

HHP Species-rich grassland scorecard

Landowner: _____
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.

Note all positive indicators present as you walk a 'W' through the field.

	None	Low: 1-5	Medium: 6-8	High: 9-13	Very High: >13
Score	-10	0	5	10	25
Code	Positive indicator		Code	Positive indicator	
1	Birds-foot-trefoils (Common & Greater)		15	Mints - all species	
2	Forget-me-nots - all species		16	Ox-eye Daisy- also Dog Daisy (<i>not common daisy</i>)	
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 Rushes, Heath	
9	Louseworts - Common & Marsh		23	Sorrel - Common & Sheep	
10	Marsh Cinquefoil & Marsh Marigold		24	Vetches/vetchlings - Meadow, Bitter, Tufted	
11	Marsh Pennywort		25	Violets - all species; Harebell	
12	Meadowsweet		26	Yellow Composites - Cat's Ears, Hawkweed's, Hawkbit's & Goat's-beard (<i>not dandelion</i>)	
13	Meadow or Marsh Thistle		27	Yellow-rattle - also known as Hay Rattle	
14	Tormentil				

A.2 What is the combined cover of positive indicators (listed above) through the field?

Cover is the proportion of the field taken up by all positive indicators present.

	Poor: Frequency of plants very low	Low: Positive indicators occur every couple of steps	Medium: Positive indicators occur at every step	High: Positive indicators occur at every step and in between
Score	0	5	10	25

A.3A What is the combined cover of negative indicator species &/or agricultural 'weeds' throughout the field.

Circle:	Docks	Perennial Rye grass	Ragwort	Nettles	Other Weed Species
	Very High: >50%	High: 26-50%	Medium 5-25%	Negligible <5%	
Score	-30	-20	-10	0	

A.3B Are there any invasive alien plants present in the field or along the field boundaries? Circle relevant species

	Rhododendron	Japanese Knotweed	Himalayan Balsam	Other invasive species _____
	Present			Absent
Score	-10			0

A.4 Field boundary quality. Refer to guidance document for details

Assess the quality of the WORST 30m of field boundary in the field

	Poor	Moderate	Good
	Wire fence only or very poor quality field boundary present	Moderate field boundary quality	Good field boundary quality
Score	0	5	10

A.5 Scrub Diversity and Structure. Note: Blocks of Scrub over 0.2 Ha should be scored as a separate field with the Scrub scorecard.

	Low	Moderate	Good
	No scrub or Isolated leggy gorse bushes.	Single-species scrub (often Gorse) with diverse height and irregular edge. One or two other wood plant species may be present. Base sparsely vegetated. Suitable nesting area for small birds.	Scrub with a mix of several woody plant species of varied heights throughout. Highly structurally diverse with some compact inaccessible areas.
Score	0	5	10

A.6a Vegetation Structure. Note: If grassland is primarily grazed use A.6a; if grassland is cut for hay or silage, use A.6b.

	Poor	Suboptimal	Good	Very Good
A.6a	All vegetation short OR Excessively dominant unmanaged rush. Little evidence of grazing. Dead standing rush throughout.	Tall vegetation cover is patchy. No areas with distinct tussocks. Grassy areas dominate field. Little variation in the height of vegetation. Dead standing leaves rare. OR Uniform vegetation height throughout the field	Tall/medium and short vegetation throughout. May contain frequent tall tussocks or frequent sharp-flowered or jointed rush. Some grass/sedge dominated areas also occur.	Tall and medium and short vegetation throughout. Tussocks throughout. Some tall dense soft rush, some areas of shorter sharp-flowered rush and some grass/sedge dominated areas. Potential roost site.



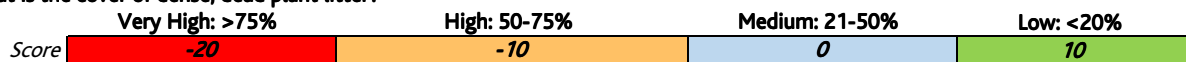
*** Mandatory *** Rush cover ____%

	Poor structure	Moderate structure	Good structure
or A.6b	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



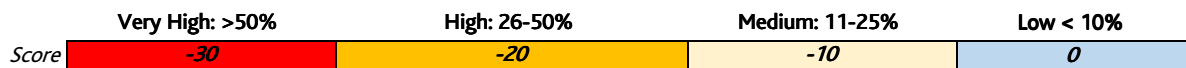
B.Threats and Future Prospects

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



B.2 What is the cover of encroaching scrub? 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



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

If yes, list all activities in comment box below.



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



B.5 Bracken cover?



Comments or any recommended actions: