

DAFM Forestry Inspectorate High Nature Value farmland (HNVf) Field Assessment Part A - Semi-natural Habitat

CN no: _____

Survey date: _____

Surveyor _____

Plot, habitat or field no: _____ Ensure this corresponds to habitat map and sample plot number/s

Include one Part A for each semi-natural habitat.

A.1. Which positive indicators are present in the field? Tick all positive indicators present below. Exclude any noted in the field margins.

Low: 0-4		Moderate: 5-8		High: 9-12		Very High: 13 +	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bedstraws & Stitchworts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lesser spearwort	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oxeye daisy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Umbels Small (Pignut, Yarrow, Wild Carrot)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bird's-foot-trefoil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Louseworts (Common & Marsh)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple loosestrife	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vetches & Vetchlings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carline thistle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh cinquefoil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ragged robin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violets (all species); Harebell
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cowslips & Primrose	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh marigold	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scabious (Devil's-bit & field)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild Thyme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eyebrights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh pennywort	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sedges	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow composites (Cat's ear, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits & Goat's beard) - not Dandelion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forget-me-nots	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh thistle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Self-heal & Bugle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow flag/Iris
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heathers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meadowsweet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sorrel (Common & Sheep)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow rattle (Hay rattle)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kidney vetch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meadow thistle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small rushes (Spike, Woodrushes, Heath)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waxcaps, Pinkgills, fairy clubs and/or earth tongues - Note the extent and density of these in notes if present.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knapweeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium rushes excl. soft rush (<i>J. articulatus</i> , <i>J. acutiflorus</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	All mosses inc. Sphagnum	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (List)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lady's mantle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mints (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tormentil (Common & English)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lady's smock (Cuckooflower)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orchids	<input type="checkbox"/>	Umbels Large (e.g. Angelica, common hogweed)		

A.2. What is the cover of all positive indicators (listed above) throughout the semi-natural habitat? (Circle the most appropriate)

Cover is the proportion of the area taken up by all positive indicators present. Mark on your map all habitats that fit this criteria.

Low	Moderate	High	Very High
None present or you can take several steps without encountering any positive indicators.	You encounter a positive indicator with every few steps taken. Majority of sward looks grassy.	You encounter positive indicators with every step taken.	You encounter multiple different positive indicators with every step taken (and in between steps).

A.3. What is the combined cover of negative indicator species, weeds and any other vegetative indicators of intensive management or abandonment throughout the semi-natural habitat (if abundant)? (Tick all those present)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Docks (not small sorrels)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perennial rye-grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nettle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thistle (creeping & spear)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bracken	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ragwort	<input type="checkbox"/>	White clover	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (List in notes)
High: >25%	Moderate: 5-25%	Low: <5%	None				
Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the habitat. Very visible in the sward.	Occurring in medium to large patches in the habitat. Readily visible in the sward.	If present scattered or small clumps of negative indicators. Overall cover should be less than 5%.	None observed				

A.4. What is the vegetation structure of the semi-natural habitat? (Circle the most appropriate)

Poor structure	Moderate structure	Good structure
Sward not variable and either short (less than 15cm) throughout (overgrazed), rank vegetation throughout (undergrazed) or dominated by dense rushes if wet. Little variation in height of vegetation. No field margins present.	Mostly short vegetation. >50% of field has short sward with occasional to frequent patches of tall vegetation. Herb layer poor or very short. If wet will not be dominated by dense rush but likely to have some stands of rush.	Field sward medium height (15 - 35cm) throughout with positive indicators present. Areas of taller and /or shorter sward give an uneven appearance. Grasses and herbs a balanced mix. Dense rush will not dominate if wet.

A.5. To what extent is the expansion of scrub <5m in height occurring within the semi-natural habitat?

Do not include established hazel or willow woodland in this category. Indicate on the habitat map where the below applies.

High	Moderate	Low	None
Scrub covering >5% of field	Scrub covering 1-5% of field	Scrub covering <1% of field	No scrub present in this habitat

Proceed to Part B

Notes:

DAFM Forestry Inspectorate High Nature Value farmland (HNVf) Field Assessment Part B - entire site

B.1. Marsh Fritillary suitability assessment where Devil's Bit Scabious is present.

Indicate on the habitat map where this applies

n/a

- 1 Numerous patches (at least quarter of any field), or majority of any field with Devil's Bit Scabious present? **Yes** **No**
- 2 Is the Devil's Bit Scabious present from ankle to knee height throughout any field? **Yes** **No**

B.2. Indicate rush cover throughout, more than one answer may apply.

If more than one plot is wet and there are differing densities, indicate this on the habitat map and circle all types present below.

n/a

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

B.3. Evidence of passerine or other farmland birds onsite

Indicate on the habitat map where present and include relevant context in notes.

n/a

Low	Moderate	High
Common species occasional at most. No significant evidence of nests, dropping accumulations etc	Bird of prey overhead, several ground nesting bird noted or small flock of passerines present.	Rare or protected species noted, more than one flock of passerines noted, large flock/s of passerines noted.

B.4. Wet features - ponds, waterlogged areas, swamp, marsh, relevant watercourses etc

Indicate on the habitat map where present.

n/a

Poor	Limited	Good	Excellent
No accessible wet features on site or visible directly adjacent	Wet features rare. Or if present, dry and/or over vegetated and/or too steep	Wet features present, but not optimal.	Features of appropriate slope, wetness and vegetation cover

B.5. Occurrence of mature trees. Indicate on the habitat map where present and circle all that applies below.

n/a

Mature tree/s present Nest/s evident Holes, cracks or other damage or decay

B.6. What is the extent of bare soil and erosion? Indicate on the habitat map where present.

n/a

High	Moderate	Low
Extensive areas of bare soil within the body of the field from poaching, rutting, soil disturbance or machinery operation.	Bare soil mainly along regularly used stock routes or congregation areas. Minor rutting and soil disturbance.	Bare soil more or less restricted to regular stock paths, 'pinch' points & small congregation areas. No soil loss.

B.7. Evidence of other protected species

Indicate on the habitat map and describe below

E.g. Rare or protected species noted, sett onsite or multiple mammal paths connecting foraging to breeding places. Structure onsite with evidence of roost.

n/a

Evidence of protected species observed

B.8. What field boundaries are present?

Circle all those present and ensure these are noted on the habitat map

n/a

Hedgerow Earth bank Drainage ditch Treeline Stonewall Wire fence

B.9. Hedgerows or treelines only.

Assess the quality of a representative portion (ca. 30m) of the dominant hedgerows and/or treelines on the site.

n/a

Poor	Moderate	Good
Contains multiple gaps or not connected to other hedgerows or treelines	Not continuous. May contain gaps and may have limited connectivity to other linear features.	Mostly continuous. Any gaps are small. Connected to other linear features.

B.10. What is the highest functionality of any relevant watercourses present?

Include both internal and perimeter relevant watercourses only. Natural and modified aquatic zones are excluded from assessment.

n/a

Functional	Part-Functional	Non-Functional
Drains predominantly free flowing (may be dry at time of survey) unvegetated and unblocked.	Drains present but flow is predominantly impeded (by vegetation /dams).	Drains absent or present but non-functioning. No flow, highly vegetated and/or blocked.

B.11. What is the cover of non-native invasive species?

List any non-native invasive species present in the notes and their location on the habitat map

n/a

High	Moderate	Low
Abundant. Some forming dense clumps.	Frequent. Several plants present.	Scattered, 2 or 3 or individuals only.

Notes (Please include additional pages for notes if necessary)