

Grassland Condition Assessments

Cover

Survey Cover Sheet			
Survey Date/s	27 March and 22 April 2025	Site Name or Location	Harvey's Barn
Weather Conditions	Suitable	Project or Development Name	
Surveyor/s Name	Andrew Nicholl-Smith, BSc. (Hons.) Hort, and Joe Storer, BASIS (Commercial Horticulture)	On-site or Offsite	Onsite
Survey Reference	HW1123.1.3	Reason For Assessment	Planning Application
Notes			
Two survey areas were defined: Area A – encompassing P2, P3 P5 P6 and P7 Area B – encompassing P4 The mapping for each area was conducted using seven 1 metre x 1 metre quadrats. The drop locations for the quadrats were determine using randomly generated XY coordinates from a defined Datum Point (see below). XY maximum limits were applied to the random generator to avoid drop locations being generated outside the defined area. Location of the quadrat position was captured using What3Words from the centre of the quadrat.			

Sheet 5: Grassland of Low Distinctiveness

Sheet 5: Grassland of Low Distinctiveness			
Condition Assessment Proforma for use with Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric			
UKHab Habitat Type(s)			
Grassland - Modified grassland			
Site name/location	Harvey's Barn, Day's Lane, Donington.	Onsite/offsite	Onsite
Central grid reference of habitat	TF 21661 36620	Unique polygon reference	P4
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if condition assessment of this polygon relates to a wider habitat survey)	
Habitat Description			
g4 - modified grassland, Secondary: 64 mown,. Mown sward with individual trees			

		
Q8 - Perennial Rye Grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>) Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) Common Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) Common Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>) Creeping Thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>) Average sword height <7cm	Q9 - Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) Perennial Rye Grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>) Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>) Common Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) Common Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>) Common Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>) Average sword height <7c	Q10 - Perennial Rye Grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>) Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>) Common Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) Common Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>), Springy Turf Moss (<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>) Average sword height <7cm

		
Q11 - Perennial Rye Grass (<i>Lolium perenne</i>) Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>) White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) Common dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) Common daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>) Springy Turf Moss (<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>) Average sword height <7cm	Q12 - Red Fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) Perennial Rye grass, Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>) Common Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) Common Daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>) White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) Common Ragwort (<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>) Average sword height <7cm	Q13 - Perennial rye grass, Red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) Common daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>) Common Dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>) Springy Turf Moss (<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>) Average sword height <7cm

			
Q14 - Perennial Rye grass, Red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>) Creeping Buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>) Ground Ivy (<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>) Common daisy (<i>Bellis perennis</i>) Common dandelion (<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>) White clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>) Average sword height <7c			
Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)	Notes/Justification
A	There are 6-8 vascular plant species per m² present, including at least 2 forbs (this may include those listed in Footnote 1). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition. Where the vascular plant species present are characteristic of medium, high or very high distinctiveness grassland, or there are 9 or more of these characteristic species per m² (excluding those listed in Footnote 1), please review the full UKHab description to assess whether the grassland should instead be classified as a higher distinctiveness grassland. Where a grassland is classed as medium, high, or very high distinctiveness, please use the relevant condition sheet.	Y	Mean average of 6 higher plant species per 1m sample
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for vertebrates and invertebrates to live and breed.	N	all mown short

C	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	Y	
D	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Y	
E	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens) ² .	Y	
F	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Y	
G	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Y	
Essential criterion 1 achieved (Y/N)			Y
Number of criteria passed			6
Condition Assessment Result		Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Good (3)	Good
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A		Moderate (2)	
Passes 4 – 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)		Poor (1)	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Notes			
Footnote 1 – Creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> .			
Footnote 2 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing establishment of new species, or localised patches where not exceeding 10% cover.			
Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, using professional judgement.			
Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).			

Add or delete tables as required

Sheet 6: Grassland of Medium to Very High Distinctiveness

Sheet 6: Grassland of Medium to Very High Distinctiveness			
Condition Assessment Proforma for use with Defra's Statutory Biodiversity Metric			
UKHab Habitat Type(s)			
Grassland - Lowland calcareous grassland Grassland - Lowland dry acid grassland Grassland - Lowland meadows Grassland - Other lowland acid grassland Grassland - Other neutral grassland Grassland - Tall herb communities (H6430) [Note Tall herb habitat that does not meet the Annex 1 definition should be recorded as 'Other neutral grassland'] [Not to be confused with the Tall forbs secondary code – see UKHab guidance for details.] Grassland - Upland acid grassland Grassland - Upland calcareous grassland Grassland - Upland hay meadows Sparsely vegetated land - Calaminarian grassland			
Site name/location	Harvey's Barn	Onsite/offsite	Onsite
Central grid reference of habitat	TF 21584 36638	Unique polygon reference	P2 and P3
Limitations (if applicable)		Survey reference (if condition assessment of this polygon relates to a wider habitat survey)	
Habitat Description			
Other neutral grassland, maximum >3 species per quadrat			



Q1-Meadow fescue (*Schedonorus pratensis*), Red fescue, Yorkshire fog, Perennial rye grass. 19cm, >3 spp.



Q2- Meadow fescue, Cock's-foot, Red fescue, Yorkshire fog. 12cm, > 4 spp.



Q3- Meadow fescue, Soft brome, Perennial rye grass, common dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.) sheep's parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*). 18cm, > 5 spp.

					
Q5- Meadow fescue, Cock's-foot, Red fescue, common nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>). 19cm, >4 spp.		Q6 – Meadow fescue, Soft brome, Perennial rye grass, Yorkshire fog, sheep's parsley, creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>). 10cm, > 6 spp.		Q7 - Meadow fescue, Cock's-foot, Red fescue, sheep's parsley, creeping buttercup. 14cm, > 5 spp.	
Condition Assessment Criteria			Condition Achieved (Y/N)	Notes/Justification	
A	The grassland is a good representation of the habitat type it has been identified as, based on its UKHab description - the appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches the characteristics of the specific grassland habitat type. Indicator species listed by UKHab for the specific grassland habitat type are consistently present. Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Moderate or Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.		N	Low species count average 4.5 spp., per sample	
B	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.		N	Fairly uniform structure	
C	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 5%, including localised areas, for example, rabbit warrens ¹		Y		
D	Cover of bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> is less than 20% and cover of scrub (including bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.) is less than 5%.		Y		

E	Combined cover of species indicative of sub-optimal condition ² and physical damage (such as excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, damaging levels of access, or any other damaging management activities) accounts for less than 5% of total area. If any invasive non-native plant species ³ (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA ⁴) are present, this criterion is automatically failed.	Y	
Additional criterion – must be assessed for all non-acid grassland types			
F	There are 10 or more vascular plant species per m ² present, including forbs that are characteristic of the habitat type (species referenced in Footnote 2 and 4 cannot contribute towards this count). Note - this criterion is essential for achieving Good condition for non-acid grassland types only.	N	
Essential criterion 1 achieved (Y/N)			N
Number of criteria passed			3
Condition Assessment Result	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved x/✓	
Acid Grassland Types (Result out of 5 criteria)			
Passes 5 criteria	Good (3)		
Passes 3 or 4 criteria	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria	Poor (1)		
Non-acid Grassland Types (Result out of 6 criteria)			
Passes 5 or 6 criteria, including essential criterion A and additional criterion F.	Good (3)		
Passes 3 - 5 criteria, including essential criterion A.	Moderate (2)		
Passes 2 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 3 or 4 criteria excluding criterion A and F.	Poor (1)	3	
Suggested enhancement interventions to improve condition score			
Notes			
Footnote 1 – For example, this could include small, scattered areas of bare ground allowing for plant colonisation, or localised patches not exceeding 5% cover.			
Footnote 2 - Species indicative of sub-optimal condition for this habitat type include: creeping thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , curled dock <i>Rumex crispus</i> , broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , common nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> , creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , greater plantain <i>Plantago major</i> , white clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> and cow parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> . There may be additional relevant species local to the region and or site.			

Footnote 3 – Assess this for each distinct habitat parcel. If the distribution of invasive non-native species varies across the habitat, split into parcels accordingly, applying a buffer zone around the invasive non-native species with a size relative to its risk of spread into adjacent habitat, by applying professional judgement.

Footnote 4 – Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).



Figure 1: Distribution of quadrat samples