

HHP Wet grassland scorecard

Participant:
Herd number

Date of scoring:
Field Number:

Surveyor:

A. Ecological Integrity

A.1 What is the number of positive indicators in the field? Circle all positive indicators present below.

Score	None -10	Low: 1-5 0	Medium: 6-8 5	High: 9-13 10	Very High: >13 Use species-rich
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Code	Positive indicator	Insert "1" if present	Code	Positive indicator	Insert "1" if present
1	Birds-foot-trefoils (Common & Greater)		15	Mints - all species	
2	Forget-me-nots - all species		16	Ox-eye Daisy- also Dog Daisy (<u>not</u>)	
3	Heathers - all species, total cover in grassland <25%		17	Orchids - all species	
4	Common Knapweed		18	Ragged Robin	
5	Small bedstraws (all species), Stichworts (Field & Marsh), Lady's Bedstraw		19	Scabious - Devils'-bit & Field	
6	Lady's Smock - also known as Cuckooflower		20	Sedges - all species	
7	Large Umbels - Angelica, Valerian & Common Hogweed		21	Selfheal and Bugle	
8	Lesser Spearwort		22	Small Rushes - Woodrushes, Spike	
9	Louseworts - Common & Marsh		23	Sorrel - Common & Sheep	
10	Marsh Cinquefoil & Marsh Marigold		24	Vetches/vetchlings - Meadow, Bitter,	
11	Marsh Pennywort		25	Violets - all species; Harebell	
12	Meadowsweet		26	Yellow Composites - Cat's Ears,	
13	Meadow or Marsh Thistle		27	Yellow-rattle - also known as Hay Rattle	
14	Tormentil				

A.2. What is the cover of Positive Indicator Species.

Score	Low: Occasional plants only, 0	Moderate: Indicator species are common and relatively 5	High: Indicator species are very 10
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A.3 What is the combined cover of negative indicator species &/or agricultural 'weeds' throughout the field.

Circle:	Docks High: >30% or -30	Perennial Rye grass Moderate: 6-30% or Invasive -20	Ragwort Low: 1-5% -10	Nettles Other Weed Species Negligible: Occasional plants only, less 0
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A.4 Field boundary quality. Refer to guidance document for details

	Poor All field boundaries of -10	Moderate Some good quality field boundaries present but are mixed with 10	Good All field boundaries are in good 20
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A.5 Scrub Diversity and Structure. Note: Blocks of Scrub over 0.2 Ha should be dealt with as a separate field and scored with the Scrub

Name the Dominant Scrub species _____

Describe Scrub Structure in the Field.

	Poor No scrub or Isolated leggy gorse bushes. 0	Moderate Single-species scrub (often Gorse). Base sparsely vegetated. 5	Good Scrub with a mix of several woody plant species of varied heights throughout. Structurally diverse with some compact inaccessible areas. Base is well-vegetated. 10
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A.6a Vegetation Structure. Note: If grassland is primarily grazed use A.6a; if grassland is cut for hay or silage, use A.6b.

Field is used for Grazing only or used for hay/ silage with or without aftermath grazing.

Insert Answer _____

	Poor All vegetation short <30% -10	Sub-optimal Tall vegetation cover is patchy. No areas with 30-70% 0	Good Tall/medium and >70% -10	Very Good Tall and medium and short vegetation 0
Cover of tall		5	0	0
		10	25	40
		10	20	25
Insert Rush Cover		%		

OR

	Poor	Moderate	Good
<u>or A.6b</u>	No field margins present. Field topped right up to the field boundary line. No aftermath grazing. Little or no variation in sward height.	Narrow field margins present (~1m). Low number of flowering plants and vegetation structure within the field margin poor to moderate. Some aftermath grazing providing some structural variation	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

Score	-10	10	20
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Threats and Future Prospects

B.1 What is the cover of dense, dead plant litter?

	Very High: >50%	High: 26-50%	Moderate: 11-25%	Low: <10%
Score	-20	-10	0	10

B.2 What is the cover of encroaching scrub? Identify main species

Identify Main Species _____

Encroaching scrub can be brambles; seedlings; scrub with stem diameter <10cm and generally lower than 1.5m height. Any trees/scrub which require felling licence to cut are not included

	Very High: >50%	High: 26-50%	Moderate: 11-25%	Low < 10%
Score	-30	-20	-10	0

B.3 Are there any damaging activities to vegetation, soil or water?

Describe the type of damaging activity _____

	Very High	High	Moderate	Low/None
Score	-40	-20	-10	0

B.4 Is there damage due to supplementary feeding? Identify type (silage, concentrates etc) _____

	High	Moderate	Low/None
Score	-30	-20	0

Total Score for Field _____