



Looking Out for Small Things
(LOST) project

Rapid Woodland Assessment Survey form



Rapid Woodland Assessment

Date		Site name	
Grid reference		Slope (flat/gentle/steep)	
Area covered (you will be able to mark this on a map when you submit results online)		Main aspect (N, S, E, W)	
		Time taken (approx)	

1 Woodland composition and structure

Tree species	Canopy				Sub-canopy			
Alder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Willow	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oak	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ash	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Beech	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rowan	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Beech	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Birch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sycamore	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Birch	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hawthorn	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Oak	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazel	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sycamore	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Holly	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Use the DAFOR scale to indicate how abundant a species is in the boxes above:
D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare. If absent leave blank.

Tick the appropriate box and enter the score in the right-hand column

		Score
Tree age profile	Young even-aged wood (i.e. recently established trees)	0
	Mature, even-aged wood (most trees are the same size)	1
	Mixed age wood, with mature/old trees and younger trees	2
	Wood with many old/big trees with fissured bark	3
Tree density	Young trees, closely packed, few gaps between tree canopies	0
	Mature trees, closely packed, few gaps between tree canopies	1
	Mature trees, with some gaps between tree canopies	2
	Mature/veteran trees, with larger gaps between tree canopies	3
Ground cover of bramble and ivy	Abundant cover throughout	0
	Frequent areas of dense cover	1
	Occasional: some dense patches but scattered	2
	Rare: sparse cover/isolated patches	3
Total score for Section 1		

Interpreting your score:

0-3 indicates low potential; 4-5 indicates moderate potential; 6+ indicates high potential

2 Habitat features

Tell us about the habitat features in the woodland.

Tick all that apply and enter the score in the right-hand column. If you have a map, you might like to mark on the key features. When you enter your results online you can upload a scanned copy or photo of the map.

Tick the appropriate box and enter the score in the right-hand column

		Score
Glades	A glade/clearing in the wood, over 20 m across	2
Veteran tree features	Presence of very wide trees (>2.5 m girth)*	2
	Old trees with dead wood in canopy/dead limbs	2
	Old trees with large decay holes/hollows	2
	Presence of old pollards	2
	Old trees with large horizontal branches	2
*Or a tree especially wide for its species		
Dead wood	Sparse lying dead wood, small diameter (<20 cm)	0
	There is only newly cut dead wood (any size)	1
	Frequent lying dead wood, small diameter (<20 cm)	1
	Lying dead wood, large diameter (>20 cm)	2
	Rotting tree stumps	2
	Standing dead wood (diameter >20 cm)	2
Rock features	No rock features	0
	Small boulders	2
	Large boulders	2
	Natural rock faces	2
Wet features	No features	0
	Boggy areas	2
	Streams/rivers	2
	Wet rock faces	2
	Ravines/waterfalls	2
Total score for Section 2		

Interpreting your score:

0-3 indicates low potential; 4-5 indicates moderate potential; 6-11 indicates high potential; 12+ indicates very high potential

3 Lichens and bryophytes

Record here the abundance of lichens and bryophytes:

		Score
BRYOPHYTES: Tick one option only and enter the score in the column		
What is the bryophyte cover like on the woodland floor, including on logs and rocks?	Very little/no bryophyte cover visible	0
	Patchy bryophyte cover visible	1
	Larger areas of bryophyte cover visible	2
	Woodland floor is carpeted with bryophytes (as in photo A)	3
LICHENS: Tick as many options as apply and enter the score in the column		
What is lichen cover like on tree trunks?	Trunks are mostly bare/covered in ivy or moss	0
	Trunks with some lichen are fairly frequent (but growth is not luxuriant)	1
	Only a few trunks with lichen, but they have luxuriant lichen growth (as in photo B)	1
	Trunks with luxuriant lichen growth (as in photo B) are fairly frequent	3
	There are large, old trees with lichens on the trunk (these may be crust lichens, as in photo C)	3
Total score for Section 2		

Interpreting your score:

0-2 indicates a lower potential site; 3-5 indicates moderate potential, 6+ indicates a high value site.

Indicator species:

Look out for these indicators while you are surveying (see accompanying ID guides). If you see them, take a photo and record the location (using a GPS if you have one, or otherwise make a note of where it is so you can locate it on a map).

See guidance notes or Guide 1 for photos and ID notes		See guidance notes or Guide 2 for photos and ID notes	
<i>Lobaria</i> species	<i>Sticta</i> species	<i>Hypotrachyna</i> species	<i>Ochrolechia</i> species
			
<small>©Deborah Long/Plantlife</small>	<small>©Dave Lamacraft/Plantlife</small>	<small>©April Windle</small>	<small>©April Windle</small>

4 Threats assessment

Record threats in the table below

Write the score for each threat in the right-hand column. If you have a map, indicate where the threat is located, and include any comments below (e.g. let us know if threats are located next to important habitat features or indicator species you identified in section 2 and 3).

Threat type	Threat absent	Threat minor and isolated	Threat extensive in one area	Threat covers large area(s)	Score
Dense or abundant holly growth	0	1	2	3	
Rhododendron/laurel	0	1	2	3	
Himalayan balsam	0	1	2	3	
Conifers (excluding yew)	0	1	2	3	
Dense regeneration of sycamore/ beech saplings (specify)	0	1	2	3	
Dense regeneration of other species (specify in comments if known)	0	1	2	3	
Lack of oak regeneration: score 3 if there are no oaks in the understorey (i.e. young trees, saplings or seedlings), otherwise leave blank					
Total threat score					

Interpreting your score:

A score of 2 or 3 for any threat suggests immediate management may be needed. A score of 1 suggests management should be introduced before the threat spreads, particularly where it affects a high value site. Prioritisation will depend on where threats are located in relation to important features.

Use the comments section below to give any additional information (e.g. where threats are located near important habitat features, or to tell us about additional threats you have identified that are not listed):

5 Management assessment

Tell us about any evidence of management you can see by ticking the boxes below (there is no score for this section).

Evidence of grazing/browsing	Y	N
Is the site fenced?		
Is the fencing in good repair/condition?		
Is there any evidence of grazing (e.g. nibbled stems, hoof prints, dung, or you can see grazing animals)?		
If you can tell what animal(s) are grazing the site, let us know here:		

Evidence of other management (tick all that you see)	
Coppice (area where trees have been cut back to ground level)	
Thinning (some young or mature trees have been cut down)	
Scrub clearance (including the clearance of saplings e.g. beech and sycamore regeneration)	
Non-native invasive species management (e.g. removal of laurel/rhododendron, Himalayan balsam)	
Ivy stems cut at the base of trees	

6 Additional comments

Here you can report anything else you think is relevant.

If you met with the landowner and asked about site management, make a note of your discussion here.

Thank you for your time and effort in completing this woodland assessment. Your results will help to identify important sites for conservation and highlight where management work is needed to help protect lichens and bryophytes. If you are interested in surveying more woods you can download this form from our website.

Submitting your results

Thank you for completing the RWA. Please submit your data and any photos using our online form, which can be found on the LOST project webpage: www.plantlife.org.uk/LOST

By submitting your results, you will contribute to our regional understanding of the distribution and condition of Atlantic woodland with potential to support important lichens and bryophytes. This will help target conservation and highlight areas in need of further survey.

You can sign up to receive Plantlife updates, including information on opportunities to get involved with the Looking Out for Small Things project (e.g. free training on lichen & bryophyte ID and woodland management). See project website for further details.

If you are unable to submit your results online, you can email a scanned copy of your form to us, or post your form to the address below, marked FAO Looking Out for Small Things (LOST). If posting, please include your name and contact details if you would like us to send you further information about the survey results and wider project.

Further information and support

Please visit the LOST project website www.plantlife.org.uk/LOST or contact the LOST Senior Project Officer, April Windle April.Windle@plantlife.org.uk

Plantlife

**HRH The Prince Of Wales
is our Patron**

Plantlife
Brewery House
36 Milford Street
Salisbury
Wiltshire SP1 2AP

www.plantlife.org.uk

©Plantlife, January 2019
ISBN: 978-1-910212-78-3
Front cover images ©Alison Smith/Plantlife,
©Dave Lamacraft/Plantlife & April Windle/Plantlife
Design: evansgraphic.co.uk
Printed by Acanthus Press, Wellington, Somerset

Plantlife is a charitable company limited by guarantee, Company No.3166339. Registered in England and Wales, Charity No.1059559. Registered in Scotland, Charity No. SC038951.

