

HEATHLAND COURSE HANDOUT

LOWLAND DRY ACID GRASSLAND			
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw	Whorls of leaves, white flowers	Only Bedstraw growing on dry acid soils
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	Jaggedly toothed leaves in 3s	4-petal flower with mat petals (cf Buttercup)
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	Tiny, leaves with strong pointy base lobes	Small clusters of reddish flowers/seeds
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	Feathery flower, no central groove on leaf	Short collared ligule (cf. long in Creeping)
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	Spiky sausage infl, roots sweet smelling	Whiskered auricle
<i>Danthonia decumbens</i>	Heath-grass	Clumpy head with 4-5 flowers	Nose hairs at base of leaf
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat-grass	Tough needly leaves, 50:50 erect:prostrate	Skinny black whip-like flowerheads
LOWLAND DRY HEATH			
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	Tiny leaflets in 4 dense rows	Multitude of small pink-purple flowers
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather	Clusters of needly leaves	Dangly bell-like crimson-purple flowers
<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	Heath Milkwort	Deep blue flowers with dangle lower petal	Small oval/lanceolate leaves, opposite at base
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	Big spiny bush with yellow pea flowers	Spines and upper stems heavily furrowed
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell	Creeping broad and toothed leaves	Flowers upright, with two clubbed stamens
<i>Agrostis curtisii</i>	Bristle Bent	Needly glaucous leaves with big pointy ligule	Flowers delicate but held in spikes
<i>Carex binervis</i>	Green-ribbed Sedge	Largish ridged leaves turning rusty brown	Fruits with green line up centre
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill Sedge	Yellow green sedge	Flowerstalks arch out just above ground
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass	Needly deep green leaves, drooping & waxy feel	Delicate heads sometimes on wavy stems
LOWLAND WET HEATH			
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew	Oval-wide sticky leaves	Small white delicate flowers
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch	Young stems downy	Leaves single toothed (cf Silver, double-tooth)
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	Whorls of 4 leaves, downy & gland-tipped hairs	Rose-pink bell-like flowers in clusters
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort	Very divided lobed leaves	Flowers with huge pink arched top petal
<i>Salix caprea/cinerea</i>	Goat/Grey Willow	Oval leaves (slightly narrower in Grey)	Grey has raised ridges beneath bark on twigs
<i>Carex demissa</i>	Yellow Sedge	Yellow-green	Fruits spiky pineapples
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge	Very glaucous (both sides), trigonous tips	Chocolate lime fruits
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass	Broadleaved grass, forming dense tussocks	'Ring of hairs' at leaf base
<i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>	Deergrass	Dense tussocks of needles, turning orange	Flowers at end of stalks
<i>Sphagnum compactum</i>	Compact Bog-moss	Green to orange - never red	Hooded leaves packed tightly on stems, forms dense cushions

LOWLAND DRY ACID GRASSLAND	
PHASE I	NVC
B1 Acid grassland	U1 Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris-Rumex acetosella grassland
UKHAB	U2 Deschampsia flexuosa grassland
g1a Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	U3 Agrostis curtisii grassland
	U4 Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris-Galium saxatile grassland
Has <25% heather/shrub cover	U5 Nardus stricta-Galium saxatile grassland
	U6 Juncus squarrosus-Festuca ovina grassland
< 25% heather/shrub cover.	

DRY HEATH	
PHASE I	NVC
D1 Dry dwarf shrub heath	H1 Calluna vulgaris-Festuca ovina heath
	H2 Calluna vulgaris-Ulex minor heath
	H3 Ulex minor-Agrostis curtisii heath
UKHAB	H4 Ulex gallii-Agrostis curtisii heath
h1a5 Dry heaths; lowland	H8 Calluna vulgaris-Ulex gallii heath
h1a5 Dry coastal heaths with Cornish heath	H9 Calluna vulgaris-Deschampsia flexuosa heath
>25% shrub cover. Heathers tend to be Calluna vulgaris and Erica cinerea. Many fine-leaved grasses	

WET HEATH	
PHASE I	NVC
D2 Wet dwarf shrub heath	H3 Ulex minor-Agrostis curtisii heath
	H4 Ulex gallii-Agrostis curtisii heath
UKHAB	M16 Erica tetralix-Sphagnum compactum wet heath
h1a7 Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath; lowland	
h1a8 Wet heathland with Dorset heath and cross-leaved heath	
Higher amounts of Erica tetralix, Molinia caerulea and Sphagnum compactum	