

Lough Carra LIFE Low Input Peat Grassland Scorecard				
Farmer Name:		Survey date:		Surveyor:
Business ID:		Field Number:		
Dominant Grassland Type:			Soil Type:	
Wet grassland			Mineral Soil	
Dry grassland			Peat Soil	
Total Score (A+B+C) /100				
A. Ecological Integrity				
A.1 What is the number of positive indicators in the field? Tick all positive indicators present below.				Total Score A (sum of A1 to A4) /40
Note all positive indicators present as you walk a 'W' through the field.				
Low: 0-4		Moderate: 5-8	High: 9+	
0		5	10	/40
Positive Indicators:(tick those present)				
Code	Positive indicator		Code	Positive indicator
1	Bedstraws & Stitchworts		17	Orchids (all)
2	Bird's-foot trefoils		18	Oxeye daisy
3	*Devil's bit scabious		19	*Ragged robin
4	Eyebrights		20	Selfheal or Bugle
5	*Forget-me-nots		21	*Sphagnum or Branched
6	Knapweeds (Common & Greater)		22	Sorrels (Sheep's or
7	Lady's Mantle		23	Small Rushes (Woodrush,
8	*Lady's smock		24	Tormentil (Common &
9	*Lesser spearwort		25	*Umbels large(Angelica,
10	*Louseworts (Common & greater)		26	Umbels small (Pignut,
11	*Marsh cinquefoil		27	Vetches/Vetchlings
12	*Marsh marigold		28	Violets (All, Harebell)
13	*Marsh pennywort		29	Yellow composites (Cat's
14	*Marsh thistle or Meadow thistle		30	*Yellow flag Iris
15	*Meadowsweet		31	Yellow rattle
16	*Mints (all) or Purple loosestrife			
A.2 What is the combined cover of positive indicators (listed above) throughout the field?				
Low		Moderate	High	
Only a couple of individual plants present or you can take several steps without encountering any positive indicators at all.		Positive indicators occur every few steps	You encounter positive indicators with every step taken	
0		5	10	
A.3 What is the combined cover of negative indicator species and/or agricultural 'weeds' throughout the field?				
Agriculturally favoured species: (tick if present)				
	Docks (NOT small sorrels)		Thistles (Creeping & spear)	Perennial rye grass
				Ragwort
				Nettles
High >25%		Moderate: 5-25%	Low: <5%	
Occurring in dense patches or abundant throughout the field.		Occurring in medium to large patches	None or scattered or small clumps of negative	
-20		-10	0	
A.4 Vegetation Structure. Note: If grassland is primarily grazed use A.4a (including marsh fritillary suitability)				
A.4a What is the vegetation structure in grasslands which are primarily grazed?				
Over-Grazed	Moderate	Good	Moderate	Under-Grazed
Sward short throughout grazeable area	Mostly short vegetation.	>50% of field with sward having variety	25-50% of field has tall	Rank vegetation across
-10	5	20	10	-10
Marsh Fritillary suitability assessment in primarily grazed grassland				
Numerous patches (at least quarter of the field), or majority of field with Devil's Bit Scabious from ankle to knee height throughout.				
Yes		No		
OR				
A.4b What is the vegetation structure in grasslands which are cut for hay or silage?				
Poor Structure	Moderate Structure		Good Structure	
No field margins present. Field topped right up to the field boundary line. No aftermath grazing. Little or no variation in sward height.	Narrow field margins present (~1m). Low number of flowering plants and vegetation structure within the field margin poor to moderate. Some aftermath grazing providing some structural variation		Wide field margins present (2m+) and or good headlands. Aftermath grazing takes place providing variations in height of sward; sward does not look uniform in appearance ☐	
0	10		20	
B Hydrological Integrity (carbon capture)				Total Score B (sum of B1 to B3)

B.1 What is the cover of wetland indicators?			
Total cover of species marked with an * or in bold text in A1. Also include cover of rushes and purple moor-grass. (See A2 for guidance on cover assessment)			
Low	Moderate	High	
0	10	20	
B.2 What artificial drainage features are present?			
Include both internal and perimeter drains. Natural and modified watercourses are excluded from assessment.			
Functional	Part-Functional	Non-Functional	
Drains predominantly free flowing (though may be dry at the time)	Drains present but flow is	Drains absent or present but non-functioning. No	
-15	0	15	
B3. What is the water table level in the drain?			
Include both internal and perimeter drains. Natural and modified watercourses are excluded from assessment. The assessment of effect of drain on field gets			
Low	Moderate	High	
Water level typically > 1m below drain surface. Drains having	Water level typically <1m but >30cm	Water level typically <30cm below surface of drain.	
-15	0	15	
C Threats & Pressures		Total Score C (sum of C1 to C6)	
		/10	
C.1 Is there any evidence of damaging activities to habitat, vegetation, or archaeology?			
High	Moderate	Low	None
Damage occurring across a large area or of a serious nature if confined.	Damage occurring across a moderate sized area or of a moderate nature if confined.	Damage occurring across a small area or of a minor nature if confined.	No damaging activities.
-30	-20	-10	0
Damaging activities:			
<i>(tick relevant damage or describe in comments)</i>			
Supplementary Feeding		Quarrying	
Dumping		Burning	
Boundary damage		Herbicide use	
Damage to archaeological Features		<i>Other (please specify):</i>	
C.2 What is the level of risk to the quality of natural water bodies within, adjacent to and downstream of the field due to pressures relating to flow,			
<i>The source - pathway - receptor model should inform the assessment (see guidance).</i>			
High	Moderate	Low	None
-25	-15	-5	0
C.3 What is the extent of bare soil and erosion?			
High	Moderate	Low	
Areas of bare and eroding soil resulting in exposure of the underlying rock seen at regular intervals along main stock paths particularly those leading to main feed sites or water points. Excessive areas of bare soil within main grazing area and bare soil extending out significantly from the main feed sites. Significant	Bare soil mainly along regularly used routes or areas with minor soil loss occurring at a few points. Minor rutting and soil disturbance caused by occasional vehicle access may be present. Bare soil may extend a short distance beyond the main feed site or water	Bare soil more or less restricted to regular stock paths, 'pinch' points & congregation areas. No soil loss.	
-10	0	10	
C.4 What is the cover of non-native invasive species?			
High	Moderate	Low	None
Abundant, some forming dense clumps, many seedlings.	Frequent. Some flowering, many seedlings present.	Plants scattered and mostly small and not flowering.	No non-native invasive species present.
-30	-20	-10	0
Non-native invasive species:			
<i>(tick if present)</i>			
Rhododendron			
Himalayan Honeysuckle			
Himalayan Knotweed			
Japanese Knotweed			
Giant Hogweed			
Himalayan Balsam			
Cotoneaster			
Other (please specify)			
C.5 To what extent is the expansion of immature spreading scrub occurring?			
<i>(This can be brambles, seedlings, scrub and trees generally lower than 1m in height and with a stem diameter of <5cm. Do not include established scrub).</i>			
High	Moderate	Low	
>25% of the field has scrub cover, some well-established saplings may be present. Field is likely to show few signs of management, such as signs of recent grazing or signs of livestock.	Cover of immature scrub in patches or individuals with overall cover of between 11-25% with particularly briars/brambles coming in.	Small patches of scrub or individual seedlings of immature scrub with overall cover of less than 10%. Grass growth easily seen underneath the scrub.	
-20	-10	0	
C.6 What is the cover of bracken?			
High	Moderate	Low	

Very dense stands of bracken covering over half or more of the field, forming closed canopy.	Bracken forming dense stands covering parts of the field; mostly forming closed canopy.	Bracken absent or some scattered fronds and none forming closed canopy. Can include areas limited to very small patches or steep slopes.
-20	-10	0

Specific field management advice/comments:

Common management recommendations to pick from:	
Continue current management of this high quality grassland.	
Control the occurrence and spread of invasive species. Consult with CP team regarding solutions.	
Control the occurrence and spread of encroaching scrub, supporting actions are available.	
Control the occurrence and spread of encroaching bracken.	
Consider reducing fertiliser inputs.	
Consider using supporting actions to slow or impede the flow of drains.	
Consider raising watertable to restore peat soil, supporting actions are available.	
Use stock to graze field more evenly.	
Improve stock management, supporting actions e.g. Fencing / drinking facilities are available.	
Move feeders / troughs regularly and keep away from drains and rivers.	
No management advice.	
Other management advice	