# Corncrake <u>#</u> Traonach

#### **GRASSLAND SCORECARD**





Farmer ID:

Surveyor: Survey date:

Total score: (A+B+C+D)

/100

## **A** Ecological Integrity

**A1.** Species richness. How many total POSITIVE indicators are present in the plot?

No. of +ive indicators:	very high 15+	high 10-14	medium 5-9	low 0-4
Score:	10	7	5	0

**A2.** What is the combined cover of all POSITIVE indicators throughout the plot?

% cover:	excellent	good	fair	poor
	>30%	16-30%	6-15%	0-5%
Score:	10	7	5	0

**A3.** What is the combined cover of all grasses/sedges throughout the plot? (Excluding large rushes)

% cover:	excellent <50%		fair 75-90%	poor >90%
Score:	10	7	5	0

**A4.** What is the combined cover of all large rushes throughout the plot?

% cover:	excellent	good	fair	poor
	<10%	10-25%	25-50%	>50%
Score:	10	5	0	-5

**A5.** What's the combined cover of Agriculturally favoured species throughout the plot? (Excluding defined ELC areas)

% cover:	abundant	frequent	scarce
	>25%	10-25%	0-10%
Score:	-10	-5	0

#### Positive indicators Tick if present: Bedstraws, small inc. Lady's bedstraw

Bird's-foot-trefoil, common; Kidney vetch

Common valerian (not

Eyebrights

Plot number:

Knapweeds

Lady's mantle Lady's smock (or

Lesser spearwort

Marsh cinquefoil; Marsh marigold

Marsh pennywort

Meadow buttercup

Meadowsweet

Mints (all species) Orchids

Ox-eye daisy/Dog daisy (not common

Ragged robin

Red clover

Ribwort plantain

Rushes, small (not soft

Scabious (Devil's-bit &

Sedges (all species)

Self-heal; Bugle

Sorrel (Common &

Thistles (Marsh, Meadow

Tormentil

Umbels - large (Angelica, Common hogweed)

Umbels - small (Pignut, Wild carrot, Cow parsley)

☐ Vetches & Vetchlings

Violets (all species); Harebell

Yarrow

☐ Yellow composites (not

Yellow flag-iris

Yellow-rattle (or Hay

### Agriculturally favoured species Tick if present

Ragwort Large docks (NOT

Perennial ryegrass

Thistles (creeping & spear)

**Nettles** (not in approved ELC area)

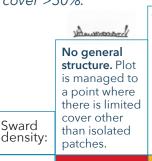
Total score A: (A1+A2+A3+A4+A5)

/40

#### **B** Structure & functions

**B1.** What is the sward density and structure?

Select one type based on dominant cover >50%.



-10



Weak density characterised by a thin 'wispy' appearance.

Plant flowering heads largely absent or very close to the ground.

density characterised

by thin appearance or heavy grazing. Herb layer poor or very short. Few flowering heads at appropriate levels.

10

Balanced vegetation density across the plot - not too heavy or

halanced mix

20

density characterised by grassy appearance and/or some thin. Often herb rank or rich to 20 cm thatched and easily permeable at ground level. Grasses and herbs a

undergrowth. Often herb poor with grass dominating at ground level.

10

Moderate

Heavy density characterised by very grassy appearance and/or rank undergrowth. Often heavily fertilised or under-grazed e.g. reseeded fields.



Very heavy sward structure characterised

by rank thatched undergrowth at the base. Usually associated with abandonment or excessive fertilizer and reseeding of grass.

-10

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Score:

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**B2.** What is the available optimal vegetation height for corncrake\* within the plot

(excluding large rushes)?\*\*

\*Ankle to knee length (20-50cm)
\*\*If large areas of the meadow have collapsed, please exclude them.

% of plot	excellent	good	fair	poor
20-50cm:	>75%	50-75%	25-50%	<25%
Score:	20	10	0	-10

Total	
score B:	
(B1+B2)	/40

### **C** Corncrake features

(mark ALL, but max. score for D is 20)

**C1.** Does the plot contain or is directly adjacent to an Early and Late cover plot specifically managed by the participant as part of the project specification?

	yes	no <	
Score:	5	0	
(If NO, skip	straigh	t to C4)	

ELC charact	eristic species	Tick if present:
Yellow Flag Iris	Large Umbellifers	ELC crop mix
Nettles	Meadowsweet	Canary Reed Grass

**C2.** Does the Early and Late cover plot meet the project specification in terms of species characteristics?

>50% cover of target species	yes	no
Score:	5	0

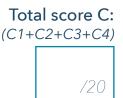
C3. What is the total area of the associated ELC?

(Note minimum eligible ELC area is 0.05ha)

	<u> </u>	500 1000 3	
Area of ELC:	>1000m²	500 - 1000m² or 5% of total plot	<500m²
Score:	10	5	0

**C4.** What are the specific features present which may benefit corncrake?

	>5% cover of Yellow Iris within a clearly defined area of the plot i.e. not scattered throughout.	of umbels throughout	Rocky outcrop or unmown headland covering >5% of plot (mown plots only).	cover within	Wetland features such as flushes and fen across >5% of plot
Score:	2	2	2	2	2



## **D** Threats and pressures

**D1.** Is there any evidence of recent damaging activity that limits corncrake habitat quality? Intensity is scored on effort required to restore the identified problem.

Intensity of damage:	High	Moderate	Low	No damage
Score:	-15	-10	-5	0

Examples may include: dumping (organic or inorganic), damaging supplementary feeding, pollution or damage to soil, active quarry/sand pit, restructuring of holding, use of herbicide, obvious poaching which has re-vegetated etc.

<b>D2.</b>	Are invasiv	'e
spec	es present	?

	yes	no
Score:	-10	0

Invasive speci	<b>es</b> Tick if present:	
☐ Rhododendron ☐ Himalayan balsam	☐ Giant Rhubarb☐ Japanese knotweed	Other



Total score D:

**Management advice/comments:** 

Please make comments in relation to awarding of scores for C.

