

Annex 3.4 : Generic Assessment Forms

N.B There are no generic forms for Limestone Pavement, Calcareous Grassland (or Valley Mires, Springs and Flushes, other than alkaline flushes). For these habitats the contractor will need to refer to the relevant FCT and / or IOS and construct their own forms

Blanket Bog

Upland Cliffs and Screes

Dry Heath

Wet Heath

Montane Heath

Alkaline Flush

Scrub

Sub-alpine dry dwarf-shrub heath

Site name: Date: Surveyor: NVC Communities:

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Attributes	Targets	Sample point	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Comments
	8) % of the vegetation cover consisting of invasive "weedy" species (collectively <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> , large docks (excluding <i>Rumex acetosa</i>), <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , or <i>Urtica dioica</i> .												Target 8 and 9 assessed at two scales: a) 4m ² b) assessed for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.
	9) % of the vegetation cover consisting of <i>Juncus effusus</i> .												
Vegetation Structure: Disturbance	10) Are there any visible signs of burning?												Target 10 - assessed for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.
	11) % of heath that has been burnt or heavily grazed/trampled												Target 11 - A lack of disturbance is indicated by either the absence of any evidence of charcoal on old stems or on the ground, or the absence of any sharp lines of disparity in height of the dwarf-shrubs (as would be formed at the edge of an area which had been burnt or heavily grazed or trampled).
Indicators of heavy browsing	12) % of the shoots of ericaceous dwarf-shrub species collectively showing signs of browsing.												Target 12 - assessed at 4m ² . This indicator is important
Physical structure: indicators of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity	13) % of the ground cover made up of bare ground*.												Assess at two scales: a) 4m ² , for diffuse disturbed ground. b) assessed for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location (estimate).

Feedback (note answers below) :

Is heathland meeting targets but appears to be declining or is the management inappropriate? If so, how?

Is heathland failing but appears to be favourable? If so, where? Is failure due to a short term management problem?

Does the monitoring result give a misleading impression of condition? Wrong time of year/unrepresentative part of site etc?

Generic summit montane heath indicators– likely only record on summit plateau of Caw Fell. Mark locations of all stops on map.

Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands U7 and U10		
Unit	Date	NGR
Surveyor	Time taken	Extenuating circumstances

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Vegetation Composition: cover of non-native species	1) % of the vegetation cover made up of non-native species.											Target 1 - Assessed at 4m ²
Vegetation Structure: Indicators of current grazing	1) % of grass and sedge tillers uprooted											Targets 1-3 - Assessed at 4m ² .
	2) % of live leaves and/or flowers of any of <i>Alchemilla alpina</i> , <i>Carex bigelowii</i> , <i>Deschampsia</i> , <i>Festuca ovina/vivipara</i> , <i>Juncus trifidus</i> , <i>Nardus stricta</i> , <i>Sibbaldia procumbens</i> , <i>Thymus polytrichus</i> showing evidence of grazing.											
	3) % of live leaves of any of <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , <i>Agrostis vinealis</i> , <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> or <i>Poa</i> species with any evidence of grazing.											
Vegetation structure – presence of burnt vegetation	1) Are there any visible signs of burning?											Targets 1 Assessed for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location.
Indicators of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity.	1) % of the vegetation cover crushed, broken, and/or pulled-up.											Target 1 – Assessed at two scales: (a) 4m ² for diffuse disturbed ground; and (b) for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location, for distinct and clearly defined paths. *Disturbed bare ground = hoof, foot or vehicle imprinted bare humus, bare peat, soil covered only by algal mats, bare mineral soil, or bare gravel.
	2) % of the ground cover made up of bare ground											Assess at two scales: a) 4m ² , for diffuse disturbed ground.
												b) assessed for as much of the feature as is visible while standing at a sample location (estimate)

Generic slope montane heath indicators – record within *Nardus* grassland above 600m. Mark locations of all stops on map.

Siliceous alpine and boreal heath H19		
Unit	Date	NGR
Surveyor	Time taken	Extenuating circumstances

[illegible]

Attribute	Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
% disturbed bare ground	4m ²										
% disturbed bare ground	all feature visible from point										
COMMENTS											
CONDITION											

Generic Wet Heath indicators – record in locations that could be wet heath (peat <40cm depth) - M15, M25, U6.

Mark locations of all stops on map.

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9. Neither (a) dwarf-shrubs; or (b) graminoids make up >75% of vegetation cover? Give (a) or (b) and % cover.	4m ²											
Vegetation composition – indicators of browsing.												
10. % of shoots of dwarf-shrubs species collectively (excluding <i>Myrica gale</i>), showing signs of browsing.	4m ²											
11. Where there is <i>Myrica gale</i> (at any stage of re-growth), % of the shoots of the dwarf-shrubs, collectively, showing signs of browsing.	4m ²											
Vegetation structure – disturbance.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
12. Are there any visible signs of burning?	Visible											
Physical structure – indicators of increased drainage and drying-out, and peat erosion.												
13. % of the total feature area showing signs of drainage, resulting from ditches or heavy trampling or tracking? If there is doubt about the cause of active drainage then assume that the target fails. Failure of the target should also be recorded if any evidence of this is found while walking between sample locations.	Visible											
14. Is the area of eroding peat or mineral soil less than the area of re-deposition and re-vegetation within the feature?	Visible											
Physical structure: indicators of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity												
15. % of the <i>Sphagnum</i> cover should be crushed, broken, and/or pulled-up?	4m ²											
16. % of the ground cover disturbed bare ground (hoof, foot or tyre imprinted bare ground or soil covered only by algal mats, bare mineral soil or bare gravel)	4m ²											
	Visible											
Is the wet heath meeting targets but appears to be declining or is the management inappropriate? If so how?												
Is the wet heath failing but appears to be favourable? If so where? Is failure due to a short term management problem?												
Does the monitoring result give a misleading impression of condition? Wrong time of year/unrepresentative part of site etc?												

Generic Blanket bog indicators – record on all stops where peat>40cm deep. Mark locations of all stops on map.

Date:												
Surveyor:												
Tick presence of spp. in 4m² quadrat	Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
NVC if known	4m ²											
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> (% cover as well)	4m ²											
<i>Drosera</i> species	4m ²											
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	4m ²											
<i>Erica tetralix</i> (% cover as well)	4m ²											
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	4m ²											
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	4m ²											
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i> (% cover as well)	4m ²											
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	4m ²											
<i>Myrica gale</i>	4m ²											
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	4m ²											
<i>Rubus chamaemorus</i>	4m ²											
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	4m ²											
<i>Sphagnum</i> spp (% cover as well)	4m ²											
Number of species of <i>Sphagnum</i> (excluding <i>S. fallax</i>)	4m ²											
<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>	4m ²											
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	4m ²											
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccus</i>	4m ²											
Non-crustose lichens	4m ²											
Pleurocarpous mosses	4m ²											
<i>Racomitrium lanuginosum</i>	4m ²											
TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES	4m ²											
Vegetation composition – frequency of indicator species												
2. Are there at least 6 indicator species? [fill in at end]	4m ²											
3. Is there at least 1 species of <i>Sphagnum</i> excluding <i>S. fallax</i> ? Y/N	4m ²											
Vegetation composition – cover of indicator species												
4. Is >75% of the vegetation cover made up of the indicator species? Y/N (exclude <i>Sphagnum fallax</i>)	4m ²											
5. Does either <i>E. vaginatum</i> , or one <i>ericaceous</i> species or <i>Trichophorum</i> exceed 75% of the vegetation cover? Y/N	4m ²											
6. Does the average cover of <i>Sphagnum</i> species exceed 25%? Y/N	4m ²											
Cover of other species		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total

7. % cover of non-native species (assess all visible feature from each sample point)?	Visible											
8. % cover made up of a scattered canopy of trees and shrubs. (exclude <i>Myrica gale</i>)?	Visible											
9 % of vegetation cover made-up, collectively, of <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , <i>Holcus lanatus</i> , <i>Phragmites</i> , <i>Pteridium</i> , <i>Ranunculus repens</i> ?	4m ²											
	Visible											
Vegetation structure - indicators of grazing												
10. % of shoots of dwarf-shrub species, collectively (excluding <i>Myrica gale</i>), showing signs of browsing	4m ²											
11. Where there is <i>Myrica gale</i> (at any stage of re-growth), % of the shoots of the dwarf-shrubs, collectively, showing signs of browsing.	4m ²											
Vegetation structure - Indicators of disturbance												
12. Are there any visible signs of burning?	Visible											
13. Are there any signs of other disturbance (e.g. mowing	Visible											
Physical Structure - Drainage & Drying out												
14. Is <5% of the total feature area showing signs of drainage, resulting from ditches or heavy trampling or tracking?	Visible											
Physical Structure – indicators of ground disturbance due to herbivore and human activity												
15. % of the <i>Sphagnum</i> cover crushed, broken, and/or pulled-up?	4m ²											
16. % of the ground cover disturbed bare ground (hoof, foot or tyre imprinted bare ground or soil covered only by algal mats, bare mineral soil or bare gravel)?	4m ²											
	Visible											
Is the blanket bog meeting targets but appears to be declining or is the management inappropriate? If so how?												
Is the blanket bog failing but appears to be favourable? If so where? Is failure due to a short term management problem?												
Does the monitoring result give a misleading impression of condition? Wrong time of year/unrepresentative part of site etc?												

Generic Form for Acidic (Siliceous) Scree

Site name: Date: Surveyor: NVC Communities:

Grid Reference: Management Unit: Sample No:

Form Code: CAH02 Feature Code: 14.20

Site name:

Date:

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Surveyor :

NVC
Communities:

Grid
Reference:

Management Unit:

Sample No:

Form Code: CAH02

Feature Code: 14.20

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Generic Form for Acidic (Siliceous) rocky slopes

Site name:

Date:

Surveyor
:

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NVC

Communities:

Grid

Reference:

Management

Unit:

Sample No:

Form Code: CAH01

Feature Code: 14.19

[illegible]

Generic Form for Alkaline fen M10 (Suggest assess any calcareous grasslands while in area)

Date		Surveyor		Unit	
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1. Extent/frequency

Refind community at known locations, or sample equivalent number in locality. Record grid refs		
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2. Quality indicators

a) Vegetation composition

Frequency of indicator species (presence/absence)– target is three (assess at 4m ² sample point)					
Sample Point	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Briza media</i>					
<i>Carex dioica</i>					
<i>Carex flacca</i>					
<i>Carex hostiana</i>					
<i>Carex lepidocarpa</i>					
<i>Carex panacea</i>					
<i>Carex pulicaris</i>					
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>					
<i>Linum catharticaum</i>					
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>					
<i>Primula farinosa</i>					
<i>Selaginella selaginoides</i>					
<i>Triglochin palustris</i>					
TOTAL					

Cover of indicator species (% cover) - target is 75% of vegetation cover (assess at 4m ² sample point)					
Sample point	1	2	3	4	5
Any moss or liverwort					
Any small to medium <i>Carex</i>					
<i>Eleocharis spp.</i>					
<i>Eriophorum spp</i>					
<i>Kobresia simpliciuscula</i>					
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>					
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>					
<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>					
<i>Schoenus spp</i>					
<i>Sesleria albicans</i>					
Total					

Cover of other plants (% cover plus pass/fail)					
Sample point	1	2	3	4	5
Less than 1% of vegetation cover should be made up of non-native species (assess all visible feature from each sample point)					
Less than 1% of vegetation cover should be made up of tree or shrub species (assess all visible feature from each sample point)					
Less than 1% vegetation cover should be made up of <i>Anthoxanthum</i> , <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> , <i>H. lanatus</i> , <i>R. repens</i> (assess at 4m ² sample point)					
Less than 10% of the vegetation cover should be made up of <i>Juncus effusus</i> and/or <i>Phragmites australis</i> (assess all visible feature from each sample point)					

b) Vegetation structure

Indicators of current grazing (% grazed)					
Sample point	1	2	3	4	5
At least 50% of live leaves and /or flowering shoots of vascular plants should be more than 5cm from ground or top of moss cushion. (Exclude grass inflorescences and big tussocks of <i>Juncus effusus</i> or <i>Molinia</i>) (assess at 4m ² sample point)					

c) Physical structure

Indicators of excessive drainage, drying – out or trampling/poaching						
Sample point	1	2	3	4	5	Whole feature
Less than 10% of total feature area should show signs of drainage from ditches or heavy trampling (enter % cover viewing all visible feature from sample point). Any unknown cause of drainage means that the target fails.						
Less than 10% cover should be disturbed bare ground (hooves, feet, tyres) (enter % cover, assess at 4m ² sample point)						
Less than 10% of whole feature should be disturbed bare ground (hoofs, feet, tyres) (enter % cover for whole feature)	Enter % cover for whole feature at end box					
Less than 1% of the vegetation in which tufa is present should show signs of disturbance (assess area of tufa flush)						

NB Assessment percentages for: 4m²: 1% = 20cm x 20cm, 10% = 63cm x 63cm, 100cm x 40cm, 25% = 1m x 1m. 1m²: 1% = 6.3cm x 6.3cm, 10% = 10cm x 10cm, 25% = 50cm x 50cm