



Priority Habitats Inventory – Lowland Meadows (England) - How to submit a candidate grassland site

First check Magic Map <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> Is the field already marked as Lowland Meadow on the inventory? If not then follow instructions below.

Key supporting information needed for each field parcel submitted:

- A map or sketch showing the field parcel(s) involved and if relevant, the extent of the grassland feature (i.e deduct any non-grassland areas and clearly mark on map)
- A species list for the field
- Frequency of Positive Indicator Species based on 10 random stops and assessing 1 metre square of the grassland at each stop
- A rough estimate of the total wildflower and sedge cover
- Frequency of negative indicators
- Site photographs

Gathering the species detail:

- Gather plant species data at each of 10 random stops. Plan the walk so that you cover the field evenly eg. W walk. At each stop record all the plants (grasses and wildflowers) you see within the 1 metre square area in front of you. Use the [Priority Habitats grassland recording sheet](#) which has columns in which to tick off the species found at each of the 10 stops. Grasses and wildflowers are grouped separately. Make a note, in the relevant part of the form of any negative indicators species you see in the square metre area in front of you, again at each stop.
- When the 10 stops have been completed have a walk round the rest of the field and note any species not already seen. Enter these in the Additional species column. Record as many species as you can – whether or not they are positive indicators – it all helps to provide a picture of your grassland community and if a case is borderline having a good diversity of all species will help.
- Roughly estimate cover of wildflowers and sedges
- Work out frequencies of species from each stop and enter the number in the Total column at the right-hand side. The **Positive Indicator Species** are highlighted in bold on the recording sheet.
- Candidate inventory fields need
 - 2 positive indicators to be frequent (found at 5 or more stops)
 - 2 occasional (3- 4 stops)
- Take photos of the field(s) showing the sward and any interesting populations of wildflowers. Remember to label photos with name, field no. SBI etc.
- Make some comments about other criteria on the PHI guidance notes on our website such as bare ground, weed cover etc.
- Send to habitatinventories@naturalengland.org.uk NB **DEADLINE varies. Check with NE and RPA for latest guidance. Was 28 Feb 2023 with a later deadline for some CS applications.**