

Lough Carra LIFE Peatland Assessment Scorecard					Total Score (A+B+C)
Farmer name: _____		Survey Date: _____		Surveyor: _____	
Business ID: _____		Field Number: _____			
Which of the following best describes the plot?					
Wet Heath		Mosaic of Heath & Bog			
Dry Heath		Mosaic of Heath & Grassland			
Blanket Bog		Raised Bog			
A. Ecological Integrity					Total Score A (sum of A1 to A3)
					/60
A.1 What positive indicators are present in the field? Tick all positive indicators present below.					
Note <u>all</u> positive indicators present as you walk through the plot.					
Low (0-2)		Moderate (3-5)		High (6+)	
0		5		10	
Positive Indicators (tick those present):					
Branched Mosses		Bog asphodel		Bell heather	
Non-crustose bushy lichens		Bog bean		Cross-leaved heather	
Sphagnum mosses		Bog cotton		Ling heather	
Liverworts		Lousewort		Bilberry	
		Sundews		Bog myrtle	
		White-beaked sedge		Western gorse	
		Black bog rush			
A.2 What is the combined cover of all positive mosses, liverworts & lichens (listed above) throughout the field?					
Cover is the proportion of the field taken up by all positive mosses, liverworts & lichens indicators present.					
Low		Moderate		High	
Low cover; ≤10% cover across the field		Moderate; 10-30% cover across the field		High cover; 30% cover across the field	
0		10		20	
A.3 What is the vegetation structure?					
Over-Grazed	Moderate (Over-Grazed)	Good	Moderate (Under-grazed)	Under-Grazed	
Vegetation height is uniformly low. Little or no heather present on wet heaths. Often lacking moss and dwarf shrub layer.	Significant areas (>25%) of the plot have tight uniform vegetation, although not throughout.	Sward in good condition; abundant grass and sedge-like vegetation on blanket bog with hummock, hollow, and pool complexes. On heath, all stages of heather/shrub growth present, mostly >30cm. Mix of bog and/or heath vegetation at various heights throughout. Well structured vegetation with all three layers (moss, sedge/herb, and shrub) well represented.	Significant areas (>25%) of the plot have rank vegetation, although not throughout.	Rank sward. Purple moor-grass/mat-grass and rank senescent heather dominating. Litter cover high, thatch forming in large continuous patches. Poorly developed ground layer.	
-15	10	30	15	-10	
B: Hydrological Integrity (Carbon Capture)					Total Score B (B1 only)
					/20
B.1 Surface hydrology and artificial drainage features					
Significantly altered bog/heath hydrology	Moderately altered bog/heath hydrology	Slightly altered bog/heath hydrology	Moderately intact bog/heath hydrology	Intact bog/heath hydrology	

Frequent widespread free-flowing drains on plot with notable effect on surrounding vegetation of bog/heath	Free flowing drains in plot with notable effect on surrounding vegetation of bog/heath (<20% of plot affected)	Drains present in plot although are somewhat impeded and little effect on surrounding bog/heath.	Bog/heath surface largely intact, although some evidence of historic disturbance (cutting, draining, erosion channels) across any part of the plot. Vegetation and hydrology largely stabilised/recovered.	Intact bog/heath surface, no evidence of past drainage or disturbance across plot.
-30	-15	0	10	20

C Threats and Future Prospects				Total Score C (Sum of C1 to C6) /20

C.1 Is there any evidence of damaging activities to habitat, vegetation, or archaeology? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
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:			
(tick relevant damage or describe in comments)			
Supplementary Feeding	Damage to Archaeological Features		Herbicide Use
Dumping	Quarrying		Other (Please specify)
Boundary damage	Burning		

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, sediment			
The source - pathway - receptor model should inform the assessment (see guidance).			
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 rutting caused by vehicles/machinery particularly going between access gate and feeding points	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 points.	Bare soil more or less restricted to regular stock paths, 'pinch' points & congregation areas. No soil loss.
-20	-10	10

C.4a Are non-native plant species present?	
Present	Absent
-10	0

C.4b What is the cover of non-native plant 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 or less than 5 individuals
-30	-20	-10	0

Non-native invasive species: (tick if present)	Rhododendron	
	Himalayan Honeysuckle	
	Himalayan Knotweed	
	Japanese Knotweed	
	Giant Hogweed	
	Himalayan balsam	
	Self-sown conifers	
	Cotoneaster	
Other (please specify)		

C.5 Is there any evidence of damage due to turbarry activity?		
High	Moderate	Low
Most recent cutting activities occurred last year affecting >10% of plot or within sensitive areas. Any evidence of sausage machine cutting.	Most recent cutting activities occurred last year affecting <10% of plot and not within sensitive areas.	No peat cutting activity for >2 years.
-30	-10	10

C.6 What is the cover of bracken? (refer to CP team if moderate or high)		
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.

Specific field management advice/comments:

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Common management recommendations to pick from:	
Continue current management of this high quality peatland.	
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.	
Consider using supporting actions to slow or impede the flow of drains.	
Consider raising watertable to restore peatland, supporting actions are available.	
Use stock to graze field more evenly.	
Improve stock management. You may wish to avail of supporting actions e.g. Fencing / drinking facilities.	
Move feeders / troughs regularly and keep away from drains and rivers.	
No management advice.	
Other management advice:	