

Habitat Recording Notes - BWWM 2022

Timing of visits

Please carry out three visits between mid-April and late June, with at least one week between visits. Within the following periods:

Visit (1=a): 14th April – 30th April.

Visit (2=b): 1st May – 21st May.

Visit (3=c): 22nd May – 24th June.

Visit(4=e): 1st May – 31st May (Optional evening visit for Snipe, if present).

Bird counts

Please print a copy of the site map for each visit and plot all waders and record counts in the fields where they were first observed.

Field Habitat recording

On the first visit, please record visit details, habitat and land-use details on the **Habitat Recording Form** for **ALL** the labelled fields. There is no need to repeat habitat recording on subsequent visits, unless there have been obvious changes (such as mowing, flooding, grazing, etc.).

Field coverage

Tick to indicate if the Field coverage was Complete or Partial.

If Partial give the **percentage** of the field surveyed (to nearest 10%).

If a Field was **Not covered**, **tick** to indicate if this was due to Access denied or just Not viewed (indicate **Unsuitable** habitat in the Other habitat section).

Tall Boundary

If the boundary contains any features that exceed 1.5 m tall (e.g. Woodland, Treeline/relict hedge, Hedge/Bank, Stonewall, Building, etc.)

Enter the **percentage of the total field boundary that is tall** (0% or nearest 10%).

Field features

Standing water cover– **enter** % of field covered (0% or nearest 10%).

Damp ground (**tick** if Damp; Leave blank if dry)

Ground conditions unknown (**tick** if you could not determine the ground conditions)

Lapwing Plot (e.g. Site code starting “L_123”).

Indicate whether the plot is in the numbered field or not (tick one)

If not, please enter the field central grid reference.

Other Lapwing plots may be in fields within existing sites, in which case, tick Lapwing plot (In field) for the relevant field number.

Livestock present

For livestock seen (**tick one or more**).

Grassland type (tick one)

Improved - uniformly bright green sward, with few/no flowers, few/no distinct tussocks (of grass or rushes).

Semi-/ Unimproved - Greater variety of different grass species, rushes and flowers; often appears browner/less emerald green and patchier.

Vegetation height (majority of field – tick one)

Short - less than 15cm (ankle height).

Tall - more than 15cm (ankle height).

Vegetation structure (majority of the field)

Uniform - over 75% of the field is either ‘Tall’ vegetation or ‘Short’ vegetation.

Fine, Patchy – less than 75% of the field is either Short (<15cm) or Tall (>15cm), with many inter-dispersed small patches (smaller than 2m by 2m) of Tall or Short vegetation (fine, tussocky structure).

Coarse, Patchy – less than 75% of the field is either Short (<15cm) or Tall (>15cm), with most patches of Tall or Short vegetation being larger than 2m x 2m (coarse, patchy structure).

Rushes (*Juncus*)

Cover – **enter** % for total coverage within field (0% or nearest 10%).

Dense patch(es) - **tick** if the majority is in the form of one or more large patches.

Scattered tussocks - **tick** if the majority is in the form of small separate tussocks.

Other habitat – not grassland (tick one)

Arable (root or cereal crop)

Unsuitable (eg. Woodland, Building, Lake, other Agriculture, etc.)

Other suitable (eg. bog, lagoon, pond/lake, river edge, etc.)