



# Assessment of eligibility for permanent grassland

Permanent grassland with very low inputs (outside SDAs) (GS2)

Permanent grassland with very low inputs in SDAs (GS5)

Management of species rich grassland (GS6)

Organic Land Management – Unimproved permanent Grassland (OT2)

## Notes about this form

1. Use this form as evidence that your land meets certain eligibility requirements for the following options.
  - GS2, GS5, GS6 and OT2 under Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier.
  - GS2 and GS5 under the Wildlife Offers.
2. Keep this form as we may ask to see it.
3. You do not need to send this form with your application.
4. If you prefer, you can use your own format to record this information.

To use these options the grassland must meet at least one of the following qualifying criteria:

- a. qualify as species rich (minimum requirement for GS6); unimproved grassland (minimum requirement for OT2)
- b. qualify as semi-improved
- c. be used to help the sustainable management and buffering of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) or priority habitats
- d. be used to maintain grassland to conserve species of national or regional importance, or protect historic or archaeological features
- e. be used in target areas for ground-nesting wading birds when in-field scrub cover is less than 1%
- f. be applied for as part of the Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package (GS2 only) or the Wildlife Offers (GS2, GS5)
- g. on parcels adjacent to a permanent watercourse.

You can use the table below to keep a record of which of the criteria above apply to field parcels proposed for management under GS2, GS5, GS6 or OT2.



## Table 2

This table is provided for you to keep a record of the species identified in the parcels selected for GS2, GS5, GS6 or OT2, where this is the qualifying criteria being applied in Table 1. A range of less common or widespread wildflowers are found in more species-rich grassland and should be recorded if identified.

Typical grass species are cock's-foot, common bent, crested dog's-tail, creeping bent, false oatgrass, meadow fescue, meadow foxtail, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, Timothy tufted hair-grass and Yorkshire-fog.

Typical wildflower species of semi-improved grassland are Autumn hawkbit, black medick, burnet saxifrage, bulbous buttercup, common cat's-ear, common fleabane, common sorrel, creeping cinquefoil, crosswort, cuckooflower, field woodrush, germander speedwell, hedge bedstraw, lesser trefoil, ribwort plantain, meadow buttercup, red clover, self-heal, smooth hawksbeard, tufted vetch, wild carrot and yarrow.

Typical species of species-rich grassland/unimproved grassland, depending on the actual type, are agrimony, betony, black knapweed, bugle, common bird's-foot trefoil, common meadow-rue, common rock rose, cowslip, devil's-bit scabious, eyebrights, fairly flax, great burnet, harebell, hawkbits, lady's bedstraw, marsh valerian, marsh marigold, meadowsweet, milkwort, mouse-ear hawkweed, orchids, ragged robin, salad burnet, thyme, tormentil, wood anemone, yellow rattle, small sedges.

Field parcel for example AB1234 5678	Cover of rye-grass and clover 10%-30% (GS2/ GS5)	Cover of rye-grass and clover <10% (GS6/OT2)	Cover of wildflowers/ sedges 10%-30% (GS2/GS5)	Cover of wildflowers/ sedges >30% (GS6/OT2)	9 species/m2 or greater are present (GS2/GS5) or 15 species/m2 or greater are present (GS6/OT2) - list species

Use Key A to help complete the table.

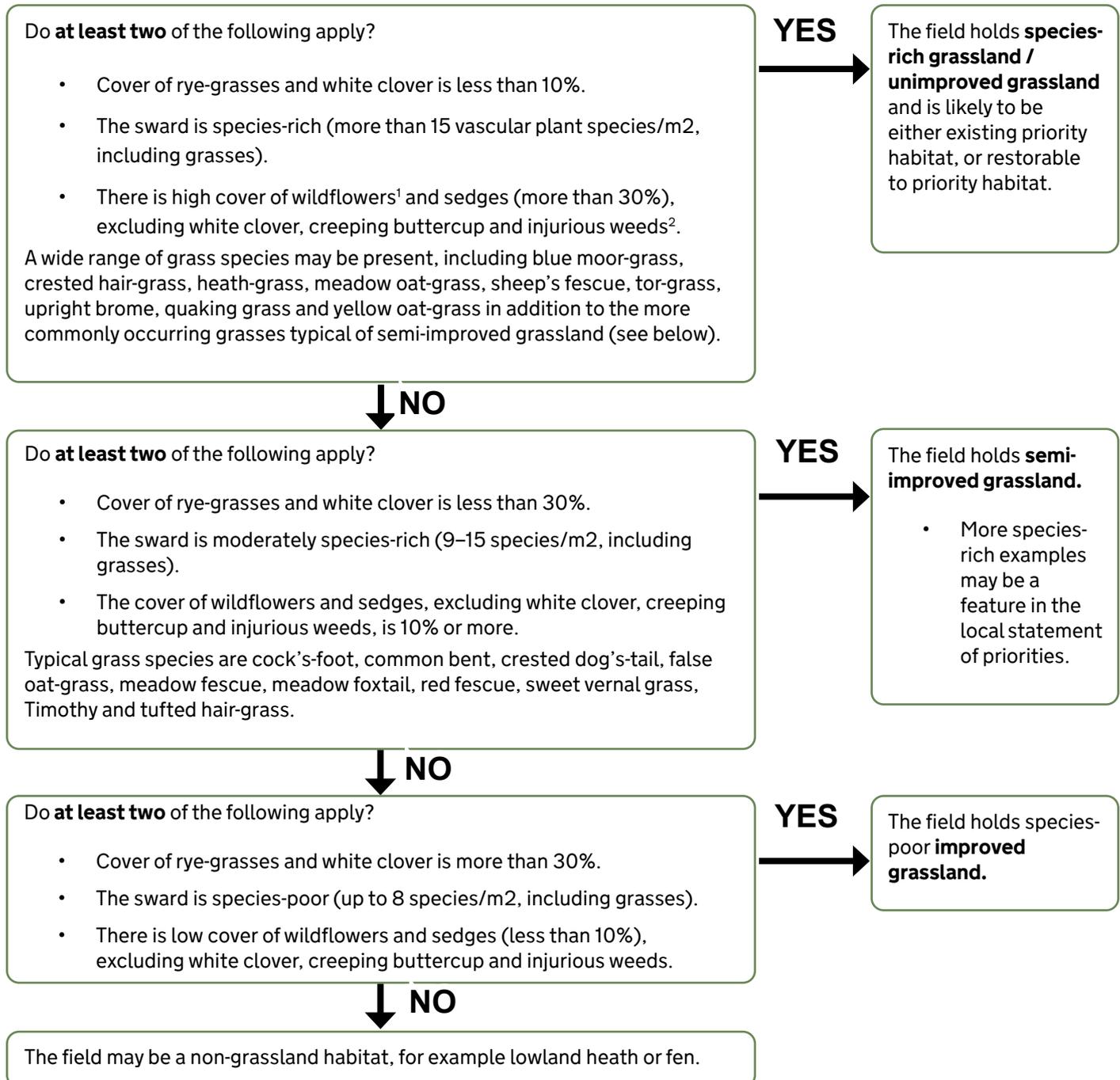
If you need more rows in Table 2, please use the separate continuation sheet.

## Tips for assessing species frequency

The best way to assess frequency of wildflowers species is to do a W-shaped or other representative walk across the field stopping at 10 randomly selected points along the way. At each stop, look at the grassland within a square metre in front of you and note which wildflower species are present.

- A species is rare if it occurs in one or two stops out of 10 (record as R next to species name).
- A species is occasional if it occurs in three or four stops out of 10 (record as O next to species name).
- A species is frequent if it occurs in five or more stops out of 10 (record as F next to the species name).

## Key A: Identifying semi-improved and species-rich grasslands



1. The term 'wildflowers' is used here to mean broadleaved herbs, sedges and rushes. Plants may not all be in flower at the time of the survey.
2. Injurious weeds are creeping and spear thistles, broad-leaved and curled dock and common ragwort.