

Lough Carra LIFE Rough Grazing Scorecard			Total Score
This should be used in rough grazing areas where pasture is dominant and rush occurs commonly throughout. This scorecard can deliver for Marsh Fritillary, pollinators, ground nesting birds and raptors such as Harrier.			(A+B) /100
Farmer Name: _____	Survey date: _____	Surveyor: _____	
Business ID: _____	Field Number: _____		
A. Ecological Integrity			Total Score
			(A1 to A6) /90
A.1 What is the number of positive indicators in the field? Tick all positive indicators present below.			
Low: 0-4		Moderate: 5-8	High: 9+
0		5	10
Positive Indicators: (tick those present)			
	Positive indicator		Positive indicator
	Bedstraws & Stitchworts		Orchids
	Bird's-foot trefoils		Ox-eye daisy
	Carline thistle		Purple loosestrife
	Cowslips & Primrose		Ragged robin
	Eyebrights		Scabious (Devils bit & field)
	Forget-me-nots		Sedges
	Heathers		Self-heal & Bugle
	Kidney vetch		Sorrel (Common & Sheep)
	Knapweeds		Small rushes (spike, woodrushes,
	Lady's mantle		Sphagnum & Branched mosses
	Lady's smock (Cuckooflower)		Tormentil (Common & English)
	Lesser spearwort		Umbels Large (Angelica Valerian,
	Louseworts (Common & Marsh)		Umbels Small (Pignut, Yarrow, Wild
	Marsh cinquefoil		Vetches & Vetchlings
	Marsh marigold		Violets (all species); Harebell
	Marsh pennywort		Wild Thyme
	Marsh thistle		Yellow composites (not Dandelion)
	Meadowsweet		Yellow flag/iris
	Meadow thistle		Yellow rattle (hay rattle)
	Mints (all)		
A.2 What is the cover of positive indicators (listed above) throughout the field?			
Low		Moderate	High
Only a couple of individual plants		You encounter a positive indicator with every few steps taken.	You encounter positive
0		5	10
A.3 What is the cover of agriculturally favoured species throughout the entire field?			
Agriculturally favoured species: (tick if present)			
Docks (Not small sorrels)	Perennial Rye grass	Ragwort	Nettles
			Other Weed Species
Very High: >50%	High: 26-50%	Moderate 5-25%	Low <5%
Abundant throughout the	Occurring in large patches in	Occurring in medium to large patches in	None or scattered or
-30	-20	-10	0
A.4 Vegetation Structure. Note: If grassland is primarily grazed use A.4a (including Marsh Fritillary suitability assessment); if			
A.4a What is the vegetation structure in grasslands which are primarily grazed?			
Poor	Suboptimal	Good	Very Good
All vegetation short	Tall vegetation cover is	Tall/medium and short vegetation	Tall and medium and
-10	10	25	40
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.			
Circle:	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		Narrow field margins present (~1m). Low number of flowering		Wide field margins			
-10		10		20			
A.5 Field boundary quality. Assess the WORST 30m of field boundary in the field.							
Poor		Moderate		Good			
Wire fence only or very poor quality field		Moderate field boundary quality		Good field boundary			
0		10		20			
What is the dominant field boundary in this field?							
Dominant		Drop down menu with the following options: Hedgerow; earth bank, drainage ditch, treeline, stonewall, wire fence					
Also present		Drop down menu with the following options: Hedgerow; earth bank, drainage ditch, treeline, stonewall, wire fence					
A.6 Scrub Diversity and Structure. Note: Blocks of Scrub over 0.2 Ha should be scored as a separate field with the Scrub							
Low		Moderate		High			
No scrub		Single-species scrub (often Gorse) with diverse height and		Scrub with a mix of			
0		5		10			
B.Threats and Future Prospects					Total Score B <i>(Sum of B1 to B6)</i> /10		
B.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		Burning			
Dumping		Damage to archaeological features:		Other (please specify)			
Boundary damage							
B.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, nutrients or other pollutants?							
<i>The source - pathway - receptor model should inform the assessment (see guidance).</i>							
High		Moderate		Low		None	
-25		-15		-5		0	
B.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		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.			
-10		0		10			
B.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	
		Rhododendron					
		Himalayan Honeysuckle					

Non-native invasive species: (tick if present)	Himalayan Knotweed	
	Japanese Knotweed	
	Giant Hogweed	
	Himalayan Balsam	
	Cotoneaster	
	Other (please specify)	

B.5 To what extent is the expansion of spreading immature scrub occurring?

(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.)

High	Moderate	Low
>40% of the field has scrub cover, some	Cover of immature scrub in patches or individuals with overall	Small patches of scrub or
-20	-10	0

B.6 What is the cover of bracken?

High	Moderate	Low
Very dense stands of bracken covering over half or	Bracken forming dense stands covering parts of the	Bracken absent or some
-20	-10	0

Specific field management advice/comments:

Common management recommendations to pick from:

Continue current management of this high quality grassland.	
Rest field during the main flowering period (May-June).	
Consider a light graze in late spring (May on).	
Top rushes in late summer	
Use stock to graze field more evenly.	
Improve stock management, supporting actions e.g. Fencing / drinking facilities are available.	
Control the occurrence and spread of invasive species. Consult with CP team regarding solutions.	
Control the occurrence and spread of immature scrub.	
Consider alternative to ring feeders.	
Move feeders / troughs regularly.	
Reduce fertiliser inputs.	
No management advice.	
Other management advice	