

Farmer ID:

Surveyor:

Plot number:

Survey date:

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

Which of the following best describes the plot (land parcel) (*tick most appropriate*):

Blanket bog Heath Mosaic of heath & bog Mosaic of heath with grassland

A Ecological Integrity

Total score A
(sum of A1 to A5):
/55

Positive indicators:

(tick those present)

Moss Layer:

- Branched Mosses
 Non-crustose (bushy) Lichens
 Sphagnum Mosses

Sedge / Herb Layer:

- Bog Asphodel
 Bog Bean
 Bog Cotton
 Deer Grass
 Lousewort
 Sundews
 White-beaked Sedge

Shrub Layer:

- Bell Heather
 Bilberry
 Bog Myrtle
 Cross-leaved Heather
 Ling Heather
 Western Gorse

Negative indicators:

(tick those present)

- Bramble
 Conifers (Sitka Spruce or Lodgepole Pine)
 European Gorse
 Nettle
 Rhododendron
 Other alien invasive

A1 How many positive indicators are present in the plot?

Count total number of positive indicators present:

No. of plants:	Score	No. of plants:	Score
Low: 0-4	0	High: 7-8	5
Medium: 5-6	2	Very high: 9+	10

Score A1:

A2 What is the combined cover of positive mosses & lichens (listed above) throughout the plot?

Cover:	Score	Cover:	Score
Rare: 0-5%	0	Abundant: 21-30%	15
Frequent: 6-20%	10	Dominant: >30%	20

Score A2:

A3 Presence of non-native species within the plot (rhododendron, self-sown conifers, other alien invasive)?

	Score
Present	-10
Absent	0

Score A3:

A4 What is the combined cover of all negative indicators/weeds (listed above) throughout the plot?

Cover:	Score	Cover:	Score
High: >25%	-15	Med-low: 1-10%	-5
Medium: 11-25%	-10	Absent/negligible	10

Score A4:

A5 Quality of vegetation structure?

<p>Very Poor</p> <p>Vegetation height is uniformly low. Little or no heather present on wet heaths. Often lacking moss and shrub layer. Often resulting from over grazing or recent peat cutting.</p> <p>Score -15</p>	<p>Poor</p> <p>Rank sward. Purple moor-grass/mat-grass and rank senescent heather dominating. Litter cover high, thatch forming in large continuous patches. Poorly developed ground layer. Often resulting from under grazing.</p> <p>Score -10</p>	<p>Moderate (high grazed)</p> <p>Significant areas (>25%) of the plot have tight uniform vegetation although not throughout.</p> <p>Score 0</p>	<p>Moderate (low grazed)</p> <p>Significant areas (>25%) of the plot have rank vegetation although not throughout.</p> <p>Score 0</p>	<p>Good</p> <p>Sward in good condition, abundant grass and sedge-like vegetation on blanket bog with hummock, hollow, and pool complexes on bog. On heath, all stages of heather / shrub growth present, mostly >30cm. Mix of bog and / or heath vegetation at varying heights throughout. Well structured vegetation with all three layers (moss, sedge / herb, and shrub) well represented.</p> <p>Score 15</p>
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Score A5:

B Hydrological Integrity

Total score B
(sum of B1 & B2):
/30

B1 Contribution to watercourses:	Dry plot with no natural wet features Score 0	Natural wet features/see page zones present Score 5	Natural wet features/seepage zones discharging to OSI mapped watercourse Score 15	Score B1:	Score B2:
	B2 Surface hydrology and artificial drainage features:	Significantly altered bog/heath hydrology Frequent widespread free flowing drains on plot with notable effect on surrounding vegetation of bog/heath (>20% of plot affected). Score -30	Moderately altered bog/heath hydrology Free flowing drains on plot with notable effect on surrounding vegetation of bog/heath (<20% of plot affected). Score -15	Slightly altered bog/heath hydrology Drains present on plot although are somewhat impeded and little effect on surrounding bog/heath. Score 0	Moderately intact bog/heath hydrology Bog/heath surface largely intact, although some evidence of historic disturbance (cutting, drainage, erosion channels) across any part of plot. Vegetation and hydrology largely recovered/stabilised. Score 5

C Threats to Site Integrity

Total score C
(sum of C1 to C5):
/15

C1 Is there evidence of damage due to burning?	High: Evidence of recent extensive burning causing significant damage to moss layer (eroding/dead hummocks) (>10% of plot affected). Score -15	Medium: Evidence of some recent burning, but no damage to moss layer (<10% of plot affected). Score -5	None: No evidence of recent burning. Score 5	Score C1:	
C2 What is the extent of bare soil and erosion?	High: Areas of bare and eroding soil found at intervals along regularly used routes and/or evidence of sheet/rill erosion or gullyng. Significant rutting caused by vehicles/machinery. Excessive poaching. >10% bare and eroding soil in plot. Score -20	Medium: Areas of bare and eroding soil found at intervals along regularly used routes and/or evidence of sheet/rill erosion or gullyng. Significant rutting caused by vehicles/machinery. Excessive poaching. >1-10% bare and eroding soil in plot. Score -10	Low: Bare soil more frequent along regularly used routes but little or no signs of erosion. May also be a few isolated bare patches caused by animals and some damage from vehicles. Very restricted in distribution and not excessive i.e. <1% of the plot. No areas larger than 0.1ha with more than 10% bare peat. Score 0	None: Little or no bare soil seen over the assessment area other than isolated hoof prints. Some bare soil at 'pinch' points along regularly used routes (e.g. gateways, gaps in walls) is acceptable as long as no signs of erosion are visible. Score 10	Score C2:
C3 Is there damage due to supplementary feeding?	High: Damage at multiple feeding sites Or presence of feeding sites at vulnerable location (i.e. near watercourses) Or >5% of area damaged, Or damage extending >30m from a feeding site. Score -15	Medium: Damage from single supplementary feeding site, accounting for <5% of plot and extending <30m from feeding site. Score -5	None: No damage evident. Score 0	Score C3:	
C4 Turbarry	Very high: Peat cutting activities within the current season. Score -30	High: Most recent cutting activities occurred last year affecting >10% of plot. Score -15	Medium: Most recent cutting activities occurred last year affecting <10% of plot. Score -5	None: No peat cutting activity for >2 years. Score 0	Score C4:

C5 Is there any evidence of damaging activities to vegetation or soil?

If yes, list in comments below.

Examples may include: dumping (organic or inorganic), pollution or damage to soil, active quarry / sand pit, litter etc.

Cover:	Score	Score
High: >50%	-30	
Medium: 6-50%	-20	
Low: <5%	-10	
No damaging activities	0	

Score C5:

Management advice / comments: