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

Draft – other communities will be added

Surveyor Name:

NVC types present ………………………………………..………NVC types monitored…………………………………………………. .

Unit/subdivision reference Date:

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| ***Attribute (\*= mandatory attribute. One failure among***  ***mandatory attributes = unfavourable condition)*** | *Target* | ***Estimate for attribute*** | | |
| \*Change in extents of communities and habitats ***unit level***  Record any loss in extent of monitored features  Refer to and annotate map  Extent of community (recoverable reduction = unfavourable; non-recoverable reduction = partially destroyed).  Indicate proportion of unit supporting each monitored feature (include non-monitored feature extent as indicated on NVC maps) | No loss without prior consent  List features present: | (Describe and refer to map) | | |
| Total cover of *Brachypodium pinnatum* and *Bromopsis erecta* ***unit level*** | Neither species at more than **10%** cover | *B. pinnatum:*  *B. erecta:* | | |
| Frequency and % cover of *Pteridium aquilinum* ***unit level*** | No more than 5% cover  (**20%** cover allowed for U4c) |  | | |
| Frequency and % cover of negative indicator species/taxa*.* ***unit 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 | |  |
| \*Sward composition: frequency and % cover of all scrub and tree species, including Rubus  ***unit level*** | Record % cover over whole unit. Exclude dense blocks of scrub | |  |
| Sward structure: average height ***unit level***  ***Use average of stops for each monitored feature where sensible (eg. MG1e/MG2 would be expected to be managed to attain taller sward height within general management of unit) but justify overall assessment*** | **As guide:**  **2-10 cm CG2**  **3-10cm U4c**  **5-15cm MG5** | |  |
| Nectar Sources: floweriness ***unit level*** | At least 40% of the sward able to flower (include flowering scrub, thistles, ragwort) | |  |
| \*Sward composition: % cover of coarse grasses eg *Holcus lanatus*, *Dactylis glomerata* ***unit level*** | No more than **10%** cover | |  |
| Sward structure: rabbit grazing and disturbance levels, localized bare ground around rabbit warrens. ***unit level*** | No more than **0.05** ha ie approximately 20x20m | |  |

**Site notes** (provide and refer to map). Please cover: Grazing intensity/stocking rate, Grazing period, Stock type, Scrub and weed control, Supplementary feeding, FYM input, Other inputs

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| **List feature** | **Overall condition** | **List any attributes which fail** |
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