

DAFM Forestry Inspectorate High Nature Value farmland (HNVf) Assessment Report Part 1

CN no: _____

Survey date: _____

Surveyor _____

Habitat map completed to Fossitt (2000)

A. In consideration of the entire site and the need for further assessment of potential to be HNVf

A.1. Do any of the following criteria apply to all of the plantable areas of the site (including ABE)?

- (i) There are a few medium sized patches or significant patches of ryegrass in the field, it is readily visible in the sward/or ryegrass occurs in dense patches and is abundant throughout the field?

AND

- (i.a) There is a very low cover of non-grass species in the grassland- excluding buttercup, dandelion, white clover and agricultural indicators or weeds of bare areas. The entire sward appears very grassy or very weedy. At the majority of steps taken, you do not encounter any positive indicator species (See B.1.). (Plants growing in field boundaries/margins but not otherwise represented in the field should not be counted).

OR

- (ii) There are less than 4 other grass species (other than ryegrasses) present? At the majority of steps taken, you do not encounter any positive indicator species (See B.1.). (Plants growing in field boundaries/margins but not otherwise represented in the field should not be counted). There are multiple negative indicator species present (See B.3.) or at least 1 negative indicator species or weed dominates the sward in sections.

OR

- (iii) The field is dominated by dense soft rush (50% +). Buttercups and other weeds or agricultural herbs (See B3) may be present but no positive indicator species are present (excluding site boundaries or along watercourses). Ryegrasses or other agricultural grasses as in B.3. are present in shorter sections.

OR

- (iv) The above criteria (i-iii) apply and any other plantable areas are scrub or emergent woodland (less than 5m tall)

If YES

- Any grasslands present on the site are entirely species poor improved agricultural grassland. Follow the procedures for documenting improved agricultural grassland and proceed to Part 3. You are not required to answer further questions in relation to HNVf. Protected species in relation to Type 3 HNVf will be considered at a later stage of the assessment process.

If NO - Select from the following

- A** The above applies to some but not the entire site - Proceed to A.2.
- B** The above does not apply to any of the site - Proceed to Section B (The site requires further assessment for HNVf).

A.2. What is the extent of any plantable grasslands (including ABE) that do not fit any of the criteria in A.1. on the site? (Select whichever applies)

- (i) The only plantable grassland sections of the site that do not meet the criteria as described in A.1. are non-mappable areas (Less than 0.2 ha).
- Proceed to Part 3 and follow the procedures for documenting improved agricultural grassland. You are not required to answer further questions in relation to HNVf.
- (ii) There are portions of the site that are mappable and do not meet the criteria as described in A.1.
- Proceed to Section B. The site requires further assessment for its potential to be HNVf.

B. Field Assessment semi-natural plantable habitats

Section B.1. - B.4. to be used to assess plantable, semi-natural habitats ONLY. Section B.5. to be used for sections of Improved agricultural grassland.

B.1. What is the number of positive indicators 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 Large (e.g. Angelica, common hogweed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bird's-foot-trefoil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Louseworts (Common & Marsh)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple loosestrife	<input type="checkbox"/>	Umbels Small (Pignut, Yarrow, Wild Carrot)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carline thistle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh cinquefoil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purple moor-grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vetches & Vetchlings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cowslips & Primrose	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh marigold	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ragged robin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violets (all species); Harebell
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eyebrights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh pennywort	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scabious (Devil's-bit & field)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wild Thyme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forget-me-nots	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marsh thistle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sedges	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow composites (Cat's ear, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits & Goat's beard) - not Dandelion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heathers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meadowsweet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Self-heal & Bugle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow Flag/Iris
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kidney vetch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meadow thistle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sorrel (Common & Sheep)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow rattle (Hay rattle)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Knapweeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium rushes excl. soft rush (J. articulatus, J.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small rushes (Spike, Woodrushes, Heath)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waxcaps, Pinkgills, fairy clubs and/or earth tongues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lady's mantle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mints (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	All mosses including Sphagnum	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (List)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lady's smock (Cuckooflower)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orchids	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tormentil (Common & English)		

B.2. What is the cover of all positive indicators (listed above) throughout the field? (circle the most appropriate)

Cover is the proportion of the field 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. Sward appears grassy.	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).

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cocksfoot	<input type="checkbox"/>	False oat-grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perennial rye-grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Timothy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Docks (not small sorrels)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nettle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ragwort	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thistle (creeping & spear)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bracken	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chickweed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Silverweed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (List in notes)

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

B.4. What is the vegetation structure of the grassland? (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. Few plants in flower. No field margins present. Signs of abandonment or intensive management.	Mostly short vegetation. >50% of field has short sward with occasional to frequent patches of tall vegetation. Herb layer poor or very short. Few flowering heads. Narrow field margins (~1m). 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 and possibly flowering. Areas of taller and /or shorter sward give an uneven appearance. Grasses and herbs a balanced mix. Wide field margins may be present. Dense rush will not dominate if wet.

B.5. What is the extent of any improved agricultural grassland (GA1) in this field? (circle the most appropriate)

Dominant	Extensive	Variable to low	Low to none
Over 60% of the field meets the criteria in A.1.	40 - 60% of the field is improved agricultural grassland and meets the criteria in A.1.	There are small patches of improved grassland throughout the field but it should amount to less than 40% of the entire field.	Other than very occasional negative indicator spp. any signs of improvement are limited to field boundaries or not present at all.

Proceed to Section C

C. Field Assessment entire site									
Continues on from Section A/B. This form is to be used to assess the entire site as a whole, except where not applicable. All sections to be completed.	Tick 'n/a' box where not applicable								
<p>C.1. Marsh Fritillary suitability assessment where Devil's Bit Scabious is present. (Indicate on the habitat map where this applies)</p> <p>1 Percentage overall cover of DBS in a field where it is present _____</p> <p>2 Numerous patches (at least quarter of any field), or majority of any field with Devil's Bit Scabious present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3 Is the Devil's Bit Scabious present from ankle to knee height throughout any field? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>								
<p>D.1. Intensively managed farmland report to include one page with the relevant information, for each plot. If more than one plot is wet and there are differing densities, indicate this on the habitat map.</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">High</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Moderate</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Low</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Very low</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">>50% of field. Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field. Very visible in swards.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">30-50% of field. Dense clumps of rush, either scattered throughout or confined to one area.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">10-29% of field. Dense clumps of rush, either scattered throughout or confined to one area.</td> <td style="font-size: small;"><10% of field. Dense clumps of rush, either scattered throughout or confined to one area.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>
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<p>C.3. 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 a separate habitat. Indicate on the habitat map where the below applies.</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">High</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Moderate</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Low</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">>5% of the field has immature scrub cover, some well-established saplings may be present.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Cover of immature scrub in patches or individuals with overall cover of between 1-5%.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Small patches of immature scrub or individual seedlings of immature scrub with overall cover of less than 1%.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	High	Moderate	Low	>5% of the field has immature scrub cover, some well-established saplings may be present.	Cover of immature scrub in patches or individuals with overall cover of between 1-5%.	Small patches of immature scrub or individual seedlings of immature scrub with overall cover of less than 1%.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>		
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<p>C.4. To what extent is the expansion of established scrub >1m <5m in height occurring? Do not include established hazel or willow woodland in this category. Indicate on the habitat map where the below applies.</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">1. High</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">2. Moderate</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">3. Low</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Scrub covering >5% of field</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Scrub covering 1-5% of field</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Scrub covering <1% of field</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1. High	2. Moderate	3. Low	Scrub covering >5% of field	Scrub covering 1-5% of field	Scrub covering <1% of field	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>		
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<p>C.5. Occurrence of mature trees that may be hollow, may have holes, cracks, fallen branches or any other damage or decay?</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">High</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Moderate</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Low</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Several trees that meet this criteria</td> <td style="font-size: small;">One or two trees that meet this criteria</td> <td style="font-size: small;">No trees that meet all of the above criteria</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	High	Moderate	Low	Several trees that meet this criteria	One or two trees that meet this criteria	No trees that meet all of the above criteria	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>		
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<p>C.6. Evidence of passerine or other farmland birds onsite (ground nesting birds, birdsong, nests, dropping accumulations, birds of prey etc)</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Low</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Moderate</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">High</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Little to no evidence. Individual birds noticed common species and occasionally observed in low to individual numbers only.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Notable presence observed. Bird of prey overhead, more than one ground nesting bird noted or small flock of passerines present.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Rare or protected species noted, more than one flock of passerines noted, large flock/s of passerines noted.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Low	Moderate	High	Little to no evidence. Individual birds noticed common species and occasionally observed in low to individual numbers only.	Notable presence observed. Bird of prey overhead, more than one 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.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>		
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<p>C.7. Wet features - ponds, waterlogged areas, swamp, marsh etc</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Poor</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Limited</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Good</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Excellent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">No accessible wet features for foraging birds</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Wet features rare. Or if present, too dry and/or over vegetated and/or too steep</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Wet features present, but not optimal or in poor condition.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Features of appropriate slope, wetness and vegetation cover</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Poor	Limited	Good	Excellent	No accessible wet features for foraging birds	Wet features rare. Or if present, too dry and/or over vegetated and/or too steep	Wet features present, but not optimal or in poor condition.	Features of appropriate slope, wetness and vegetation cover	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>
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<p>C.8. What is the extent of bare soil and erosion?</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">High</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Moderate</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Low</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Extensive areas of bare soil within the body of the field from poaching, rutting, soil disturbance or machinery operation.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Bare soil mainly along regularly used stock routes or congregation areas, with minor soil loss occurring at a few points. Minor rutting and soil disturbance.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Bare soil more or less restricted to regular stock paths, 'pinch' points & small congregation areas. No soil loss.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	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, with minor soil loss occurring at a few points. Minor rutting and soil disturbance.	Bare soil more or less restricted to regular stock paths, 'pinch' points & small congregation areas. No soil loss.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>		
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<p>C.9. Evidence of other protected species (List species and evidence in notes)</p> <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Low</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Moderate</th> <th style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">High</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Little to no evidence e.g. occasional to rare mammal paths, occasional - rare occurrence of scat, no breeding or resting places for protected species.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Occasional evidence of protected or rare species. Mammal paths but no likely breeding places. Occasional - rare occurrence of potential bat roosting feature. Likely roost adjacent.</td> <td style="font-size: small;">Rare or protected species noted, trees with high roosting potential for bats, sett onsite or multiple mammal paths connecting foraging to breeding places. Structure onsite with evidence of roosting.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Low	Moderate	High	Little to no evidence e.g. occasional to rare mammal paths, occasional - rare occurrence of scat, no breeding or resting places for protected species.	Occasional evidence of protected or rare species. Mammal paths but no likely breeding places. Occasional - rare occurrence of potential bat roosting feature. Likely roost adjacent.	Rare or protected species noted, trees with high roosting potential for bats, sett onsite or multiple mammal paths connecting foraging to breeding places. Structure onsite with evidence of roosting.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 30px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; line-height: 30px;">n/a</div>		
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C.10. What is the dominant field boundary overall? (circle the most appropriate)

n/a

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

C.11. 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.

C.12. 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 (though may be dry at the time of survey) largely 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 water in drain <30cm from top of the drain.

C.13. What is the cover of non-native invasive species?

n/a

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

Non-native invasive species: (tick if present)

Rhododendron	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cotoneaster	<input type="checkbox"/>	Himalayan Balsam	<input type="checkbox"/>
Himalayan Honeysuckle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Japanese Knotweed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Himalayan Knotweed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Giant Hogweed	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Notes

DAFM Forestry Inspectorate High Nature Value farmland (HNVf) Assessment Report Part 3

CN no: _____

Survey date: _____

Surveyor _____

Habitat map completed to Fossitt (2000)

D. Field Assessment (Entire site is located within the indicative layer but is intensively managed farmland)

To be completed where the assessment in Part 1 (A) has indicated that the majority of the entire site is intensively managed farmland. Use this sheet as a cover page for the final report, that is to be formatted as described below and contain the following information.

Check list

- D.1. Intensively managed farmland report to include one page with the relevant information, for each plot.
- D.2. On each page indicate which of the screening criteria in Part 1 (A) applies.
- D.3. On each page include at least two photos. Photo 1 should show an overview of the site as a whole and Photo 2 should be taken at a representative point within the field.
(Avoid field boundaries and non-representative areas. More than two photos may be required)
- D.4. Where habitats change within a plot, include photos that represent each habitat.
- D.5. Mark on the habitat map the locations of where each photo was taken, for each representative point.
- D.6. Include any relevant habitat notes on the appropriate plot page.
- D.7. Save this coversheet and each page as a pdf and submit with your application.