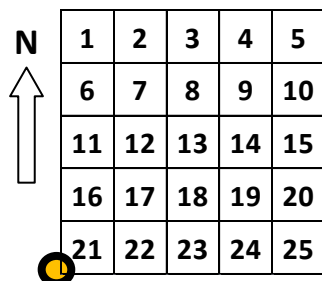


Long Term Monitoring Network - vegetation survey (general) quick guide



Fifty 2m x 2m plots are distributed at random across the site. They are identified by the grid-reference of the **south west corner** of the plot, which is usually marked by a yellow Feno marker. Each plot is divided into 25 cells, measuring 40cm x 40cm, numbered as shown in the diagram. The cells correspond to the 25 numbered columns on the field form. Having located the plot marker, the 2m plot-quadrat is laid out, and using the guide pole, the 40cm cell-quadrat is laid over the first cell. The variables listed below are recorded at each cell in turn. Once all cells are recorded, further variables are recorded for the whole plot (see below). On woodland sites, the additional woodland protocol is then carried out.

Variables recorded in each cell

Variable	Method/comments
Presence of vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens	The presence of all vascular plants rooted in the cell is recorded, with the exception of those growing on rock or wood. Non-vascular plants are recorded in the same way and for <i>Sphagna</i> , other bryophytes and lichens, the main species in these groups are recorded to species level whenever possible.
Sward height	A 200g <u>drop disc</u> and ' <u>sward stick</u> ' is used to measure height in each cell location. Height is read at the centre of the cell on a graduated dowel passing through the centre of the disc.
Litter	Assessed by recording presence in the vegetation from above by a visual assessment during botanical recording.
Bare ground	As for litter
Bare rock	As for litter
Dead wood	Presence in the cell.
Open water	Presence in the cell. This is only to be recorded for permanent/semi-permanent water such as bog pools and edges of water bodies.

Variables recorded for each plot

Variable	Method/comments
Photo	Take a photo of the whole plot, with the i-pad, from the south side.
Cover of vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens	The total percent cover of each species present is estimated for the whole plot.
Cover of litter, bare ground, bare rock, dead wood and open water	The total percent cover of each feature present is estimated for the whole plot.
Altitude	Measured at the centre of the plot using a GPS held at ground level.
Aspect	Measured at each plot using a hand-held compass, from the top of the slope facing the lowest point.
Slope	Measured at each plot using a clinometer, from the bottom of the slope facing the top.
Slope form	See over
Land use	See over
Broad and priority habitat	See over
Grazing levels	Presence of dung (and origin – rabbit, sheep, cattle) is recorded along with other obvious signs of grazing impact (e.g. presence of pulled vegetation).
Disturbance features	Vehicle tracks, fires, dumping of farm or garden waste and other disturbance should be recorded. This is assessed qualitatively in the field and can also be assessed from aerial photographs.

Long Term Monitoring Network - vegetation survey (general) quick guide

Slope form, land use and feature codes

Slope form	
Convex	1
Straight (rectilinear)	2
Concave	3

Land use	
Ley grassland	1
Permanent or long-term grassland	2
Rough grazing	3
Cereals	4
Green crops	5
Root crops	6
Horticultural crops	7
Fallow	8
Other crops (specify)	9
Orchard	10
Deciduous woodland	11
Coniferous woodland	12
Scrub	13
Lowland heath	14
Heather moor	15
Grassland	16
Saltmarsh	17
Fen, moor or bog	18
Montane vegetation	19
Public park	20
Golf course	21
Other (specify)	22

Feature	
Path	P
Stream	S
Wall	W
Hedge	H
Ditch	D
Natural Boundary	N
Fence	F
Bank	B

Broad and priority habitats

Broad habitat	Priority habitats
Calcareous grassland	Lowland calcareous grassland Upland calcareous grassland
Acid grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland
Improved grassland	Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
Neutral grassland	Lowland meadows Upland hay meadows
Coniferous woodland	
Broadleaved woodland	Lowland beech and yew woodland Lowland mixed deciduous woodland Upland mixed ashwoods Upland oakwood Wet woodland Wood pasture and parkland
Arable and	Arable field margins

Broad habitat	Priority habitats
horticultural	Traditional orchards
Boundary and linear	Hedgerows
Bracken	
Dwarf shrub heath	Lowland heathland Upland heathland
Bog	Blanket bog Lowland raised bog
Fen, marsh and swamp	Lowland fens Reedbeds Upland fens, flushes and swamps Purple moor-grass and rush pastures
Inland rock	Calaminarian grassland Inland rock outcrops and scree habitats Limestone pavement
Montane	Mountain heath and willow scrub
Built-up and gardens	Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land
Supralittoral sediment	Sand dunes Vegetated shingle
Littoral sediment	Saltmarsh Intertidal mudflats
Supralittoral rock	Maritime cliff and slopes