**Lowland grassland SSSI condition assessment** (version date 20/5/24: A Hurst)

Site Name:

NVC type: **CG2/MG5/U4c:** Specify NVC type or transition:……………………………………

Unit/subdivision reference Date:

Condition: Favourable maintained/Favourable recovered /Unfavourable improving/

Unfavourable no change/Unfavourable declining/Partially destroyed/Destroyed

Recommended visiting period: May - July

Recommended frequency of visits: Site-specific decision

Key management activities affecting condition to discuss with manager:

Grazing intensity/stocking rate FYM input

Grazing period Other inputs

Supplementary feeding Stock type

Scrub and weed control

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| ***Attribute (\*= mandatory attribute. One failure among***  ***mandatory attributes = unfavourable condition)*** | *Target* | ***Estimate for attribute*** | | |
| \*Extent of community (recoverable reduction = unfavourable; non-recoverable reduction = partially destroyed). | No loss without prior consent | (Describe and refer to map) | | |
| \*Sward composition: grass/herb (ie non-Graminae) ratio  ***2 x 2m quadrat level*** | **40-90%** herbs |  | | |
| \*Sward composition: frequency of positive indicator species/taxa.  ***2 x 2m quadrat level***  **CG2** *Anthyllis vulneraria ( ), Asperula cynanchica ( ), Campanula glomerata ( ), Cirsium acaule ( ), Filipendula vulgaris ( ), Gentianella* spp. *( ), Helianthemum nummularium ( ), Hippocrepis comosa ( ), Leontodon hispidus/L. saxatilis ( ), Leucanthemum vulgare ( ), Linum catharticum ( ),*  *Lotus corniculatus ( ), Pilosella officinarum (=Hieracium pilosella) ( ), Plantago media ( ), Polygala* spp. *( ), Primula veris ( ), Sanguisorba minor ( ), Scabiosa columbaria ( ), Serratula tinctoria ( ), Succisa pratensis ( ), Thymus* spp*. ( ).*  **MG5***Agrimonia eupatoria ( ), Alchemilla spp. ( ), Anenome nemorosa ( ), Centaurea nigra ( ), Euphrasia* spp*. ( ), Filipendula ulmaria ( ), Filipendula vulgaris ( ), Galium verum ( ), Genista tinctoria ( ), Lathyrus linifolius (=L. montanus) ( ),Lathyrus pratensis ( ), Leontodon hispidus/L. saxatilis ( ),Leucanthemum vulgare ( ), Lotus corniculatus ( ), Pimpinella saxifraga ( ), Polygala* spp*. ( ), Potentilla erecta ( ), Primula veris ( ), Rhinanthus minor ( ),Sanguisorba minor ( ), Sanguisorba officinalis ( ), Serratula tinctoria ( ), Silaum silaus ( ), Stachys officinalis ( ),Succisa pratensis ( ), Tragopogon pratensis ( ),* small blue-green *Carex* spp. (leaves less than 5mm wide) (*=C. flacca, C. nigra, C. panicea) ( ).*  **U4c** *Anenome nemorosa ( ),\*Calluna vulgaris ( ), Campanula rotundifolia ( ), Cladonia* spp*. ( ),\*Erica* spp*. ( ), Galium saxatile ( ), Galium verum ( ), Lathyrus linifolius (=L. montanus) ( ), Lotus corniculatus ( ),*  *Pedicularis sylvatica ( ), Pilosella officinarum (=Hieracium pilosella) ( ), Polygala* spp*. ( ), Potentilla erecta (   ), Rumex acetosella ( ), Serratula tinctoria ( ), Stachys officinalis ( ), Succisa pratensis( ), Teucrium scorodonia (   ), \*Vaccinium myrtillus ( ), Veronica officinalis ( ),* *Viola* spp. *( ).* | At least **four** species/taxa **frequent** and **three occasional**  throughout the sward |  | | |
| \*Sward composition: total cover of *Brachypodium pinnatum* and *Bromopsis erecta* ***Feature level***  ***Feature level*** | Neither species at more than **10%** cover | *B. pinnatum:*  *B. erecta:* | | |
| \* Sward composition: frequency and % cover of *Pteridium aquilinum*.  ***Feature level*** | No more than 5% cover  (**20%** cover allowed for U4c) |  | | |
| \*Sward composition: frequency and % cover of negative indicator species/taxa*.* ***2 x 2 m quadrat level and feature level***  **Red=all 3 communities**  CG2 *Cirsium arvense ( ), Cirsium vulgare ( ),*  *Rumex crispus ( ), Rumex obtusifolius ( ),*  *Senecio jacobaea ( ), Urtica dioica ( ).*  MG5 *Anthriscus sylvestris ( ), Galium aparine ( ), Plantago major ( ),*  U4c *Chamerion angustifolium ( ),*, *Cirsium palustre ( ), Plantago major ( ),* | No species/taxa more than **occasional** throughout the sward or singly or together more than **5%** cover | |  |
| ***Attribute (\*= mandatory attribute. One failure among***  ***mandatory attributes = unfavourable condition)*** | ***Target*** | | ***Estimate for attribute*** |
| \*Sward composition: frequency and % cover of all scrub and tree species, including Rubus  ***2 x 2 m quadrat level and feature level*** | No more than **5%** cover (quadrat)  Record % cover over whole feature | |  |
| Sward structure: average height ***2 x 2 m quadrat level*** | **2-10 cm (3-10cm U4c, 5-15cm MG5)** | |  |
| \*Sward composition: % cover of coarse grasses eg *Holcus lanatus*, *Dactylis glomerata*. ***2 x 2 m quadrat and feature level*** | No more than **10%** cover | |  |
| Sward structure: litter in a more or less continuous layer, distributed either in patches or in one larger area. ***2 x 2m*** | Total extent no more than **25%** of the sward | |  |
| Sward structure: extent of bare ground (not rock) distributed through the sward, visible without disturbing vegetation. ***2 x 2m*** | No more than **10%** | |  |
| Sward structure: rabbit grazing and disturbance levels, localized bare ground around rabbit warrens. ***Feature level*** | No more than **0.05** ha ie approximately 20x20m | |  |

**Structured walk recording form**

**Frequencies**: **totals out of 20 stops. 1-4 = rare, 5-8 = occasional, 9+ = frequent or more**

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| **Station/stop** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **Total** |
| Grass/herb ratio |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Height |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Litter |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Bare ground |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Scrub |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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