

## A Ecological integrity

**Total score A:**  
(sum of A1 to A5) **/35**

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

Low: 0-4 **0** Medium: 5-12 **5** High: 13+ **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"/> Marsh cinquefoil & Marsh marigold        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ribwort plantain   | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbels large ( <i>Angelica</i> , <i>Common hogweed</i> )   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdsfoot trefoil                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh pennywort                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Scabious ( <i>Devil's-bit &amp; field</i> )                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbels small ( <i>Pignut</i> , <i>Yarrow</i> , <i>Wild carrot &amp; Cow parsley</i> )                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common valerian ( <i>not Red valerian</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadow buttercup ( <i>not Creeping</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedges   | <input type="checkbox"/> Violets ( <i>all</i> ), Harebell   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eyebrights                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadowsweet                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Selfheal & Bugle   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow composites ( <i>Cats ears</i> , <i>Hawkweeds</i> , <i>Hawkbits &amp; Goats-beard</i> ) - <b>not</b> dandelion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knapweeds                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mints ( <i>all</i> )                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Rushes ( <i>Woodrush</i> , <i>Spike rush</i> , <i>Heath rush</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow flag iris   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's mantle                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchids                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sorrel ( <i>Sheep &amp; Common</i> )                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow rattle ( <i>Hay rattle</i> )  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lady's Smock ( <i>cuckoo flower</i> )       | <input type="checkbox"/> Oxeye daisy                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Thistles ( <i>Marsh</i> , <i>Meadow &amp; Carline</i> )                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser spearwort                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragged robin                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tormentil ( <i>Common &amp; English</i> )                                |   |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Red clover                               |   |   |

**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.

**A3** What is the combined **cover of negative indicators/weeds** throughout the field?  
Tick if present:  Docks (*NOT small sorrels*)  Thistles (*Creeping & spear*)  
 Perennial Rye grass  Ragwort  Nettle  Other

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Low:</b> Only a couple of individual plants present or you can take several steps without encountering any positive indicators at all. | <b>0</b>  |
| <b>Moderate:</b> Positive indicators occur every few steps.   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>High:</b> You encounter positive indicators with every step taken.   | <b>10</b> |

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

**A4** 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

- |  |                                   |           |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>A5</b> What is the overall % cover of grasses throughout the field? | <b>High:</b> >75% of field.       | <b>-5</b> |
|  | <b>Moderate:</b> 50-75% of field. | <b>0</b>  |
|  | <b>Low:</b> <50% of field.        | <b>5</b>  |

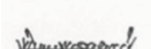




**A6** What is the combined **cover of all large rushes** throughout the field?

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

## B Structure & functions

**Total score B:**  
(sum of B1 to B6) **/55**

**B1** What is the **sward density & structure**?  
Select one based on dominant cover. Large rush cover should be considered 'Very heavy'

				
<b>No general or weak density</b> characterised by a thin 'wispy' appearance. Plant flowering heads largely absent or very close to the ground.	<b>Moderate density</b> characterised by thin appearance or heavy grazing. Herb layer poor or very short. Few flowering heads at appropriate levels.	<b>Balanced vegetation density</b> across the plot - not too heavy nor thin. Often herb rich to 20 cm and easily permeable at ground level. Grasses and herbs a balanced mix.	<b>Moderate density</b> characterised by grassy appearance and/or some rank or thatched undergrowth. Often herb poor with grass dominating at ground level.	<b>Heavy or very heavy sward structure</b> characterised by very grassy appearance or rank thatched undergrowth at the base. Usually associated with abandonment or excessive fertiliser and reseeding of grass, e.g. reseeded fields.
<b>-10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-10</b>

**B2** What percentage of the field contains the optimal vegetation height for corncrake?

(20-50cm -ankle to knee)

<b>Low:</b> <25% of field.	<b>-10</b>	<b>High:</b> 50-75% of field.	<b>5</b>
<b>Moderate:</b> 25-50% of field.	<b>0</b>	<b>Very high:</b> >75% of field.	<b>10</b>

**B3** Does the field contain an early & late cover plot?

<b>Yes:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>No:</b> Skip B4 & B5	<b>0</b>
-------------	----------	-------------------------	----------

**B4** What is the area of early & late cover in the field?

<500m <sup>2</sup> or <5% of total field area.	<b>0</b>
500-1000m <sup>2</sup> or >5% of total field area.	<b>5</b>
>1000m <sup>2</sup>	<b>10</b>

**B5** What is the percentage of characteristic species in the early & late cover plot?

Tick if present:

- Yellow Flag Iris  
  Large Umbellifers  
  Reed Canary Grass  
 Nettles  
  Meadowsweet  
  Early and Late Cover Crop Mix

<25% of plot	<b>0</b>
25-50% of plot	<b>5</b>
>50% of plot	<b>10</b>

**B6** What additional features are present in the field that would benefit corncrakes?

Tick all features present:

- Rocky outcrop or unmown headland covering >5% of plot  
 5-20% Reeds cover within the plot  
 Other

No features	<b>0</b>
1 feature present	<b>5</b>
>1 feature present	<b>10</b>

**C** Threats & future prospects

**Total score C:** /10  
(sum of C1 to C4)

**C1** Is there any evidence of damaging activities to habitat, vegetation, or archaeology?

<b>High:</b> Damage occurring across a large area (≥21%) or of a serious nature if confined.	<b>-30</b>
<b>Moderate:</b> Damage occurring across a moderate area (≥6-20%) or of a moderate nature if confined.	<b>-20</b>
<b>Low:</b> Damage occurring across a small area (≤5%) or of a minor nature if confined.	<b>-10</b>
<b>None:</b> No damaging activities.	<b>0</b>

**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):

**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).

<b>High:</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>Low:</b>	<b>-5</b>
<b>Moderate:</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>None:</b>	<b>0</b>

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

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

**Non-native invasive species:** (tick if present)

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

**C4** Machinery operations & mowing/grazing between 15th May - 15th August

Machinery operations and mowing/grazing identified.	<b>-60</b>
No machinery operations and mowing/grazing identified.	<b>10</b>

**Common management recommendations to pick from:**

- Control encroaching and established scrub.  
 Creation of Early and Late Cover (ELC).  
 Conservation Friendly Mowing (including delayed mowing).  
 No management advice.  
 Other management advice: