

ACRES

Breeding wader

SCORECARD

Farmer name:
Field number:
Business ID:

Surveyor:
Survey date:

Total Score: (A+B+C) /100

A Ecological integrity Total score A: /60 (sum of A1 to A5)

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

Low: 0-5 **0** Medium: 6-8 **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"/> Lesser spearwort | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragged robin | <input type="checkbox"/> Vetches & vetchlings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdsfoot trefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Louseworts
<i>(common & marsh)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Scabious (<i>Devil's-bit & field</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Violets (<i>all</i>), Harebell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eyebrights | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh cinquefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedges | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild thyme |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forget-me-nots (<i>all</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh marigold | <input type="checkbox"/> Selfheal & Bugle | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow composites (<i>Cats ears, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits & Goats-beard</i>) - not dandelion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knapweeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Mints (<i>all</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Rushes (<i>Woodrush, Spike rush, Heath rush</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow rattle (<i>Hay rattle</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's Smock (<i>cuckoo flower</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchids | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorrel (<i>Sheep & Common</i>) | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxeye daisy | <input type="checkbox"/> Tormentil (<i>Common & English</i>) | |

A2 What is the combined **cover of all positive indicators** throughout the field? (*listed above*) Cover is the proportion of the field taken up by all positive indicators present.

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Low: None present or you can take several steps without encountering any positive indicators at all. | 0 |
| Moderate: Positive indicators occur every few steps. | 5 |
| High: You encounter positive indicators with every step taken. | 10 |

A4 What is the quality of **vegetation structure for Breeding wader: sward height?**

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| Poor: Long (>15cm) >70% of field mostly tall vegetation. | 0 |
| Moderate: Short (<5cm) >70% of field mostly short vegetation, with occasional patches of tall vegetation. | 10 |
| High: Mosaic (5-15cm) >70% of field. Areas of taller and/or shorter sward occur. | 20 |

A3 What is the combined **cover of negative indicators/weeds** throughout the field?

Tick if present: Docks (*NOT small sorrels*) Ragwort
 Thistles (*Creeping & spear*) Nettles

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| High >25%: Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field. Very visible in the sward. | -5 |
| Moderate 5-25%: Occurring in medium to large patches in the field. Readily visible in the sward. | 0 |
| Low <5%: None or scattered or small clumps of negative indicators. Where present, cover should be less than 5%. | 5 |

A5 Marsh Fritillary suitability assessment in primarily meadows (or 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 Choose the **single most dominant type of rush** present in the field
(for dense rush: answer A6a; for sparse rush: answer A6b)

A6a Level of **DENSE RUSH:**

- | | |
|---|------------|
| High >50%: Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field. Very visible in swards. | -10 |
| Moderate 30-50%: Dense clumps of rush, either scattered throughout or confined to one area. | 0 |
| Low 10-29%: Dense clumps of rush, either scattered throughout or confined to one area. | 5 |
| Very low <10%: Dense clumps of rush, either scattered throughout or confined to one area. | 15 |

OR

A6b Level of **SPARSE RUSH:**

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| High >70%: Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field. Very visible in swards. | 0 |
| Moderate 30-70%: Scattered throughout or confined to one area. | 5 |
| Low <30%: Scattered throughout or confined to one area. | 15 |

B Wet features & hydrology Total score B: /15 (score B1)

- | | |
|---|------------|
| Poor: No accessible wet features for foraging birds. | -10 |
| Limited: Wet features rare. Or if present, too dry and/or over vegetated and/or too steep. | 0 |
| Good: Wet features present, but plot could be improved by increasing the amount /quality. | 10 |
| Excellent: Features of appropriate slope, wetness and vegetation cover | 15 |

C Threats & pressures

Total score C: /25
(sum of C1 to C7)

C1 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 None Other (please specify):
 Inappropriate herbicide use Dumping

C2 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

C3 What is the cover of **non-native invasive species**?

High: Abundant, some forming dense clumps, many seedlings.	-20
Moderate: Frequent. Some flowering, many seedlings present.	-15
Low: Scattered. Plants mostly small and not flowering.	-5
None: No non-native invasive species present.	0

Non-native invasive species: (tick if present)

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

C4 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 which is scored separately in C5.

High: >5% of the field has immature scrub cover, some well-established saplings may be present.	-10
Moderate: Cover of immature scrub in patches or individuals with overall cover of between 1-5%.	0
Low: Small patches of immature scrub or individual seedlings of immature scrub with overall cover of less than 1%.	5

C5 What is the extent of **established scrub >1m** in height occurring?

High: Scrub covering >5% of field.	-10
Moderate: Scrub covering 1-5% of field.	-5
Low: Scrub covering <1% of field.	0
None: No scrub present.	5

C6 Trees >1m in height present?

High: Tree(s) 2+m in height.	-10
Moderate: Tree(s) 1-2m in height.	-5
Low: No trees present.	5

C7 Machinery operations between 15th March - 30th June

Machinery operations identified.	-60
No machinery operations identified.	10

Common management recommendations to pick from:

- Aim to provide a stocking rate of no more than 1.0LU/ha during the breeding season of 15th March to 30th June annually.
 Control encroaching and established scrub. Control the occurrence and spread of immature scrub.
 Removal of trees where necessary.
 Installation of temporary predator exclusion fences.
 Liming of plots to control soil acidity.
 Installation of wader scrapes and the reprofiling of ditches.
 Other management advice: