

HABITAT INDICATOR SPECIES COURSE HANDOUT

LOWLAND MEADOW & PASTURE			
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	Purple flowers without extra showy ring of petals	Look for 'pricklettes' on basal leaves
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit	Rough feel to leaves	Forked hairs
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	Trifoliate leaves	Pods like bird's claws
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	Leaf divided but not separated by stem	Normal sepals (cf. Bulbous - backwards)
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Hairy Leaves	Leaves slightly more elongated than in White
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	Feathery infl, no central groove on leaf	Big ligule (cf. Common - short collar)
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	Orange roots, corkscrewing leaves	Big oats flowers, stem bent above base
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	Shiny, but with white stem base	Stem leaves stick up at 45°
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	Needle leaves forming mat rather than tussock	Stem leaf=blade, sheath tubular and hairy
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	Soft leaves, flowers pink through to white	Stripy pyjamas
LOWLAND CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND			
<i>Cirsium acaule</i>	Dwarf Thistle	Very prickly	Flower stalkless, sitting on ground
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	Needly whorls of leaves	Multiple small yellow flowers
<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe Vetch	Opposite rows of pinnate leaves	Flowers in horseshoe, wiggly pods
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	Delicate threads with opposite lanceolate leaves	Delicate white flowers → stripy pods
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	Very hairy leaves with white undersides	Sulphur-yellow dandelion-like flowerhead
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad Burnet	Opposite rows of toothy leaves, edible	Balls of flowers, separate ♂ & ♀ florets
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	Thyme	Small hairy leaves, without long stipules	Tight cluster of small pink/purple flowers
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	Flower heads dancing sugar puffs	Wavy basal leaves come out at 90°
<i>Bromopsis erecta</i>	Upright Brome	Red stripy heads, waving in the breeze	Camel's eyelashes on leaves
<i>Carex caryophyllea</i>	Spring Sedge	Lemon yellow leaves	Small spikelet with club-shaped ♂
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	Glaucous leaves, more so on underside	Ripens to black fruits, with one dangly head
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's-fescue	Needle leaves in tussock, stem leaf also needle	Non-hairy sheath wrapped round like cloak
DAMP GRASSLAND			
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold	Big shiny buttercup-like flowers	Leaves big & kidney shaped, tough when old
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	Opposite rows of toothy leaves on red stem	Fluffy cream flowerhead, weird crinkly seeds
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Common Marsh-bedstraw	Whorls of leaves with backwards needles, blunt	Clusters of minute white/cream flowers
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris	Glaucous leaves emerging on one plane	Large showy lipped flowers
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Square stem, opposite leaves, aromatic	Purple clustered flowers, often vegetative
<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Marsh Foxtail	Slender foxtail head (1 hair per glue)	Glaucous, bended 90° at knee
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	Leaves fiercely barbed when rubbed downwards	Huge feathery flowers forming large dome
<i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Jointed Rush	Jointed segments in stem	Side shoots slightly flattened, pointing out
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	Deep green shiny stem with continuous pith	Flowers loosely clustered
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	Glaucous mat stem with broken pith	Flowers spraying out from stem
IMPROVED GRASSLAND			
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	Spiny wings on stem, leaf with long prickles	Pale purple small heads
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	Leaf 3-lobed, top lobe creeps off on own stem	Yellow flowers w/- normal sepals (cf. Bulbous)
<i>Taraxacum officinalis</i>	Dandelion	Toothed leaves with floppy feel	Yellow flowers on shiny squashable stems
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Shiny hairless leaves	Creeping habit
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	Large, glaucous and floppy with flattened base	Clumpy flowers, growing into three parts
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	Shiny leaves with auricles & red stem base	Spiky flowerhead
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
BLANKET BOG			
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	Grass-like leaves, emerging on one plane	Spectacular yellow fls → orange → grey pods
<i>Utricularia sp.</i>	Bladderwort	Feathery mass of stems, leaves&traps underwater	Very showy hooded yellow flowers
<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star Sedge	Long, thin shiny green leaves	Clusters of starlike flowers/fruits, erect
<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>	Many-stalked Spike-rush	Multiple stems, olive green without ridges	Terminal fruits
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass	Rosettes of long leaves with russet red blotches	Clusters of cottony heads, erect and dangly
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	White Beaked-sedge	Very thin upright leaves	Flowers with white beaks
<i>Sphagnum</i>	Bog Moss	Very absorbent plump mosses	Can form extensive mats and cushions
LOWLAND MEADOW & PASTURE			
PHASE I	NVC		
B2 Neutral grassland	MG4 Alopecurus pratensis-Sanguisorba officinalis grassland		
	MG5 Cynosurus cristatus-Centaurea nigra grassland		
UKHAB	MG8 Cynosurus cristatus-Caltha palustris grassland		
g3a Lowland Meadow			

LOWLAND CALCAREOUS GRASSLAND		
PHASE I	NVC	
B3 Calcareous grassland	CG1 Festuca ovina-Carlina vulgaris grassland	
	CG2 Festuca ovina-Avenula pratensis grassland	
	CG3 Bromus erectus grassland	
	CG4 Brachypodium pinnatum grassland	
UKHAB	CG5 Bromus erectus-Brachypodium pinnatum grassland	
g2a Lowland calcareous gra	CG6 Avenula pubescens grassland	
	CG7 Festuca ovina-Hieracium pilosella-Thymus praecox/pulegioides grassland	
DAMP GRASSLAND		
PHASE I	NVC	
B5 Marsh/marshy grassland	MG10 Holcus lanatus-Juncus effusus rush-pasture	
	MG11 Festuca rubra-Agrostis stolonifera-Potentilla anserina grassland	
	MG13 Agrostis stolonifera-Alopecurus geniculatus grassland	
UKHAB		
g3a5 Lowland hay meadows		
g3c (25) Other neutral grassland -		
25 Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh		
g3c8 Holcus-Juncus neutral grassland		
g3c7 Deschampsia neutral	Plus Purple moorgrass & rush pasture	
IMPROVED GRASSLAND		
PHASE I	NVC	
B4 Improved Grassland	MG1 Arrhenatherum elatius grassland	
UKHAB	MG6 Lolium perenne-Cynosurus cristatus grassland	
g4 Modified grassland	MG7 Lolium perenne leys and related grasslands	
g3c5 Other neutral grassland Arrhenatherum neutral grassland		
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 Grass	U3 Agrostis curtisii grassland	
	U4 Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris-Galium saxatile grassland	
	U5 Nardus stricta-Galium saxatile grassland	
	U6 Juncus squarrosus-Festuca ovina grassland	
LOWLAND 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	H9 Calluna vulgaris-Deschampsia flexuosa heath	

LOWLAND 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	

BLANKET BOG	
PHASE I	NVC
E1.6.1 Blanket bog	M1 Sphagnum auriculatum bog pool community
E1.7 Wet modified bog	M2 Sphagnum cuspidatum/recurvum bog pool community
E1.8 Dry modified bog	M3 Eriophorum angustifolium bog pool community
UKHAB	M25 Molinia caerulea-Potentilla erecta mire
f1a Blanket bog	
f1b Lowland Raised Bog	



TERRESTRIAL HABITATS TRANSITIONS

