

Assessing whether created or restored grassland is a BAP Priority Habitat

Table D G05 – Lowland dry acid grassland: BAP habitat

Soils and topography	Wildflower indicator species	Species abundance threshold	Typical grasses (do not count as indicator species)
Acid soils in the lowlands and enclosed upland fringe.	Bell heather Betony Bilberry	At least one frequent and three occasional in sward.	Bristle bent Common bent Early hair-grass
Some sites may be species-poor (dominated for example by bristle bent or wavy hair-grass). However, lowland acid grassland is a scarce resource and any site outside the SDA is likely to be considered of high value.	Brid's-foot-trefoil Biting stonecrop Bitter-vetch Blue fleabane Buck's-horn plantain Common centaury Common rock-rose Common stork's-bill Devil's-bit scabious Harebell	If either three indicator species are occasional or four are present (but not limited to field corners or edges) then record this as G05 in condition C. Record as failing condition 5 in the notes column.	Heath-grass Sheep's fescue Sweet vernal grass Wavy hair-grass
Lichens and mosses may be prominent.	Heath bedstraw Heath speedwell Heather Lady's bedstraw Lichens Lousewort Maiden pink Milkworts Mouse-ear hawkweed Parsley pierts Pignut Purple milk-vetch Rough/lesser hawkbit Saw-wort Sheep's-bit Sheep's sorrel Shepherd's-cress Thymes Tormentil Violets Wild strawberry Wood anemone Wood sage		

Note: Acid grassland is widespread above the Moorland Line where it exists largely as extensive species-poor communities on the open fell or enclosed rough grazing. In such situations it should be recorded as M01 – Grass moorland and rough grazing. Where it is species-rich and enclosed it should be treated as lowland. Such sites would generally be dominated by sheep's fescue and common bent, with a high proportion of herbs such as betony, bitter-vetch, devil's-bit scabious, harebell, heath bedstraw, lady's bedstraw and mountain pansy.

Some acid grassland sites may form part of a heathland mosaic, or have the potential for heathland restoration or creation. Where the cover of dwarf shrub is greater than 25%, the vegetation is considered to be heathland.