

**DRY Lowland Heathland - Condition Assessment field form**

**Annex 2.**

<b>Site Name:</b>	<b>Grid reference (if known):</b>	<b>Assessed by:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Photographs taken - Film and Frame Nos.</b>	<b>NVC type (if available)</b>
<b>Condition (please circle):</b> Favourable maintained / Favourable recovered / Unfavourable recovering / Unfavourable no change / Unfavourable declining / Partially destroyed / Destroyed			
<b>Recommended visiting period:</b> May-October, see Figure 1 in guidance for each NVC		<b>Recommended frequency of visits:</b> Every six years for national reporting	
<b>Key management activities affecting condition to discuss with manager:</b>		<b>Other activities likely to have an impact (tick + or - if appropriate)</b>	
Grazing intensity/stocking rate	Burning / presence of fire-breaks	Farming/agriculture	Military activities
Stock type	Rolling and chain harrowing	Conservation activities	Mineral extraction
Grazing period	Bracken management	Urban development	Natural events
Supplementary feeding	Other (specify)	Forestry	Recreation/tourism
Scrub and weed control	Manag. agreement/scheme/grant	Infrastructure/transport	Water abstraction
Cutting	Agri-env. schemes/grants		
	Yes/No		
	Yes/No		

**Structured walk** Frequencies: totals out of 20 stops. 1-2 = **rare**, 3-6 = **occasional**, 7-12 = **frequent**, most stops (<50% cover) = **abundant**, most stops (>50% cover) = **dominant**. A4 is appr. 1.5% of 2mx2m quadrat

Attribute (*= mandatory attribute. One failure among mandatory attributes = unfavourable condition)	Targets (for the entire feature)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Estimate for attribute
<b>*Extent of habitat</b>	No un-consented loss of area	(Describe and refer to map)																				
<b>*Bare ground (not rock)</b> % cover of ephemerally exposed bare ground in intimate mosaic with vegetation or in tracks/paths	'Undisturbed' 1-10% 'Heavily disturbed' <1%																					
<b>*Vegetation structure</b>																						
TOTAL % cover shrubs	Cover of dwarf shrubs between 25-90% refer to Figure 1 for range figures																					
<i>Ulex europaeus</i> & <i>U. gallii</i> cover	<50%																					
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> (pseudo-)Pioneer %	10-40%																					
(when possible to Differentiate) Building/Mature %	20-80%																					
Degenerate %	<30%																					
Dead %	<10%																					
<b>*Vegetation composition</b>	Lists to be tailored to each site																					
<b>Dwarf shrubs</b> Frequency of any of the following species: <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> , <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> , <i>Erica ciliaris</i> , <i>Erica cinerea</i> , <i>Erica tetralix</i> , <i>Erica vagans</i> , <i>Ulex minor</i> , <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> , <i>V. vitis-idaea</i> , <i>Genista anglica</i> , <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> .	At least 2 species at least <b>frequent</b> excluding <i>U. gallii</i> (see guidance for species-poor sites)																					
<b>Graminoids</b> Frequency of any of the following species: <i>Agrostis</i> spp., <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> , <i>Carex</i> spp., <i>Danthonia decumbens</i> , <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> *, <i>Festuca</i> spp., <i>Molinia caerulea</i> §, <i>Nardus stricta</i> *, <i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i> .	At least 1 species at least <b>frequent</b> and 2 species at least <b>occasional</b> throughout the sward (see guidance for species-poor/rich sites) except *, which should be not more than frequent & <50% cover and § which should be not more than 30% cover																					

Attribute (*= mandatory attribute. One failure among mandatory attributes = unfavourable condition)	Targets (for the entire feature)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Estimate for attribute	
<b>Desirable forbs</b> Frequency of any of the following species <i>Armeria maritima, Galium saxatile, Genista anglica, Hypochaeris radicata, Lotus corniculatus, Plantago lanceolata, Plantago maritima, Polygala serpyllifolia, Potentilla erecta, Rumex acetosella, Scilla verna, Serratula tinctoria, Thymus praecox, Viola riviniana.</i> <u>Limestone heath only:</u> <i>Filipendula vulgaris, Galium verum, Helianthemum nummularium, Sanguisorba minor.</i> <u>Dune heath only:</u> <i>Aira praecox, Corynephorus canescens, Phleum arenarium, Erodium cicutarium, Filago minima, Sedum acre, Peltigera</i>	At least 2 species at least <b>occasional</b> (see guidance for species-poor/rich sites)																						
<b>Bryophytes and lichens</b> Cover of all spp. (except dense acrocarpous spp.) eg <i>Cladonia</i> spp., <i>Dicranum scoparium, Hylocomium splendens, Hypnum cupressiforme, Pleurozium schreberi, Polytrichum</i> spp., <i>Racomitrium lanuginosum.</i>	Site-specific target to be set (see guidance)																						
<b>*Negative indicators</b>	List to be tailored to each site																						
<b>Signs of disturbance</b> Record presence of erosion.	<1% of habitat showing signs of erosion.																						
<b>Species (-ve if over target threshold)</b> % cover of any of the following species:	(% of entire feature)																						
<i>Rhododendron ponticum, Gaultheria shallon, Fallopia japonica.</i>	<i>Rhododendron</i> and exotic species <1%.																						
<i>Cirsium arvense, Digitalis purpurea, Epilobium</i> spp. (excl. <i>E. palustre</i> ), <i>Chamerion angustifolium, Juncus effusus, J. squarrosus, Ranunculus</i> spp., <i>Senecio</i> spp., <i>Rumex obtusifolius, Urtica dioica</i> , “coarse grasses”.	< 1 % <i>Senecio</i> spp., <i>Urtica dioica, Cirsium</i> spp. and other herbaceous, in clumps.																						
<i>Betula</i> spp., <i>Prunus spinosa, Pinus</i> spp., <i>Rubus</i> spp., <i>Cytisus scoparius, Quercus</i> spp., <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	< 15% trees, tree seedlings or other species of scrub. <1% <i>Rubus</i> spp. (see guidance 12.6.)																						
<i>Pteridium aquilinum.</i>	< 10% <i>P. a.</i> in dense canopy																						
<i>Ulex europaeus.</i>	<25%																						
Dense mats of acrocarpous mosses ( <i>C. introflexus</i> ).	Acr. mosses < occasional																						
<b>Indicators of local distinctiveness</b>	List to be tailored to each site																						
<b>Rare species, pools, edges</b> Eg <i>Cladonia arbuscula, Cladonia incrassata, Cornicularia</i> spp., <i>Viola lactea</i> , etc.	Monitor and set targets according to cons. objectives or management plan.																						

**WET Lowland Heathland - Condition Assessment field form**

**Annex 3.**

<b>Site Name:</b>	<b>Grid reference (if known):</b>	<b>Assessed by:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Photographs taken - Film and Frame Nos.</b>	<b>NVC type (if available)</b>
<b>Condition (please circle):</b> Favourable maintained / Favourable recovered / Unfavourable recovering / Unfavourable no change / Unfavourable declining / Partially destroyed / Destroyed			
<b>Recommended visiting period:</b> May-October, see Figure 1 in guidance for each NVC		<b>Recommended frequency of visits:</b> Every six years for national reporting	
<b>Key management activities affecting condition to discuss with manager:</b>		<b>Other activities likely to have an impact (tick + or - if appropriate)</b>	
Grazing intensity/stocking rate	Burning / presence of fire-breaks	Farming/agriculture	Military activities
Stock type	Rolling and chain harrowing	Conservation activities	Mineral extraction
Grazing period	Bracken management	Urban development	Natural events
Supplementary feeding	Other (specify)	Forestry	Recreation/tourism
Scrub and weed control	Manag. agreement/scheme/grant	Infrastructure/transport	Water abstraction
Cutting	Agri-env. schemes/grants		
	Yes/No		
	Yes/No		

**Structured walk** Frequencies: totals out of 20 stops. 1-2 = **rare**, 3-6 = **occasional**, 7-12 = **frequent**, most stops (<50% cover) = **abundant**, most stops (>50% cover) = **dominant**. A4 is appr. 1.5% of 2mx2m quadrat.

Attribute (*= mandatory attribute. One failure among mandatory attributes = unfavourable condition)	Targets (for the entire feature)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Estimate for attribute
<b>*Extent of habitat</b>	No un-consented loss of area	(Describe and refer to map)																				
<b>*Bare ground (not rock)</b> % cover of ephemerally exposed bare ground in intimate mosaic within vegetation and in tracks/paths.	'Undisturbed' 1-10% 'Heavily disturbed' <1%																					
<b>*Vegetation structure</b>																						
TOTAL % cover shrubs	Cover of dwarf shrubs: 25-90% , refer to Fig 1 for range figures																					
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Presence of heather in all stages of growth. No one growth form should be dominant.																					
<b>*Vegetation composition</b>	Lists to be tailored to each site																					
<b>Dwarf shrubs</b> Frequency of any of the following species: <i>Calluna vulgaris, Empetrum nigrum, Erica ciliaris, E. cinerea, E. tetralix, E. vagans, Myrica gale, Salix repens, Ulex gallii, Ulex minor, Vaccinium spp.</i>	At least 2 species at least <b>frequent</b>																					
<b>Graminoids</b> Frequency of any of the following species: <i>Carex panicea, Carex pulicaris, Eleocharis spp., Eriophorum angustifolium, Juncus acutiflorus, Juncus articulatus, Molinia caerulea*, Rhynchospora alba, Schoenus nigricans!, Trichophorum cespitosum.</i>	At least 1 species at least <b>frequent</b> and 2 species at least <b>occasional</b> throughout the sward (except *, which should be not more than occasional, and !, which should be >20% when naturally present)																					
<b>Desirable forbs</b> Frequency of any of the following species <i>Anagallis tenella, Drosera spp., Galium saxatile, Genista anglica, Narthecium ossifragum, Pinguicula spp., Polygala serpyllifolia, Potentilla erecta, Serratula tinctoria, Succisa pratensis.</i>	At least 2 species at least <b>occasional</b>																					

Attribute (*= mandatory attribute. One failure among mandatory attributes = unfavourable condition)	Targets (for the entire feature)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Estimate for attribute	
<b>Bryophytes and lichens</b> % cover and frequency of : <i>Sphagnum</i> spp	when naturally present >10% cover of <i>Sphagna</i>																						
Locally occurring lichens	>5% of lichens																						
<b>*Negative indicators</b>	List to be tailored to each site																						
<b>Signs of disturbance</b> - Drains	Artificial drainage channels adversely affecting hydrology are absent.																						
- Obvious visual pollution.	No signs of silt or leachate.																						
- Trampling	<1% trampling signs/paths (eg on <i>Sphagnum</i> )																						
<b>Species (-ve if over target threshold)</b> % cover of any of the following species:	(% of entire feature)																						
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	<i>Rhododendron</i> and exotic species <1%.																						
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i> , <i>Cirsium arvense</i> , <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> , <i>Epilobium</i> spp. (excl. <i>E. palustre</i> ), <i>Glyceria fluitans</i> , <i>Juncus effusus</i> , <i>J. squarrosus</i> , <i>Oenanthe crocata</i> , <i>Phragmites</i> spp., <i>Ranunculus repens</i> , <i>Fallopia japonica</i> , <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> , <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> , <i>Typha</i> spp., <i>Urtica</i> spp	<1% undesirable herbaceous/forb spp.																						
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> , <i>Betula</i> spp., <i>Pinus</i> spp., <i>Prunus spinosa</i> , <i>Quercus</i> spp., <i>Rubus</i> spp., <i>Salix</i> spp.	< 10% trees, tree seedlings or other species of scrub.																						
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> .	< 5% <i>P. aquilinum</i>																						
<i>Ulex europaeus</i> .	<10% <i>U. europaeus</i>																						
Dense mats of acrocarpous mosses ( <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> ).	Acr. mosses < occasional																						
<b>Indicators of local distinctiveness</b>	List to be tailored to each site																						
<b>Rare species, pools, edges</b> Monitor and set targets according to conservation objectives or management plan. <i>Cicendia filiformis</i> , <i>Gentiana pneumonanthe</i> , <i>Hammarbya paludosa</i> , <i>Lycopodiella inundata</i> , <i>Radiola linoides</i> , <i>Rhynchospora fusca</i> ...																							