Recording form for monitoring of 'lowland meadows' in north Lancashire

- 1. Choose sampling points to provide a wide coverage over the whole field and which, at a glance, appear representative of the wider vegetation. Field edges and small stands of atypical vegetation should be avoided.
- 2. Sample sizes of approximately 2 x 2 m should be used. Where appropriate, the shape of sampled quadrats can be adapted from the standard square to cover a plot of the same total area.
- 3. Tick presence of indicator species at each sampled stop.
- 4. Record % cover of listed features at each stop (including combined cover of 'undesirable species': creeping thistle, spear thistle, curled dock, broad-leaved dock, common ragwort, common nettle, marsh ragwort, cow parsley and bracken) and calculate average (mean) cover at all stops in the 'Total' column.
- 5. Count up the number of stops at which each indicator species is present and record in the 'Total' column:
 - D (dominant) = occurrence at 9 or 10 stops out of 10,
 - A (abundant) = occurrence at 7 or 8 stops,
 - F (frequent) = occurrence at 5 or 6 stops.
 - O (occasional) = occurrence at 3 or 4 stops and
 - R (rare) = occurrence at 1 or 2 stops.

Also record species as rare if they were observed on site but not at any of the sampled stops.

6. Note other important habitats present in the field, though these do not need to be monitored.

Site FAUNA Hay Meadow													
Date 6 August 2011			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
% herb/sedge cover (target > 20%)			10	15	10	10	10	25	15	15	40	25	15
% undesirable species (target < 5%)			3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5
% bare ground (target < 10%)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% scrub (target < 5%)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% large sedges, rushes, reeds (< 30%)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
agrimony	Go6												
autumn hawkbit	Go6	Go2											
betony	Go6												
bird's-foot-trefoil	Go6												
bitter-vetch	Go6												
black knapweed	Go6												
black medick		Go2											
bugle	Go6												
bulbous buttercup		Go2											
burnet saxifrage	Go6												
common bistort	Go6												
common cat's-ear		Go2									✓		R
common meadow-rue	Go6												
common sorrel		Go2	✓	✓				✓					0
cowslip	Go6												

Site FAUNA Hay Meadow													
Date 6 August 2011			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
cuckoo flower		Go2							•				Total
devil's-bit scabious	Go6												
dropwort	Go6												
dyer's greenweed	Go6												
eyebright	Go6												
field scabious	Go6												
field wood-rush	0.00	Go2						√					R
germander speedwell		Go2						·					R
glaucous/common/carnation sedge	Go6	CIGE											
goat's-beard	Go6												
great burnet	Go6												
greater bird's-foot-trefoil	Go6												
lady's bedstraw	Go6												
lady's-mantles	Go6												
lesser trefoil		Go2											
marsh marigold	Go6												
marsh valarian	Go6												
marsh/fen bedstraw	Go6												
meadow buttercup		Go2	✓	✓									R
meadow vetchling	Go6												
meadowsweet	Go6												
milkworts	Go6												
narrow-leaved water-dropwort	Go6												
orchids	Go6												
ox-eye daisy	Go6												
pepper-saxifrage	Go6												
pignut	Go6												
ragged robin	Go6												
red clover		Go2											R
ribwort plantain		Go2									✓		R
rough hawkbit	Go6												
salad burnet	Go6												
saw-wort	Go6												
selfheal		Go2									✓		R
sneezewort	Go6												
tormentil	Go6												
water avens	Go6												
water mint	Go6												
wood anemone	Go6												
yarrow		Go2		✓		✓		✓					0
yellow rattle	Go6												