

## Upland wood pasture survey

Axes and scoring explanation to help with undertaking a survey with the aim to recognise an upland wood pasture. Most axes can be recognised in the field, however some would benefit from access to aerial photographs, National Vegetation Classification maps or old maps, 1<sup>st</sup> OS maps in particular.

### Biological axes - mostly determined through field survey

#### Current wood pasture status

0 = no documentation/survey available

1 = site surveyed and ground truthed, but not on wood pasture inventory

2 = on wood pasture inventory, but not ground truthed or surveyed

3 = on wood pasture inventory, ground truthed and survey completed

#### Large herbivores, particularly livestock

0 = No livestock

1 = herbivores/livestock grazing certain times of the year without natural tree regeneration due to overgrazing and/or no browsing/nibbling of tree suckers due to undergrazing

2 = herbivores/livestock grazing certain times of the year, allowing some natural tree regeneration and some browsing/nibbling of tree suckers

3 = suitable numbers and type of herbivores/livestock grazing all year round, allowing both natural regeneration and browsing/nibbling of tree suckers

#### Grazing impact on trees

0 = Trees with smooth stems and no major side branches

1 = Some open grown trees with some signs of grazing, but no or small basal skirt

2 = Open grown trees, some trees with basal skirt/swelling, many vigorously growing suckers, main stem dying off

3 = Open grown trees, many with basal skirt/swelling, some suckers, but vigorous growth of main stem

#### Grazing impact on wood pasture structure (aerial photographs may help here)

0 = uniform, even aged and closed canopy

1 = only widely spaced open grown trees, no dense scrub or tree areas

2 = dense areas of mantel/fringe vegetation in amongst uneven density of trees & shrub

3 = irregular boundaries, mantel/fringe vegetation, uneven tree density in scrub and tree layers, frequent glades and areas with scattered trees

#### Vegetation mosaic of open & woodland communities

0 = Either only grass/heather vegetation or only woodland communities present

1 = light demanding tree species present in closed canopy woodland and/or improved vegetation with wide spaced open grown single trees

2 = light demanding tree species present, vegetation communities of woodland, scrub and open communities present, but not mixed

3 = Natural woodland communities in intimate mix with open communities, open grown light demanding tree species, mantel/fringe vegetation and appropriate to soil & climatic conditions

#### Natural tree regeneration

0 = None or planting only

1 = Conditions, such as thorny trees, bare earth due to hoof prints present, but no natural regeneration probably due to overgrazing

2 = Conditions, such as thorny trees, bare earth due to hoof prints present, with naturally regenerated seedlings present, but mostly grazed/browsed off

3 = Conditions, such as thorny trees, bare earth due to hoof prints present, with naturally regenerated saplings and seedlings present

Old trees, particularly veteran or ancient trees with ancient tree biota, e.g. old growth lichens, saproxylic beetles and/or spiders (may require access to local biological records)

0 = None, i.e. only young trees present and/or no ancient tree biota present

1 = <5

2 = 5 - 15, or more old trees but in regimented distribution/designed park

3 = >15, with ancient tree biota

## Cultural axes

### Worked (veteran) trees

0 = No signs of tree coppicing or pollarding or evidence of past coppicing/pollarding

1 = Written/old map evidence of tree coppicing/pollarding, but no current signs

2 = Some multi-stemmed trees or pollard shaped trees as remnant of hedges and/or not distinguishable between man-made or natural features

3 = Several non-linear trees showing clear signs of man-made coppicing/pollarding

### Old map records indicative of wood pasture treatment (requires access to old maps)

0 = Does not feature on any map

1 = Not on 1<sup>st</sup> OS map, but other record, recent records/reports mentioning conditions suitable for wood pasture

2 = Newer wood pasture with irregularly shaped dense stands and areas of open scattered trees, or on 1<sup>st</sup> OS map, but only young non-ancient/non-native trees present

3 = Wood pasture shown on 1<sup>st</sup> OS map as unenclosed, irregularly shaped dense stands and areas of open scattered trees

### Historical/archaeological features typical of wood pastures (requires access to archaeological, Historical & Environmental Records)

0 = no archaeological features or historic data typically associated with wood pasture

1 = some archaeological remnants

2 = archaeological features associated with both grazing and timber use (charcoal platforms) and medieval enclosure

3 = archaeological features associated with both grazing and timber use and wood pasture open to the hill, i.e. no boundary banks

## Economic axis

### Economic sustainability (requires information from the landowner)

0 = Completely reliant on agri-environment grants

1 = Income stream from either grazing pasture or working trees, but still reliant on grant support

2 = Income streams from both grazing pasture and working trees, profitable with grant support

3 = Several income streams from grazing pasture and working trees, profitable without grant support

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