

Total Score: (A+B) /100

A Ecological integrity

Total score A: (sum of A1 to A7) /90

A1 What is the number of **positive indicators** in the field? Tick all positive indicators present below.

Low: 0-4 **0** Moderate: 5-8 **5** High: 9+ **10**

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

Positive indicators: (tick those present)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedstraws & Stitchworts | <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's smock (Cuckooflower) | <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 (Common & English) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carline thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Louseworts (Common & Marsh) | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple loosestrife | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbels large (Angelica, Valerian, Common hogweed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cowslips & Primrose | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh cinquefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragged robin | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbels small (Pignut, Yarrow, Wild Carrot) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eyebrights | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh marigold | <input type="checkbox"/> Scabious (Devil's-bit & field) | <input type="checkbox"/> Vetches & Vetchlings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forget-me-nots | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh pennywort | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedges | <input type="checkbox"/> Violets (all species); 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 (Common & Sheep's) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Composites (Cat's ear, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits & Goat's beard - not Dandelion) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knapweeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow thistle | <input type="checkbox"/> Small rushes (Spike, Woodrushes, Heath) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Flag Iris |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's mantle | <input type="checkbox"/> Mints (all) | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow rattle (Hay rattle) |

A2 What is the cover of all positive indicators (listed above) throughout the entire field?

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

Low: Only a couple of individual plants 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**

A3 What is the combined cover of negative indicators/weeds throughout the entire field? (tick if present)

- | | | |
|--|---|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Docks (NOT small sorrels) | High >25%: Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field. Very visible in the sward. | -20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thistles (Creeping & spear) | Moderate 5-25%: Occurring in medium to large patches in the field. Readily visible in the sward. | -10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perennial Rye-grass | Low <5%: None present or scattered or small clumps of negative indicators. Where present, overall cover should be less than 5%. | 0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ragwort | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nettles | | |

A4 Vegetation Structure. Note: If grassland is primarily grazed use **A4(a)** (including marsh fritillary suitability assessment); 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 which are **PRIMARILY GRAZED?**

OR

A4(b) What is the vegetation structure in grasslands which are **CUT FOR HAY or SILAGE?**

Poor: All vegetation short (overgrazed) / Tall & rank (undergrazed).	-10
Suboptimal: 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.	10
Good: 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.	25
Very good: 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.	40

Poor structure: No field margins present. Field topped right up to the field boundary OR short sward throughout.	-10
Moderate structure: Narrow field margins and/or headlands present (>1m) OR medium height sward throughout (20-30cm). At least 20% of grass in sward with flowering heads.	10
Good structure: Field margins and/or headlands at least 2m wide OR tall sward height throughout (>30cm). At least 50% of grass in sward with flowering heads.	20

A5 Marsh Fritillary suitability assessment in primarily grazed grassland

Numerous patches (at least quarter of the field), or majority of field with Devil's Bit Scabious? **Yes** **No**

Is the Devil's Bit Scabious present from ankle to knee height throughout? **Yes** **No**

A6 Field boundary quality. Assess the quality of the **WORST 30m** of field boundary in the field. Refer to guidance document for details.

Poor: Wire fence only or very poor quality field boundary present.	0
Moderate: Moderate field boundary quality.	10
Good: Good field boundary quality.	20

What is the **dominant field boundary** in this field?

Hedgerow Earth bank Treeline
 Drainage ditch Wire fence Stonewall
 Also present:
 Hedgerow Earth bank Treeline
 Drainage ditch Wire fence Stonewall

A7 Scrub diversity & structure

Low: No scrub or Isolated leggy gorse bushes.	0
Moderate: 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.	5
High: Scrub with a mix of several woody plant species of varied heights throughout. Highly structurally diverse with some compact inaccessible areas.	10

B Threats & future prospects

Total score B
(sum of B1 to B6) /10

B1 Is there any **evidence of damaging activities** to habitat, vegetation, or archaeology?

High: Damage occurring across a large area ($\geq 21\%$) or of a serious nature if confined.	-30
Moderate: Damage occurring across a moderate area ($\geq 6-20\%$) or of a moderate nature if confined.	-20
Low: Damage occurring across a small area ($\leq 5\%$) or of a minor nature if confined.	-10
None: No damaging activities.	0

Damaging activities: (tick relevant damage & describe in comments)

Damage from supplementary feeding Quarrying Boundary damage
 Damage to archaeological features Burning Removal of mature scrub/trees
 Inappropriate herbicide use Dumping Other (please specify):

B2 What is the level of **risk to the quality of natural water bodies** within, adjacent to and downstream of the field due to pressures relating to flow, sediment, nutrients or other pollutants?

The source - pathway - receptor model should inform the assessment (see guidance).

High:	-25	Low:	-5
Moderate:	-15	None:	0

B3 What is the extent of **bare soil & erosion**?

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, where poaching evident. Significant rutting and soil disturbance caused by vehicle/tractor access.	-20
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. 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.	10

B4 What is the cover of **non-native invasive species**?

High: Abundant. Some forming dense clumps, many seedlings.	-30
Moderate: Frequent. Some flowering, many seedlings present.	-20
Low: Scattered. Plants mostly small and not flowering.	-10
None: No non-native invasive species present.	0

Non-native invasive species: (tick if present)

Rhododendron Himalayan balsam
 Cotoneaster Himalayan knotweed
 Japanese Knotweed Himalayan honeysuckle
 Giant Hogweed Other (please specify):

B5 What is the extent of **spreading immature scrub**?

(This can be brambles, seedlings, scrub and trees generally lower than 1m in height and with a stem diameter of <5cm. Do not include established scrub).

High: >40% of the field has immature scrub cover, some well-established saplings may be present. Field is likely to show few signs of management, such as signs of recent grazing or signs of livestock.	-20
Moderate: Cover of immature scrub in patches or individuals with overall cover of between 20-40% with particularly briars/brambles coming in.	-10
Low: Small patches of immature scrub or individual seedlings of immature scrub with overall cover of less than 20%. Grass growth easily seen underneath the scrub.	0

B6 What is the cover of **bracken**?

High: Dense stands of bracken covering over half or more of the field, forming closed canopy.	-20
Moderate: Bracken forming dense stands covering parts of the field, mostly forming closed canopy.	-10
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

Specific field management advice/comments to farmer: