

TIPS To start the 'W', walk a few steps out from unrepresentative areas such as field margins or pinch-points.

Ensure that the landscape elements beneficial for invertebrates are assessed at relevant points along the 'W'.

Note any comments or management actions which may be useful to the CP team in the section provided in the app.

There is a higher tolerance for bare soil & erosion for chough, as these areas can be valuable foraging areas. See guidance for further information.

Plant leaves tend to overlap; look beneath other plants when recording cover of positive indicators.

Not all positive indicators will be in flower at the same time, look for leaves as well as flowers.

Positive indicators may occur throughout, in clumps or sparsely (e.g. orchids)

Do not spend excessive amounts of time in one area or nice hummocks/corners as this isn't representative and is not the protocol that will be followed during an inspection.

A1 Positive indicator thresholds

Note that the thresholds are lower than on other grassland scorecards, as other features of the field are more important for the chough.

Note that Armeria (Sea thrift/sea pink) is listed as a positive indicator on this scorecard, which is absent from other grassland scorecards.



Low: 0-5 indicators present. Not highly visible in the sward. The sward appears to be generally grassy.

Medium: 6-8 indicators present. The majority of the sward appears grassy.

High: 9+ indicators present. Good cover of positive indicators when looking down on the sward but may still be patches of the sward appearing mostly grassy.

A2 Species cover thresholds

Note that the thresholds are lower than on the grassland scorecard, as other features of the field are more important for the chough.

Low: <5% of Sward. Encountered approx. every 5-10 steps at best. Occurring in small patches or very scattered throughout the field. Not highly visible when looking down on the sward, which will appear to be mostly grassy.

Moderate: 6-20% of sward. Encountered occasionally (every 3-5 steps), in patches or scattered across field. Occasional occurrence when looking down on sward. Much of sward appears grassy.

High: >30% of sward. Encountered regularly (with almost every step). Good cover of several indicator species when looking down on the sward. Only parts of the sward will appear grassy at this threshold.

A5 Landscape elements assessment thresholds

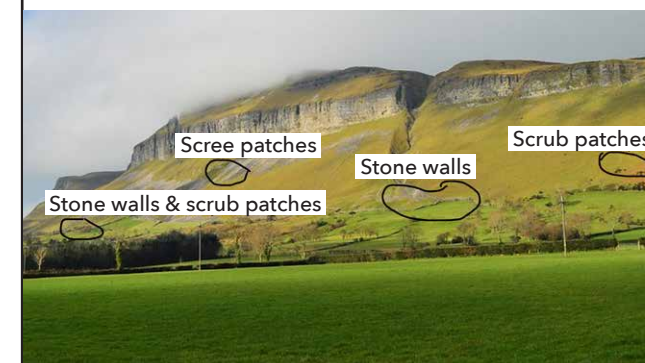


Landscape elements beneficial for chough & assessed here include earth mounds, earth banks, stone walls, stone ruins, exposed rocks, cliffs, scree, and/or small patches of established scrub.

Low: No landscape elements observed in the field.

Moderate: Landscape elements are observed occasionally in the field.

Good: Landscape elements are observed frequently throughout the field.



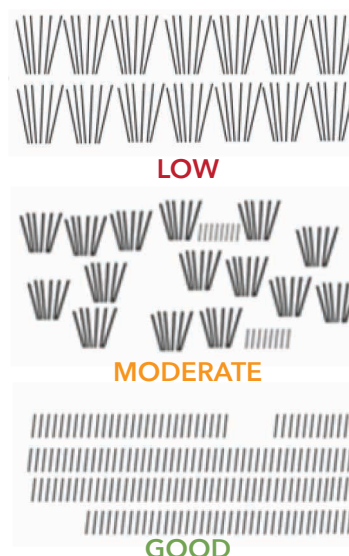
A4 Vegetation structure thresholds

In contrast to other scorecards, remember that a short sward height of less than 5cm provides the best foraging conditions for chough.

Low: Uniformly tall vegetation (>20cm) throughout the field, OR large unvegetated areas.

Moderate: Sward height of 10-20cm (occasionally <10cm). May have small patches of bare soil.

Good: Most of the sward is <5cm, may be patches of up to 10cm. Occasionally small patches of bare soil.



Positive indicator species

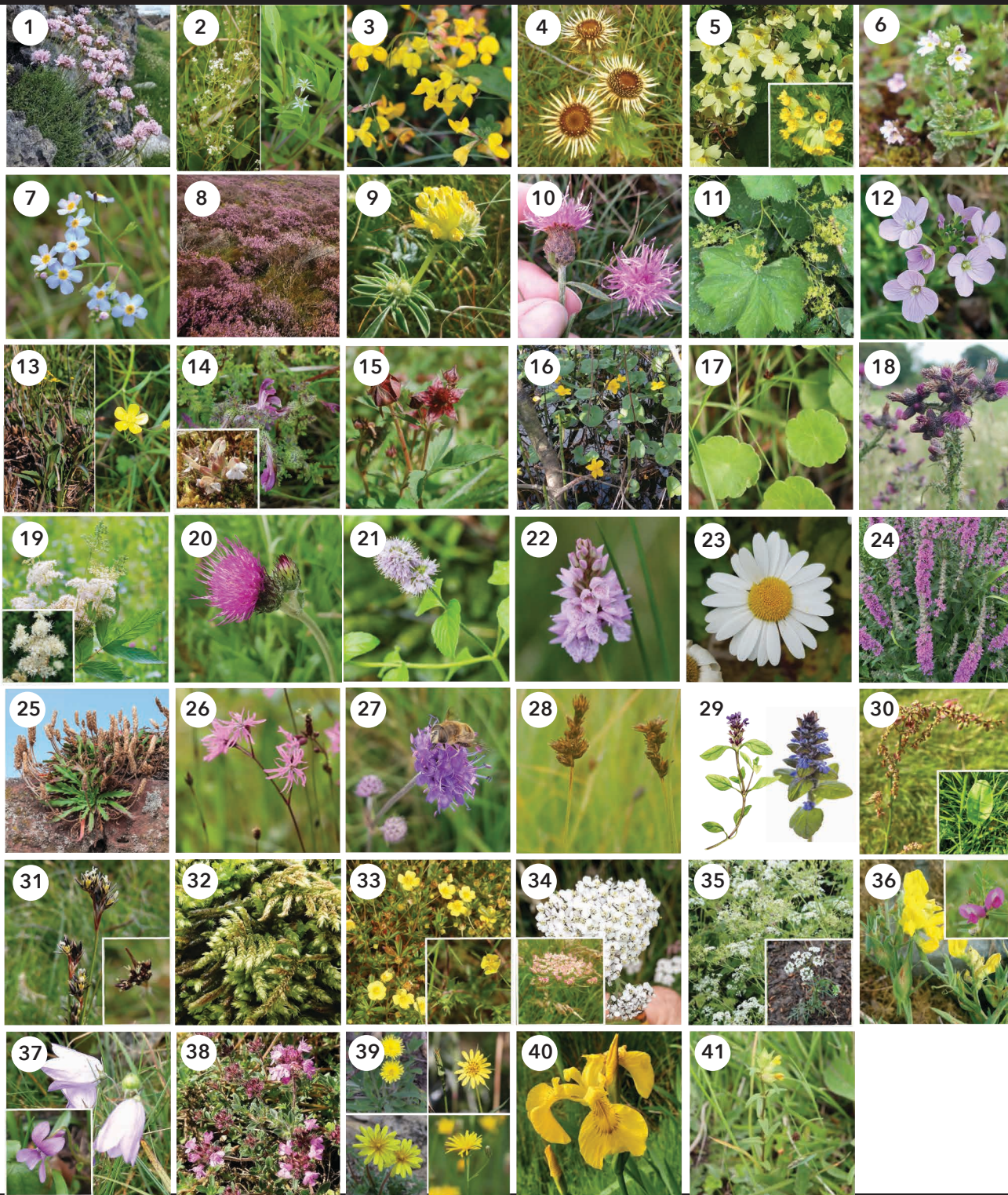
The positive indicators shown overleaf have been selected as they are easy to identify when in flower and indicate well managed semi-natural grasslands which have received little or no fertiliser, herbicide, or other agricultural improvement.

During the 'W' walk of the field, identify and tick off each positive indicator species/group present in the field.

Refer to the photos overleaf and other training material if necessary.

Positive Indicator species

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Armeria (<i>Sea thrift/Sea pink</i>) | 28. Sedges |
| 2. Bedstraws & stitchworts | 29. Selfheal & Bugle |
| 3. Bird's-foot-trefoil | 30. Sorrel (<i>Sheep & Common</i>) |
| 4. Carlina thistle | 31. Small Rushes (<i>Woodrush, Spike rush, Heath rush</i>) |
| 5. Cowslips & Primrose | 32. Sphagnum & Branched mosses |
| 6. Eyebrights | 33. Tormentil (<i>Common & English</i>) |
| 7. Forget-me-nots | 34. Umbels large (<i>Umbels large and/or common valerian and/or common hogweed</i>) |
| 8. Heathers | 35. Umbels small (<i>Pignut, Yarrow & Wild carrot</i>) |
| 9. Kidney vetch | 36. Vetches/ vetchlings |
| 10. Knapweeds | 37. Violets (<i>all</i>), Harebell |
| 11. Lady's mantle | 38. Wild thyme |
| 12. Lady's Smock (<i>cuckoo flower</i>) | 39. Yellow composites (<i>Cats ears, Hawkweeds, Hawkbits & Goats-beard</i>) - not dandelion |
| 13. Lesser spearwort | 40. Yellow flag iris |
| 14. Louseworts (<i>Common & Marsh</i>) | 41. Yellow rattle (<i>Hay rattle</i>) |
| 15. Marsh cinquefoil | |
| 16. Marsh marigold | |
| 17. Marsh pennywort | |
| 18. Marsh thistle | |
| 19. Meadowsweet | |
| 20. Meadow thistle | |
| 21. Mints (<i>all</i>) | |
| 22. Orchids | |
| 23. Oxeye daisy | |
| 24. Purple loosestrife | |
| 25. Plantain (<i>Buck's horn or sea</i>) | |
| 26. Ragged robin | |
| 27. Scabious (<i>Devil's-bit & field</i>) | |



Negative species

- A. Rhododendron
 B. Himalayan Honeysuckle
 C. Himalayan Knotweed
 D. Hottentot Fig
 E. Japanese Knotweed
 F. Giant Hogweed
 G. Himalayan Balsam
 H. Cotoneaster
 I. Sea buckthorn

