. Shrub layer present	



B. Threats and Future Prospects

B.1. Bare soil and erosion.

	High	Medium	Low
Comment	Areas of bare and eroding soil found at intervals along regularly used routes and/or evidence of supplementary feeding within the scrub or woodland area. There may be significant rutting caused by vehicles/machinery particularly going between access point and feed points and through 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 caused by animals rubbing and excessive damage from vehicles. Very restricted in distribution and not excessive i.e. <5% bare soil.	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



B.2 Damaging activities, e.g. Dumping and burning.

	High	Medium	Low
Comment	Extensive unprescribed burning on site and or dumping of any waste type. Note: Stockpiling of brash from agreed scrub or hedge management is not considered dumping.	Some evidence of burning but not current. Some evidence of historic dumping of organic wastes.	No evidence of damaging activities on site.



B.3. Presence of Invasive species, e.g. Rhododendron, Japanese Knotweed*, Himalayan Balsam.**

***Do not attempt to remove Japanese Knotweed without consulting the HHP team. Removal attempts can make the problem worse if not done correctly



SCORE A+B

Please turn over for checklist of species present .. / ...

Scrub woody plant species present

Gorse/Furze	<i>Ulex europeus</i>
Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>
Whitethorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Gelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Bog Myrtle	<i>Myrica gale</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Other _____	

Woodland species present (* indicates non-native deciduous tree)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i> or <i>Q. robur</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazel	<i>Coylus avellana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sally	<i>Salix spp</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beech*	<i>Fagus sylvatica*</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sycamore*	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus*</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Horse Chestnut*	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum*</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish Chesnut*	<i>Castanea sativa*</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hornbeam*	<i>Carpinus betulus*</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____		<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes