

WADER GRASSLAND SCORECARD

Improved/ semi-improved

Unimproved

A. Ecological Integrity

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A.1 What is the sward structure?

Poor	Moderate	Good	Very good
The sward is uniformly tall (> 15 cm) or short (<5 cm). Intermediate sward is absent or limited to small patches.	The sward is mostly tall (> 15 cm) or short (<5 cm), with localised areas of intermediate heights.	The sward comprises large distinct areas of different heights, i.e areas of tall (>15 cm), short (<5cm) and/or intermediate heights.	The sward is a fine mosaic of vegetation heights. Discrete patches of bare ground and/or tall, dense vegetation may be present.
-20	0	10	15

Alternatively, if there is evidence of breeding lapwing:

Poor	Moderate	Good	Very Good
The sward is uniformly tall (> 15 cm). Intermediate sward is absent or limited to one or two discrete areas.	The sward is over 90% short (<5 cm), with any intermediate/tall sward limited to one or two discrete areas.	The sward comprises large distinct areas of different heights, i.e areas of short (<5cm), intermediate and tall (>15cm) sward heights. Short sward covers 25 to 50% of the field.	Over 50% of sward is short with a fine mosaic of patches of intermediate and tall vegetation scattered across it. Discrete patches of bare ground may be present.
-20	0	10	15

A.2 What is the number of positive indicator plant species?

Low	Medium	High
<3	3-6	>6
0	5	10

Positive wetland plant indicators

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bogbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh pennywort |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuckooflower | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh willowherb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Devil's-bit scabious | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadowsweet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser spearwort | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragged robin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lousewort – common and marsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton-grass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh cinquefoil | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedges – other species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh marigold | |

A.3 a. Unimproved: What is the frequency of positive indicator plant species?

None/rare	Occasional	Frequent	Abundant
No positive indicator recorded or, <3 indicators on any length of W survey route.	3 or more positive indicator species recorded on 1 or 2 lengths of W survey route.	3 or more positive indicator species recorded on 3 lengths of W survey route.	3 or more positive indicator species recorded on 4 lengths of W survey route.
0	5	10	15

OR

A.3 b. Improved / semi-improved: What is the earthworm count*?

*in 5 pits, 20x20x20 cm

Low	Medium	Medium-high	High
<10	10-24	25-34	>35
0	5	10	15

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B. Condition in the breeding season (April-June)

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B.1 What is the ground wetness in the spring?

Dry The water level is at/just below the surface on <10% of the area. The ground is mostly dry and hard, difficult to probe with a spade.	Soft The water level is at/just below the surface on <10% of the area. The ground is mostly fairly easy to probe and it gives slightly under foot.	Damp The water level is at/just below the surface on 10-50% of the area.	Damp-Wet The water level is at/just below the surface on >50% of the area.
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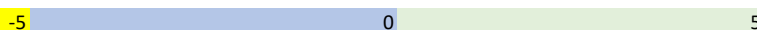
B.2 What is the condition of wet features (e.g natural hollow, wader scrape, open drain) in the spring?

Poor Field contains no shallow-edged (<30°) wet feature; or features are present but dry.	Moderate Field contains shallow wet features >20m ² with gently sloping edges (<30°), holding water in spring. Vegetation on the edge of features is mostly dense.	Good Field contains shallow wet features >20m ² with gently sloping edges (<30°), holding water in spring. Vegetation on the edge of features is mostly open, with some muddy patches. Access to wet features is restricted due to obstacles (e.g. burn, large ditch).	Very good Field contains shallow wet features >20m ² with gently sloping edges (<30°), holding water in spring within each hectare of the field. Vegetation on the edge of features is mostly open, with some muddy patches. No access restriction.
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B.3 Is cover for nests and chicks available?

Absent No grass or rush tussocks.	Scarce Some patches of rushes or grass tussocks present, but scarce or limited to small sections of the field.	Abundant Patches of rushes or grass tussocks frequent throughout the field.
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B.4 What is the impact of management practices in the spring?

Are breeding waders present in the field between 1 April and 30 June (calling, displaying, nests and/or chicks)?

Yes No

Significant negative impact Use of machinery with nests unmarked.	Moderate impact Nests marked and avoided during machinery operations.	Positive impact No machinery use.	Assume neutral impact
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AND

Grazing density is over 1 cattle/ha or 3 sheep/ha.	Grazing density is 0.35-1 cattle/ha or 1-3 sheep/ha.	Grazing density is under 0.35 cattle/ha or 1 sheep/ha.
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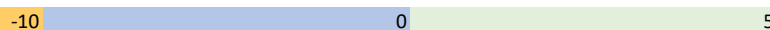


C. Threats to Site Integrity

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C.1 What is the cover of thatched vegetation?

High >25%	Medium 15-25%	Low <15%
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C.2 What is the level of encroachment (e.g iris, soft rush)?

High >50%	Medium 31-50%, in distinct blocks	Medium 31-50%, scattered	Low <30%
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C.3 Is there evidence of damaging activities to vegetation, soil or water?

E.g. Damage to soil and or sward from machinery or poaching, ploughing of unimproved grassland, installation of new field drainage system, supplementary feeding site in unimproved areas, tree planting within or on the boundary of the site.

High >10% of the site	Medium 6-10% of the site	Low 1-5% of the site	No damaging activity
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Condition	Poor				Intermediate				Good												
Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
Points	-120	-105	-100	-65	-60	-35	-30	-5	0	10	15	30	35	50	55	65	70	85	90	95	100