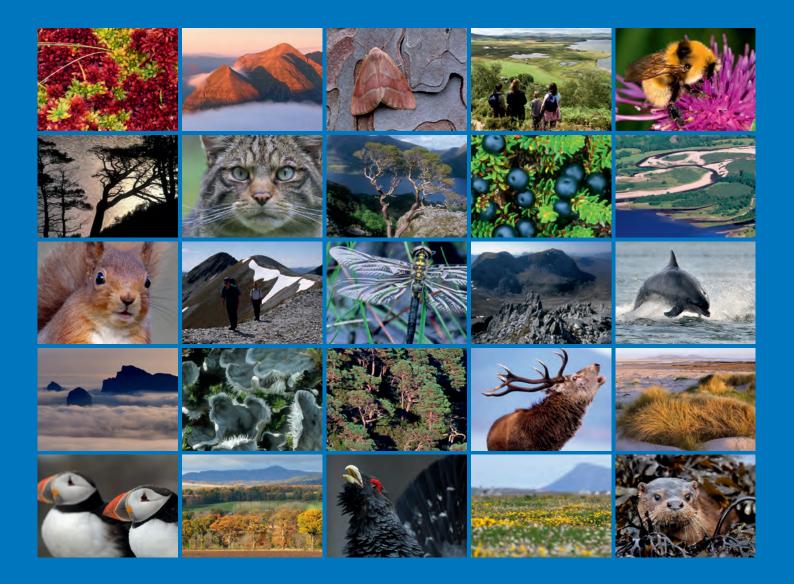
Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 711

## Report on the collation of field use data relating to wintering bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau







## COMMISSIONED REPORT

#### **Commissioned Report No. 711**

# Report on the collation of field use data relating to wintering bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau

For further information on this report please contact:

Neville Makan Scottish Natural Heritage Silvan House, 3rd Floor East 231 Corstorphine Road EDINBURGH EH12 7AT Telephone: 0131 3162600 E-mail: neville.makan@snh.gov.uk

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## COMMISSIONED REPORT 생승규 Summary

## Report on the collation of field use data relating to wintering bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau

#### Commissioned Report No.: 711 Project no: 14248 Contractor: BCM Environmental Services Limited Year of publication: 2014

#### Background

This report describes the results of a programme of work which was carried out to assemble all readily available data relating to the wintering flock of taiga bean goose, (*Anser fabalis fabalis*), on the Slamannan Plateau into one database resource and to make these data more widely available through the provision of a website.

#### Main activities and outputs

In addition to this report, the main activities and outputs of the project were the:

- Creation of a database that incorporates most of the existing bean goose count data into one place which will facilitate the carrying out of simple analyses; examples of such analyses are described in section 3. This work is ongoing as data from earlier winters may yet be added;
- Incorporation of location data now available from recent telemetry work into this database, (this is described in section 4). Again, similar data may be available in the future;
- Preparation of a database incorporating the details of the field characteristics of all of the fields on the Slamannan Plateau which will facilitate the carrying out of simple analyses; examples of initial analyses are described in section 5; and,
- Creation of a website to provide information about the Slamannan Plateau bean geese, (this is described in section 6). Again, this website will progressively be developed and improved.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations**

The report indicates how the aims of the project were approached, and also describes how additional outputs were also achieved. It also provides a series of recommendations for future work now that the database and website are in place.

For further information on this project contact: Neville Makan, Scottish Natural Heritage, Silvan House, 3rd Floor East, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT. Tel: 0131 3162600 or neville.makan@snh.gov.uk For further information on the SNH Research & Technical Support Programme contact: Knowledge & Information Unit, Scottish Natural Heritage, Great Glen House, Inverness, IV3 8NW. Tel: 01463 725000 or research@snh.gov.uk

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Thanks are due to Neville Makan for his help supporting and encouraging this work. In addition, although the contract for this project was awarded to BCM Environmental Services Limited, and as a consequence this report is identified as such, this was largely a logistical arrangement; the work involved in delivering this project has very much been a collaborative effort involving several people already actively involved with furthering the conservation and scientific investigation of the Slamannan Plateau bean geese. Finally, thanks are also due to the Bean Goose Action Group, who were also involved in supporting this work. For example, the members of the group assisted with reviewing the draft report, as did Richard Hearn of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT).



Frontispiece, Rainbow over Fannyside Muir, showing the pools area where the Slamannan Plateau Bean Geese frequently roost

This photograph provides an indication of the nature of the roost site at Fannyside Muir, which is an area of pools within a wide open expanse of raised bog covered by heathery vegetation, with distant views to stunted and planted coniferous trees. It is considered that this is of significance as the area looks and 'feels' very similar to taiga, the habitat with which taiga bean geese (*Anser fabalis fabalis*), are associated on the breeding grounds at the boreal latitudes of Scandinavia and Russia.

Although recent work on the Slamannan Plateau bean geese, including that described herein, is shedding new light on this important population of wintering geese, there is undoubtedly much more to be discovered.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction

Since at least the winter of 1989/1990 the population of taiga bean goose that winters on the Slamannan Plateau in Central Scotland has been the subject of a programme of routine monitoring each winter.

This monitoring has produced a wealth of data regarding the wintering ecology of the population.

This data has frequently proved very invaluable for the many purposes for which it has been used. For example, the monitoring data have been used to appraise discussions on threats to the bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau and advise the planning authorities and developers in relation to development proposals and to facilitate the preparation and implementation of the Bean Goose Action Plan, an important part of the Local Biodiversity Action Plans of both Falkirk and North Lanarkshire Councils, which can be accessed and reviewed at the following link:

#### http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=4872&p=0

Most notably, however, these data were used as the scientific basis for the notification of parts of the Plateau as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA); the boundaries of the designated site were devised on the basis of patterns of field usage by bean geese recorded during the period 2000/2001 – 2004/2005.

As a result, it has become increasingly important that all of these data should be made available in one comprehensive database rather than, for example, being solely available in tables in the appendices of a series of reports prepared for the Bean Goose Action Group (BGAG) dating back to 1994.

In turn, it was also realised that a database would provide a powerful tool which would enable any number of analyses of the data to be carried out.

This report describes how this work has now been achieved and gives examples of analyses that can be carried out. It also indicates how this database can be allied to the findings of the telemetry work involving the geese. The report also references the website that has been created to provide information about the Slamannan Plateau bean geese. Finally, it also provides an indication of some of the future work that could now be carried out.

#### **1.2 Projection conception**

The BGAG meets three times a year, and both formally during these meetings and informally on other occasions, members of the BGAG frequently discuss the ongoing purposes and uses of the monitoring work. Much of this discussion centres on the dynamic nature of the wintering bean goose population in terms of preferred feeding and roosting areas, possibly in relation to changes in land use and other issues on the Plateau.

Such discussions occurred during the BGAG meetings in January and June 2012 and as a consequence a proposal was prepared for SNH by Brian Minshull and Angus Maciver at the suggestion of Neville Makan. Concurrently, Carl Mitchell had been conducting some preliminary analysis of monitoring data from the past few winters which included preparing maps of the same. In addition, Carl Mitchell and Angus Maciver had been discussing relaunching the website the latter used to host regarding the Slamannan Plateau bean geese. Thus, all of these ideas came together at a similar time.

For the purposes of continuity some of the proposal which was prepared is replicated here.

#### 1.2.1 Original proposal

The following sub-section is largely based on the scope for the work which was outlined in the original proposal to SNH.

This noted that since the designation of the SSSI on the 9 March 2006 and the SPA on 9 October 2008, the patterns of field usage by bean geese appear to have, in part at least, changed.

It also noted that as more recent field count data were available, and as SNH regularly review nationally and internationally designated sites, it was considered that it might be appropriate to use more recent data sets to investigate and characterise this change. Further, it was envisaged that this would best be achieved using a Geographical Information System, (GIS), approach.

As part of this exercise, it was envisaged that a web-based application using the existing field numbering system,<sup>1</sup> would allow users to be able to call up pertinent data relating to bean goose usage of that field, but also other relevant data, (for example, field number, land use category and other sources of information relating to that field, (*e.g.*, where appropriate, Phase II Habitat Survey data)) should be devised and created (Figure 1.1).



Figure 1.1. An example of a web-based resource offering basic field information by clicking within individual field boundaries, as prepared in support of the proposal for this work.

Further, it was envisaged that the analysis would utilise all available data, *i.e.*:

1. Data gathered since designation of the SPA in 2008; and,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The adoption and evolution of the field numbering system is described in Section B.1.1 of Appendix B: Notes on the survey of the Slamannan Plateau bean goose fields in late winter 2012/2013.

2. Data gathered between the period 2000/2001 – 2004/2005 and designation of the SPA in 2008.

In addition, it was recognised that there was also the possibility of using count data for winters preceding winter 2000/2001.

It was also considered important that the data would be processed and stored in such a way that facilitates analysis winter by winter, for any given series of winters, or indeed, for parts of individual winters.

It was anticipated that such an approach would create the means to:

- Provide a scientific basis for an informed debate on how both the current designated site and also the wider Slamannan Plateau should, as appropriate, reflect any significant changes in field usage by the birds to ensure the ongoing conservation of bean geese using a combination of:
  - 1. Areas protected by national and international designations, (involving, in particular, semi-natural habitats used for loafing and roosting); and,
  - 2. Areas managed by farmers for their domestic stock but also for bean geese, encouraged by suitable management incentives.

It was also anticipated that it could also provide a means to:

- Appraise the analysis of data that may be available in the near future as a result of tracking individual bean geese using telemetry;
- Compare the designated site with patterns of preferred field usage in the most recent winters;
- Demonstrate changes from winter-to-winter and over periods of winters;
- Investigate any changes in field usage in hard winters such as those of 2009/2010 and 2010/2011;
- Illustrate areas on the Plateau where there may be a deficit of survey information;
- Investigate land use change / improve the recording of non-usage (as only use is currently recorded, resulting in fields not being used being 'ignored' / not characterised);
- Investigate the effect of intentional and unintentional disturbance / and land use change on distribution;
- Provide evidence relating to possible changes in roosting behaviour, *e.g.*, the use of Darnrig Moss SSSI in winter 2011/2012 with a view to strengthening protection of such areas, (for example, inclusion of bean geese as a qualifying feature within the SSSI citation);
- Investigate patterns of field usage by other geese species;
- Encourage better understanding of bean goose feeding requirements;

- Facilitate the photographic recording of land use and in particular, 'optimal' feeding and roosting areas; and,
- Facilitate the use of other technological aids for recording bean goose activity, (*e.g.*, palm held computers to record field usage, neck-collared birds, *etc.*).

#### **1.3 Definition of objectives**

The preceding sub-section outlined the potential purposes and uses of the proposed work. In order to achieve this, at the conceptual stage, various objectives for the proposed work were defined in the proposal. In principle, these were as follows (note, the precise wording of these has been slightly amended from that used in the original proposal, to better reflect the way in which the project evolved during implementation).

### Objective 1: Collate existing bean goose field count data from 2000/2001 to 20012/13, and other field data and develop a database to hold collated field data.

- 1. Collate existing bean goose field count data from the annual reports describing the monitoring work prepared for the BGAG;
- 2. Collate other field data (ownership, habitat, *etc*);
- 3. Clean data set and store in MS EXCEL; and,
- 4. Create a storage structure which allows interrogation of patterns of field usage by the Slamannan Plateau bean geese to be analysed in space and time.

### Objective 2: Undertake a survey of the fields on the Slamannan Plateau to determine their physical and agricultural characteristics.

- 1. Undertake a survey of the fields on the Slamannan Plateau to determine their physical (boundary type, extent of flooding, *etc.*) and agricultural (current crop types, extent of rushes, sward height, *etc.*) characteristics; and,
- 2. Incorporate the results of the field survey into the database.

## Objective 3: Develop an online web application that allows basic field data to be accessed.

1. Develop a web resource allowing online viewing of basic count and field data.

#### **Objective 4: Produce a written report giving details of data treatment and storage**

1. Produce a written report detailing data treatment and storage.

#### 1.4 **Project evolution**

As suggested, the situation regarding the wintering bean goose population on the Plateau is a dynamic one. Further, in the past two years or so, there has been an increase in the monitoring and other work being undertaken on the bean geese, most notably involving the capture of bean geese and marking individuals with telemetry devices.

Therefore, in response to this dynamic situation, during the current work, the scope of the project evolved somewhat. That said, what has been delivered meets the original plan of work; in summary, it is now considered that the work undertaken involved the following five elements:

- Collating all the existing bean goose count data into one database which will facilitate the carrying out of simple analyses, (*n.b.*, it is considered that this element of the work is ongoing as some of the data from the earlier winters may yet be added if it becomes available in a usable format);
- Incorporating data now available from the telemetry work, so that this can, for example, be used to illustrate more about current distribution patterns at a very fine scale;
- Recording and collating field characteristics into one database which will facilitate the carrying out of simple analyses, including correlations to elucidate the distribution of the geese;
- 4. Developing a website to provide information about the Slamannan Plateau bean geese, including summary information about counts, movements, *etc.*, and making available all reports as PDFs, *etc.*; and,
- 5. Providing a written report detailing the same.

#### 1.5 **Project implementation**

Although the contract for this work was formally awarded to BCM Environmental Services Limited, the work was jointly carried out by a team involving Carl Mitchell and Larry Griffin of WWT, Angus Maciver, the Bean Goose Monitoring Officer, and Brian Minshull, of BCM Environmental Services Limited. The initials CM, LG, AM and BM are used from here onwards to denote these individuals.

#### 2. AIMS OF THE PROJECT

In addition to the aims outlined in the preceding section, it is important to note that this project was more about unlocking and sharing the potential of the wealth of data generated over the years, as opposed to, at this stage, necessarily 'exploiting' this wealth. As such the outputs only give examples of what it is now possible to explore.

As such, the project deliverables may seem somewhat intangible, but, in summary, they are an invaluable asset for future research into this important wintering population of geese.

That said, it should also be noted that this report does include some of the findings of some initial analysis, both of the existing count data, but also of the newly available telemetry data.

The following sections of this report describe each of the aims outlined above, as follows:

- Section 3 describes collating existing bean goose count data into one database and gives examples of simple analyses;
- Section 4 outlines work done incorporating data now available from the telemetry work;
- Section 5 indicates what work was done recording and collating field characteristics into one database and gives examples of simple analyses; and,
- Section 6 discusses the creating of a website to provide information about the Slamannan Plateau bean geese, including summary information about counts, movements, *etc.*, and making available all reports as PDFs, *etc.*.

As appropriate, each section provides an outline of both methods and results.

#### 3. COUNTS OF BEAN GEESE ON THE SLAMANNAN PLATEAU

#### 3.1 Methods

Details of the goose count methodology and results have been obtained from summary data published in BGAG annual reports (*e.g.*, Maciver and Wilson 2013) and supplementary information provided by AM. Unless otherwise indicated, the data used for all analyses, as presented in the tables and figures below, are based on data presented in the BGAG annual reports for seasons 1997/1998 to 2012/2013 inclusive. As described more fully in Appendix B, since such monitoring commenced, a standard field numbering system has been used to identify the locations at which birds were recorded; Figures 3.1a and 3.1b illustrate the field numbering system.

#### 3.1.1 Standardised route count

A standardised route count was undertaken by four teams of observers in the winters of 1995/1996, 1996/1997 and 1997/1998 (one count each month, September to March). In the winter of 1998/1999 the route counts were undertaken by two or three teams (one count each month, October to February).

It was subsequently decided that monthly route counts should be discontinued as it was considered that the data gathered during field counts (see below) was sufficient to give a clear picture of the field usage by bean geese within the study area.

From the winter of 1999/2000 onwards, it was considered that the areas likely to hold geese could be monitored through the experience of the observers (as the geese tended to use similar areas year after year) and through direct observations of the geese leaving the roost at dawn.

Counts of geese recorded during the standardised route counts in 1995/1996 and 1996/1997 have not been included in this analysis. However, the date, count and location of bean geese recorded during the standardised route counts carried out in 1997/1998 and 1998/1999 have been included as field counts, (see field counts, below).

#### 3.1.2 Roost counts

Since the late 1980s, when the bean geese moved from the Carron Valley to the Slamannan Plateau area, the geese have primarily roosted on Loch Ellrig (NS8874), East and West Fannyside Lochs (NS8073) and Fannyside Muir (NS8074). Since the early 2000s, roosting has mostly occurred on the Fannyside Lochs and the nearby Fannyside Muir. However, during periods of frost and snow, the flock will often remain out in their feeding areas and may not return to roost.

Similarly, during periods when there is localised flooding, birds will sometimes choose to move from feeding areas to adjacent pools to roost rather than fly to the normal roost sites.

Roost counts have been carried out both in the morning as birds are leaving the roost sites and in the evening as birds are arriving back at the roost sites. The roost counts are often undertaken before or after field counts take place. At dusk, geese can sometimes arrive after dark, posing problems of identification and estimating numbers in flight. Arriving geese can do so in a series of flocks, and arriving birds may use different roost sites, for example, one flock may use one of the Fannyside Lochs, and another may use Fannyside Muir. As the arrival of geese can be staggered the counter may not be sure if all the geese have arrived to roost at any given time. During darkness movements can occur between the lochs and the muir (see also Smith *et al.* 1994).

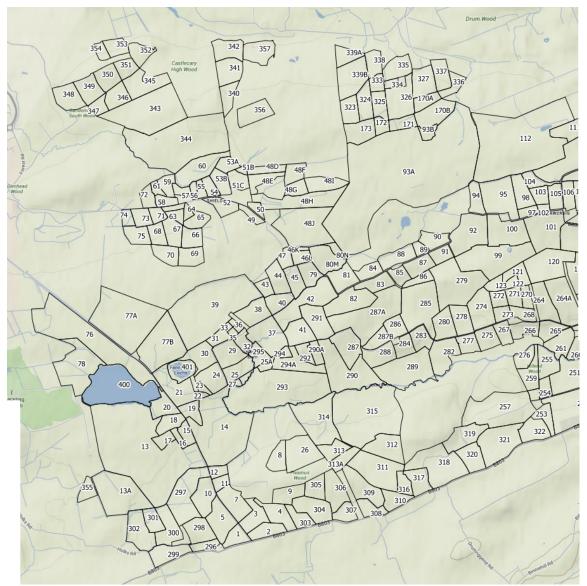


Figure 3.1a. Field numbering system showing fields in the western part of the Slamannan Plateau study area.

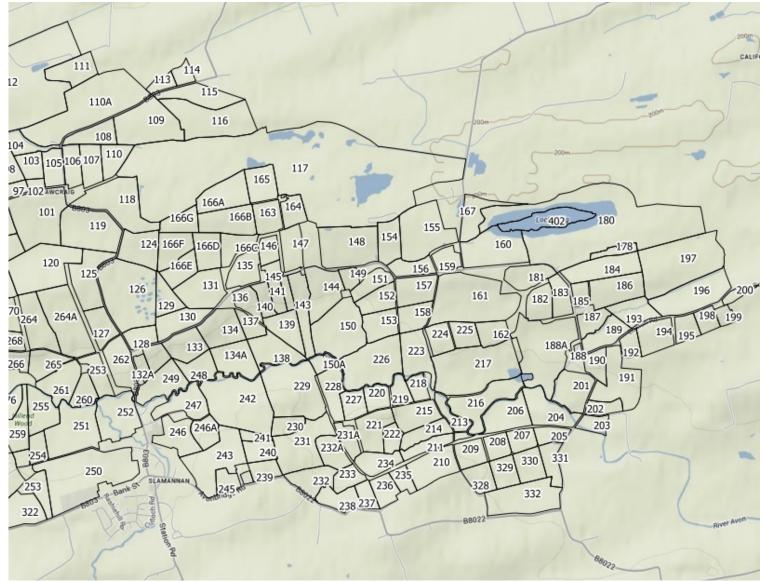


Figure 3.1b. Field numbering system showing fields in the eastern part of the Slamannan Plateau study area.

Roost counts can also be complicated by the presence of other geese at, or over, the roost sites, namely, pink-footed geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* and greylag geese *A. anser.* 

#### 3.1.3 Field counts

From winter 1997/1998 onwards, non-standardised monitoring of field use has provided information on the distribution and abundance of bean geese in the Slamannan Plateau area. The route driven has varied from time to time (the entire plateau was not visited during every visit) depending on what time the counter had available and where the geese were thought to be. Field counts tended to take between four and six hours. Observations were made at different times of the day; the time at the start of each count was always recorded. Often, morning field counts were made after watching (and counting) birds leaving the roost sites. Alternatively, field counts were made in the afternoon, before checking (and counting) geese flighting into roost at dusk. Duplicate counts could occur during field counts can be considered non-systematic (the same route was not followed and the same fields were not checked each day) many fields in the Slamannan Plateau were inevitably checked for geese, either whilst driving between flocks or during scans from vantage points to locate the feeding flocks. Whilst the positive records of flocks were always recorded, checked fields that contained no geese were not.

Fields / land units have been coded, the field codes largely following those used by Smith *et al.* (1994), (as described in Appendix B), although there have been recent modifications.

Since 1997/1998, any disturbance events that occurred during the time that the observer was counting the geese were recorded and, since 2005/2006, the habitat type of the field was recorded, as well as the number and type of any domestic stock in the fields.

The date, count and location of flocks recorded during the ten standardised route counts carried out in 1997/1998 and 1998/1999 have been included as field counts (see above).

A summary of the monitoring activities, as well as all raw data, have been provided in annual reports since winter 1997/1998 (*e.g.*, Maciver & Wilson 2013).

#### 3.1.4 Mapping the distribution of bean geese

Each of the 384 fields / land units was digitised and mapped using QGIS (QGIS 2013). The area of each field / land unit was determined (in ha). Count data for each field (see below) and field characteristics (see below) were then linked to the digitised fields / land units.

#### 3.2 Results

Between seasons 1997/1998 and 2012/2013, roost counts were undertaken on 312 days, standardised route counts on ten days and field counts on 1,050 days. On many occasions, field, standardised route and roost counts were carried out on the same day.

#### 3.2.1 Roost counts

Since winter 1997/1998, 470 roost counts were made on 312 days (including days when no geese were counted coming to roost); a mean of 29 counts each season (range: three in 1997/1998 to 111 in 2005/2006) (Figure 3.2).

Season 2005/2006 was exceptional due to extra roost counts being undertaken by ornithologists on behalf of Scotts UK Ltd., the company that had recently purchased Fannyside Muir (Maciver 2006).

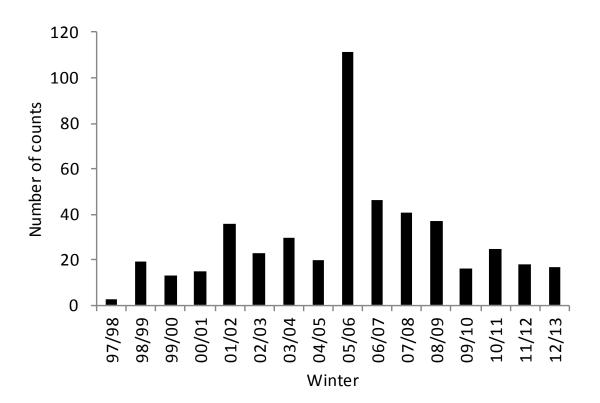


Figure 3.2. Number of roost counts of bean geese at the Slamannan Plateau, 1997/1998 to 2012/2013.

#### 3.2.2 Field counts

Since winter 1997/1998, 1,739 field counts (separate flocks of bean geese) were made; a mean of 109 counts each season (range: 56 in 2012/2013 to 190 in 2005/2006, Figure 3.3).

Field counts were made on 1,059 days; a mean of 66 days each winter (range: 40 in 2012/2013 to 99 in 2005/2006).

The geese habitually use the Luckenburn fields for the first few weeks after arrival each autumn. Subsequently, for the rest of the wintering period (approximately from November to February), the geese begin to use more fields and, in addition, due to the nature of the landscape, and the way in which the birds utilise it, the geese often disappear over contour lines and can therefore be hard to locate. The landscape of the Slamannan Plateau is one of rolling land mixed with forestry and woodland blocks. Locating the geese can prove time-consuming. Even compared to other goose species, the Slamannan Plateau bean geese are relatively shy, which often creates difficulties in locating feeding flocks.

During the 2000s, the birds were fairly consistent with their autumn arrival on the plateau and their association with the Luckenburn fields. The highest count of feeding birds, thought to represent the season maximum, was normally achieved early in the wintering period at this location, before the flock split up and started to use new areas. The number of new fields in which geese were seen increased from the start of the season to the end. The geese had been recorded in a mean of 16.9 fields in early December, but had been recorded in a mean of 32.5 fields by the end of February (see Mitchell 2010).

The main feeding areas of the bean geese have moved from east to west over the past ten years, however, eastern areas were still periodically checked when the observer counted pink-footed geese using this part of the plateau. Whilst no record was kept of the fields

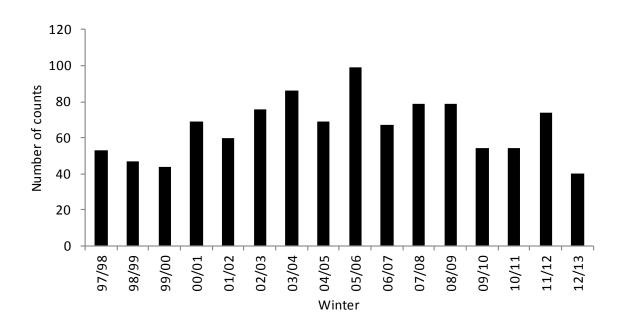


Figure 3.3. The number of days on which field counts of bean geese at the Slamannan Plateau were undertaken, 1997/1998 to 2012/2013.

checked that contained no bean geese, large parts of the Slamannan Plateau area were checked for feeding geese.

The mean number of fields in which the geese were recorded during the season was 23 (range 15 in 2010/2011 to 32 in 2007/2008, Figure 3.4).

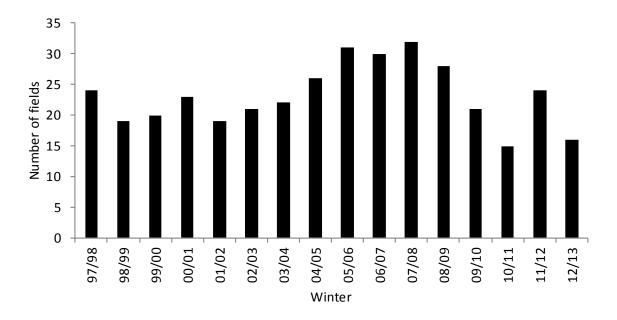


Figure 3.4. The number of different fields in which bean geese were recorded at the Slamannan Plateau, 1997/1998 to 2012/2013.

Overall, bean geese were recorded in 102 different fields (or approximately one quarter of the 384 coded fields / units). Certain fields were more important for bean geese than others (Table 3.1).

Thus, ten fields accounted for 63.9% of all goose use and 20 fields accounted for 78.7% of all goose use.

Field number	Percent of overall goose use, measured in goose days (%)
9	13.4
170	12.0
26	10.2
305	9.0
306	4.7
326	3.7
251	3.2
29	2.7
38	2.5
285B	2.5

Table 3.1. The ten fields in which bean geese were recorded most often on the Slamannan Plateau (expressed as a percent of overall goose use, measured in goose days).

#### 3.2.3 Mapping the distribution of bean geese

The generalised distribution of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau can be mapped either for the whole time period (1997/1998 to 2012/2013, Figure 3.5) or for different time periods, as required, for example for the five year period 1997/1998 to 2001/2002 (Figure 3.6) and 2008/2009 to 2012/2013 (Figure 3.7). In each instance distribution is expressed as the mean goose count for the time period involved. The boundary of the SPA is indicated in red.

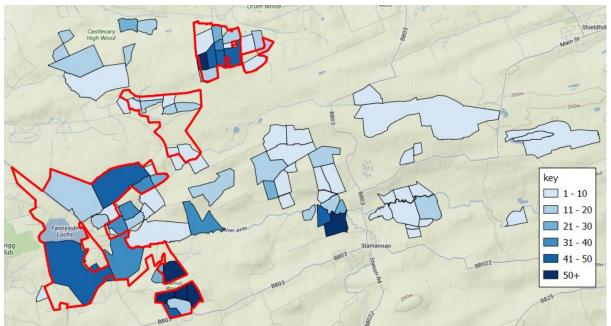


Figure 3.5. The distribution of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau, 1997/1998 to 2012/2013.

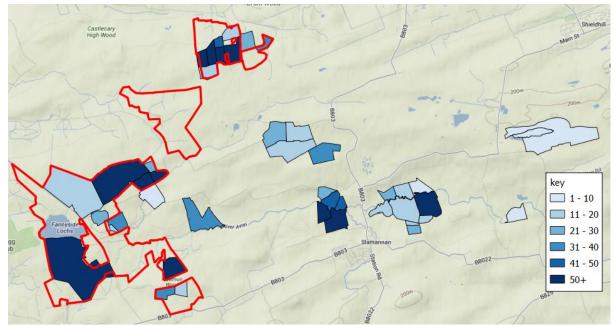


Figure 3.6. The distribution of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau, 1997/1998 to 2001/2002.

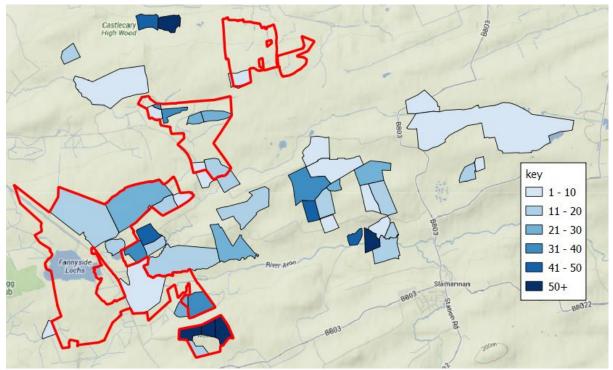


Figure 3.7. The distribution of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau, 2008/2009 to 2012/2013.

#### 4. TELEMETRY DATA OF BEAN GEESE MARKED ON THE SLAMANNAN PLATEAU

#### 4.1 Methods

Six bean geese were caught at Luckenburn Farm, Slamannan on 14 October 2012. Three adult males and one first-winter male were fitted with Global Positioning System (GPS) - Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) units attached to neck collars and two first winter birds were fitted with GPS-radio units attached to neck collars. After capture, sightings of collared birds were undertaken by AM, CM and LG and members of the public.

After capture, all six collared birds were seen on several occasions during the winter (mean six sightings, range three to ten). Two attempts to download data from the GPS-radio units were successful and captured full location data since fitting.

GPS / GSM tags send location data via the mobile phone network and these data are available a few hours after being sent. GPS / radio tags collect location data and store them. They can then transmit the data to a hand held receiver (yagi) periodically. All tags are solar powered but the GPS-GSM tags use more power communicating with the mobile phone masts than the GPS-radio loggers, hence the GPS-radio loggers can generally collect more GPS fixes under the same light conditions than the GSM enabled tags. Thus the GSM tags can generally collect 2-6 GPS fixes per day and sometimes less in mid-winter whereas the GPS-radio tags can collect 7-14 fixes per day and sometimes more. This trade-off needs to be balanced against the benefit of the GSM tags in tracking migration remotely.

Observation of the geese after the catch revealed that a family had been caught. An adult male (Tag 07) with three goslings: male gosling (Tag 16), female gosling (Tag 02) and male gosling (Tag 08). Two of these were fitted with GPS/GSM tags (Tag 07 and Tag 08) and two were fitted with a GPS / radio tags (Tag 02 and Tag 16). The family were expected to stay close to each other throughout the first winter, so it was expected locations would be similar for these four birds.

In late February 2013, all the bean geese, including the marked geese, left the Slamannan Plateau and the four birds marked with GPS-GSM units were recorded in Denmark.

Location data were collated in an EXCEL spreadsheet. It is impossible to determine from the location data of the four GPS-GSM units if the bird was feeding on the ground or in flight as the tags do not collect a speed or altitude measure whereas the GPS-radio tags do collect a speed measure and so it is possible to assess whether or not a bird is likely to have been in flight.

Before any analysis of field use is undertaken, the treatment of location data needs to be carefully considered. For example:

- a. The geese were caught on 14 October 2012, however, in order to allow the geese to settle down to a normal feeding pattern after marking, it is suggested that location data from 16 October onwards are used;
- b. When analysing field use, if two or more location points are gathered from the same field on the same day, only one registration for that field needs to be included in any analysis. That is, multiple locations points from the same field on the same day can be ignored;
- c. It was not possible to determine if location data from the GPS-GSM units related to geese on the ground or in flight. However, anecdotal evidence based on hundreds of hours of observation by AM and others, plus analysis of data from the GPS / radio tag (which did allow separation of ground versus flight data through accelerator

measurements) suggested that the bean geese spend the majority of the daytime feeding in fields. GPS / radio tag data from the two tagged bean geese suggested that a mean of 2.3% of the location records were of birds in flight. Thus, all location data from the GPS-GSM units can be included in the analyses, but it must be borne in mind that a very small fraction of the data refer to bird flying over fields; and,

d. When using data from the four tagged members of the family of bean geese (one adult male and three first winter birds), to avoid duplication, the location of only one individual needs to be included in any analysis, since the family unit stayed together throughout the winter.

#### 4.2 Results

Between marking the six bean geese (on 14 October 2012) and departure for the staging area in Denmark at the end of February 2013, the six birds did not leave the Slamannan Plateau. The mean number of telemetry locations for the bean geese marked with GPS-GSM units on the Slamannan Plateau was 450 (Table 4.1). The GPS/radio tags were set to gather location data at different rates and accumulated 1,659 and 646 location points (Table 4.2).

Tag	Age and sex	Tag type	Number of locations
07	Adult male	GPS-GSM	439
06	Adult male	GPS-GSM	609
03	Adult male	GPS-GSM	330
08	1 <sup>st</sup> winter male	GPS-GSM	420
02	1 <sup>st</sup> winter female	GPS/radio tag	1,659
16	1 <sup>st</sup> winter male	GPS/radio tag	646

Table 4.1. The number of geographic locations gathered by the six GPS tags fitted to bean geese during winter 2012/2013.

As an example, the fields in which the tagged birds were recorded during the day (06h00 to 18h00) was mapped, and this is shown in Figure 4.1. Again, this data is expressed as the total number of field visits by three independent tagged bean geese during winter 2012/2013 and the SPA boundary is shown in red.

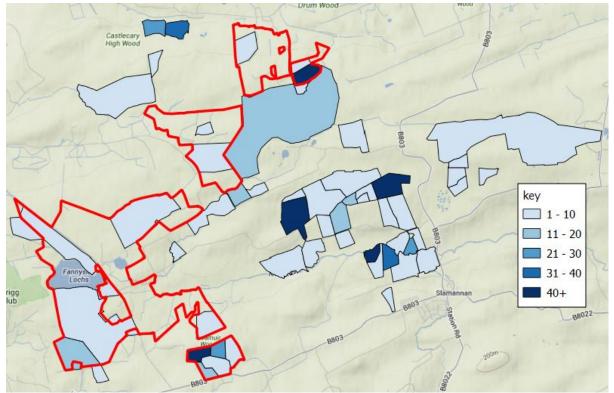


Figure 4.1. The daytime distribution of three tagged bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau (expressed as the total number of field visits by three independent tagged bean geese during winter 2012/2013). Daytime records from the main roosts, Fannyside Muir (Field 77) and the two Fannyside Lochs ('Fields' 400 and 401) are not shown.

#### 5. FIELD CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SLAMANNAN PLATEAU

#### 5.1 Methods

The following information was recorded or assessed for each of the 384 fields / land units during winter 2012/2013 (more details are given in Appendix B):

- Date of visit / field assessment;
- Observers involved;
- Field type (*e.g.*, bog / moor; old improved pasture (OIP); rough grassland (RG); recently improved pasture (RIP), *etc.*);
- Main grass colour (as a proxy for degree of improvement; *e.g.*, Brown, Yellow, Yellowy-Green, Greeny-Yellow, Green, Very Green);
- Sward length (Short (<5cm), Medium (5-15cm), Long (>15cm);
- Juncus rush cover (as a percentage of field);
- Temporary and permanent flooding / water-logging (as a percentage of field);
- Type of domestic grazing animal if present (type and number); and,
- Field boundary type (*e.g.*, post and wire fence, hedge, drystone dyke, *etc.*).

In addition, the grid reference of the centre of each field / land unit was subsequently confirmed. Central grid references can be used to source the Field Identifier Number and presence of agri-environment options. The distances in kilometres from the centre of the field to the middle of Fannyside Muir (the principal roost site) and to the nearest roads and buildings were then calculated (based on the central grid reference), using the GIS.

#### 5.2 Results

As a result of the data collected in winter 2012/2013 field characteristics can now also be mapped (Figure 5.1). Again the SPA boundary is shown in red.

The main reason for assessing the fields was to provide a picture of field characteristics (and other environmental correlates) and goose use. This study collated the information allowing future analyses to be carried out.

The type of fields in the study area comprised mostly old improved pasture (65.0%) followed by smaller percentages of other field types (Table 5.1). The preferences of bean geese to certain field types can be investigated by comparing the proportion of bean geese observed foraging in particular field types with the proportion of a given field type in the study area (Jacobs 1974). In each of the analyses presented here the field type was assessed in winter 2012/2013 and the number of geese in each field was based on mean winter peak count for the period 1997/1998 to 2012/2013. The index used in each instance ranges from -1 (complete avoidance) to +1 (exclusive use).

The bean geese showed a preference for boggy fields (although these formed a very small proportion of the field type available, Table 5.1) and tended to avoid certain rough grassland fields (Figure 5.2).

Field characteristic	Field characteristic	Habitat available in study area	Use fields bean geese <sup>1</sup>	of by
Field type	Old improved pasture (OIP)	65.0%	60.9%	
	Recently improved pasture (RIP)	17.3%	21.9%	
	Rough grassland (RG)	7.9%	2.8%	
	Rough grassland/Old improved pasture (RG/OIP)	3.9%	5.5%	
	Other combination	3.6%	5.4%	
	Bog	2.1%	3.5%	
Sward length	Long	17.1%	19.6%	
	Medium	12.3%	9.7%	
	Short	70.6%	70.7%	
Sward colour	Brown	3.3%	3.3%	
	Yellow	11.5%	37.1%	
	Yellow/Green	73.8%	54.1%	
	Green	11.5%	5.5%	

Table 5.1. Summary results of the field characteristics assessments carried out for fields in the Slamannan Plateau study area.

<sup>1</sup> Calculated as the mean number of geese counted in a particular field based on counts conducted between 1997/1998 and 2012/2013

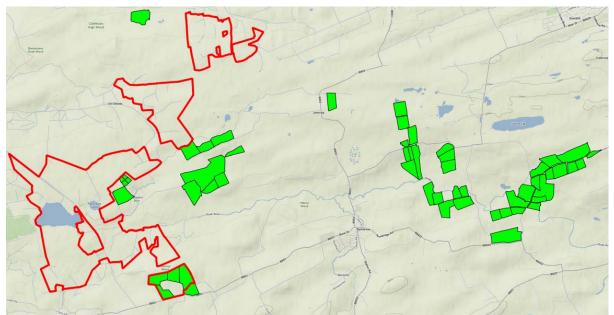


Figure 5.1. The distribution of recently improved grassland fields on the Slamannan Plateau during winter 2012/2013.

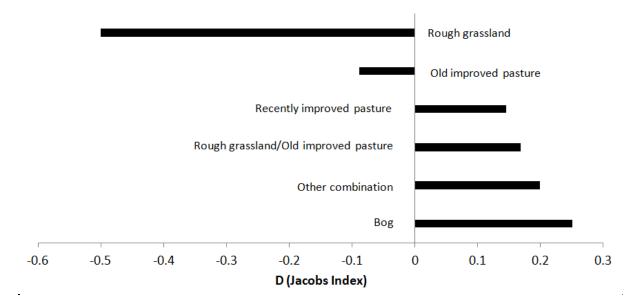


Figure 5.2. Field type preferences of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau expressed by Jacobs Index (D).

Bean geese tended to prefer fields with a yellow sward and avoided those with a green sward (Figure 5.3) and they also preferred long swards to medium length swards (Figure 5.4).

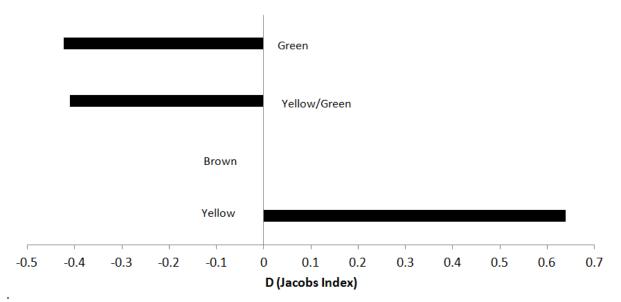


Figure 5.3. Field sward colour preferences of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau expressed by Jacobs Index (D).

It was also possible to compare the field boundary types of those fields that held geese (at any time) with those fields that never held geese. The geese tended to choose fields with a post and wire fence or water course boundary more often than those with a road, farm buildings or drystone dyke field boundary (Figure 5.5).

Care should be taken when interpreting these early results; geographical features, such as proximity to the night time roost, proximity of fields to roads, buildings, woodlands, *etc.*, need to be taken into account before any conclusions about the habitat preferences of bean

geese on the Slamannan Plateau can be made. However, the data has been collected and collated and detailed GIS analysis now can be carried out.

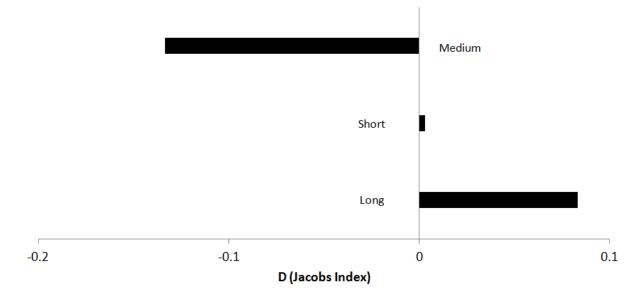


Figure 5.4. Field sward length preferences of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau expressed by Jacobs Index (D).

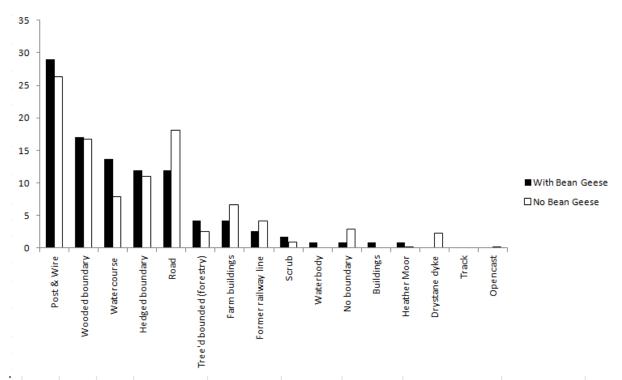


Figure 5.5. Proportion of field boundary types of fields that either held bean geese or held no bean geese.

#### 6. DEVELOPMENT OF A WEBSITE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SLAMANNAN BEAN GEESE AND THE COLLATION OF INFORMATION FOR THIS PROJECT

A website was developed and has been made publically available. It currently includes information about the Slamannan bean geese under the following topic headings:

- Introduction;
- Winter ecology;
- Winter counts and phenology (which includes summary information on all the bean goose counts mentioned above);
- Feeding distribution (which includes access to a web-based map showing the current core feeding areas);
- Migration and breeding quarters;
- Ringing and sightings; and,
- Downloads (which includes links to downloadable versions of all of the annual reports on the bean goose prepared on behalf of the BGAG).

The website can be viewed at:

http://scotlandsbeangeese.wikispaces.com/

The website is a 'live' facility which will continue to develop over time; many ideas for further improvements are currently in preparation or under consideration.

#### 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 7.1 Conclusions

This report constitutes the 'written report' element of a wide ranging project aimed at unlocking and sharing the potential of the wealth of data generated by ongoing monitoring of the Slamannan Plateau bean geese that has been undertaken each winter since at least 1989/1990.

In recent years there has been a spate of activity involving work on the Slamannan Plateau bean geese, and this has resulted in this project evolving to reflect some of the data that have recently become available as a result, most notably those which were available as a result of the initial findings of the telemetry work.

Further, the creation of the databases involved, and the dissemination of this work using website facilities has created the potential for many of the wider aims outlined in Section 1 of this report to now be investigated. Equally, it has afforded the prospect for as yet undefined aims to also be examined; as noted, the situation is a dynamic one and it may well be that in the near future new questions are raised that haven't even been considered at the time of writing. For example, it may be that the continuing amelioration of the climate may cause a gradual retreat of the bean geese to other wintering areas away from the Slamannan Plateau.

Considering each of the aims of this project in turn, it can be stated that:

- A database has now been created which incorporates virtually all of the existing bean goose count data into one place, rather than in many separate reports, which will facilitate the carrying out of simple analyses; examples of such initial analyses are described in Section 3. As has been noted however, it is considered that this element of the work is ongoing as some of the data from the earlier winters may yet be added if it becomes available in a usable format;
- 2. Data now available from the telemetry work has also been incorporated into this database, so that this can, for example, be used to illustrate more about current distribution patterns at a very fine scale (this is described in Section 4). Again, dependant on the ongoing success of the telemetry work, both in terms of the continuing functionality of the tags already deployed, and resulting from the successful use of further such tags, more and more such data should be available;
- 3. A database incorporating the details of the field characteristics of all of the fields on the Slamannan Plateau has been assembled which will facilitate the carrying out of simple analyses, including correlations to help determine the distribution of the geese; again, examples of such initial analysis are described in Section 5; and,
- 4. A website has been created to highlight information about the Slamannan Plateau bean geese, including summary information about counts, movements, *etc.* and making available all reports as PDFs, *etc.* (this is described in Section 6). This website is updatable and will progressively be added to and improved.

As suggested, the initial analyses that were conducted as part of this project give examples of the potential for future research that has now been unlocked by the creation of the database and website. As such, the following sub-section re-assesses the initial ideas about what could be achieved with such a resource and provides a series of recommendations in relation to this.

#### 7.2 Recommendations

Certainly, some of these uses could now readily be further explored as a result of the creation of the database and website.

The creation of a database of counts, telemetry data and field information will allow the scientific basis for assessing past and current field use of bean geese on the Slamannan Plateau and explore the areas of interest outlined in Section 1.

For example, each winter new monitoring data will become available, and this should be added to the database as soon as it is available so that the database is always up-to-date. Similarly, after each winter, new monitoring reports will be produced, and again, these should be made available on the website as soon as possible.

In addition, the website could become a repository for BGAG meeting notes, *etc.*, and could include links to the North Lanarkshire / Falkirk LBAP for Bean Geese, *etc.*.

More specifically, it is recommended that the BGAG decide which of the preceding list of uses are priorities, (and also identify any other such priorities) and produce a list of intended actions utilising the new resources described herein.

Further, other recommendations include:

- Adding details of all designations with the database, *i.e.*, in addition to the Slamannan Plateau SSSI / SPA, West Fannyside Moss SSSI / Special Area of Conservation and Darnrigg Moss SSSI;
- 2. Conducting investigations of grass species composition of favoured fields;
- 3. Adding all areas involved in agricultural / environmental payment schemes such as the Natural Care Scheme, *etc.*, aimed at improving these areas for bean geese and researching the success of these schemes in terms of usage patterns whilst funding for management was in place, and when not. For example, the agri-environmental scheme at Garbethill Muir could be audited; and,
- 4. Devising all future monitoring efforts, including any roost counts and ageing assessments conducted on behalf of SNH, as well as the field and roost counts conducted on behalf of the BGAG, so that it is more precisely targeted at specific 'gaps' in the knowledge base or the purposes of, for example, Site Condition Monitoring.

Finally, such work inevitably has costs associated with it; as such it is recommended that SNH make appropriate funding available to undertake these tasks, as necessary. That said, as indicated, this project will undoubtedly allow the careful targeting of scarce resources to ensure what is delivered maximises what is achieved in terms of successful nature conservation.

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#### APPENDIX A: TABLES OF SUMMARY RAW DATA

Table A.1. Maximum winter counts for the 102 fields on the Slamannan Plateau in which bean geese were recorded between 1997/1998 and 2012/2013. Sorted on five year mean (2008/2009 to 2012/2013).

Field No.	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	5 Year Mean	Max (ever)
9	0	0	0	0	188	229	235	262	262	231	300	207	260	267	233	215	236	300
305	0	0	0	0	90	232	235	262	178	213	248	265	248	171	156	208	210	265
306	0	0	0	0	0	232	224	196	268	195	0	94	133	109	109	89	107	268
285B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	239	162	120	104	239
255	155	168	180	0	22	3	0	4	0	100	0	77	38	23	174	140	90	180
29	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	0	62	76	130	186	157	10	0	0	71	186
357	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	93	29	130	91	69	130
48E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	131	200	140	0	0	0	68	200
276	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174	146	64	174
278	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	7	15	152	0	0	68	0	160	80	62	160
279	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	0	68	208	0	0	55	208
8	0	0	0	0	0	231	203	6	70	113	90	200	50	0	0	0	50	231
342	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	111	40	80	18	60	0	46	115	48	115
26	0	73	180	181	192	231	235	262	160	255	160	66	30	118	0	0	43	262
51B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	40	200
123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	150	39	150
287A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	100	0	0	0	0	192	0	38	192
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	146	180	0	0	0	0	36	180
24	150	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	160	170	170	0	0	0	0	34	170
39	150	80	182	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170	0	0	0	0	34	182
80M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	167	0	0	0	0	33	167
274	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	153	0	31	153
120	62	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	0	103	30	108
166	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	70	30	78

Field No.	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	5 Year Mean	Max (ever)
290	0	0	96	76	0	80	0	200	0	0	0	0	62	34	51	0	29	200
92	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	144	0	29	147
81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136	0	0	27	136
93	32	0	103	0	0	0	0	0	200	180	7	0	80	50	0	0	26	200
48G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	174	26	90	0	14	0	26	174
293	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86	0	0	43	0	26	86
251	100	168	167	182	77	95	59	0	9	163	0	0	21	0	107	0	26	182
481	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	120	0	0	24	120
38	152	168	188	183	0	0	0	0	130	77	100	89	25	0	0	0	23	188
264A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	0	0	0	22	112
77	0	0	0	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	20	170
401	0	0	103	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	0	18	103
303	0	0	0	0	0	0	235	197	178	0	196	84	0	0	0	0	17	235
260	113	116	0	0	20	0	37	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	51	0	17	116
135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	54	16	54
51C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	71	0	0	0	0	14	80
346	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112	31	67	60	0	0	0	0	12	112
46L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	10	48
261	112	168	0	16	12	4	0	6	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	7	9	168
117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	9	45
275	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	9	43
40	120	168	182	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	8	182
173	0	0	0	0	102	18	40	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	8	109
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	210	196	0	210	189	0	0	38	0	0	8	210
99	152	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	26	0	8	152
355	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	7	33
264	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	5	26
344	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	101	62	23	0	0	0	0	5	101

Field No.	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	5 Year Mean	Max (ever)
79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	4	18
146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	3	17
109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	8	0	0	0	0	2	8
13	100	0	0	169	190	0	230	94	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	230
23	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
37	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
43	0	0	0	86	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86
46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
48	150	168	160	182	77	231	235	180	71	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	235
51	0	0	0	182	0	231	0	0	0	98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	231
53	0	0	0	0	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63
80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	170	105	169	0	0	0	0	0	0	170
100	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112
138	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
170	152	168	188	183	192	232	235	100	268	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	268
180	6	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
206	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
229	91	76	10	183	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	183
230	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
240	153	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	153
241	0	0	64	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
242	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	79
247	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120
248	0	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105
265	0	0	139	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	139
295	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
304	0	0	0	0	0	0	231	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	231

Field No.	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	5 Year Mean	Max (ever)
323	0	168	160	182	192	0	0	262	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	262
324	0	161	150	182	0	231	64	18	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	231
325	0	70	48	180	126	231	74	60	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	231
326	0	30	31	182	180	232	235	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	235
327	0	138	0	8	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
333	0	0	36	183	0	0	0	200	100	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
334	0	0	0	0	0	0	235	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	235
335	0	0	0	0	80	0	100	2	30	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
336	0	0	0	180	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
337	0	0	0	0	0	231	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	231
338	0	0	0	0	0	180	0	200	140	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
339	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	150	160	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160
340	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	52	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	120
343	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	73	160	0	0	0	0	0	0	160
351	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170
402	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
134A	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69
170B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	138	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
339B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170	0	0	0	0	0	0	170
48D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	130
48F	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
53B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	64

						[				Bo	oundar	y type								]									
Field number	Grid reference	Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
48J 83 77 39 76 294A 60 78 347 356 53A 40 48G 123 58 240A 272 273 277 280 283 292	NS821752 NS829745 NS802741 NS810743 NS797740 NS820736 NS795736 NS795736 NS798765 NS816764 NS813758 NS818743 NS820756 NS842744 NS806755 NS863730 NS842743 NS843741 NS841739 NS836740 NS834739 NS821737	2140 2570 0 721 707 1627 1992 948 2668 2773 2102 1456 2334 3832 1612 5968 3820 3905 3700 3201 3000 1711	$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\ 0\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\$	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B	Long Long Long Long Long Long Long Long		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0			0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0										
329 330 33 34 35	NS882730 NS884731 NS812740 NS813741 NS813740	7851 8039 806 921 905	0 0 0 0	0 0 1 1 1	0 0 0 0	1 1 0 0	YG YG YG YG YG	Short Short Short Short Short	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0						

#### Table A.2. Field characteristics of the fields surveyed on the Slamannan Plateau.

					[				Bo	oundar	y type								]									
Field number	Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
36         NS81374           84         NS82874           88         NS83274           139         NS86674           342         NS81377           275         NS84177           62         NS80774           51B         NS84177           52         NS80874           24         NS80874           256         NS80974           56         NS80974           57         NS80874           481         NS823774           312         NS820774           150         NS87074           295         NS81677           25A         NS81677           268         NS84574           270         NS84574           270         NS84574           355         NS80077           355         NS80077           366         NS83274           355         NS80077           366         NS834574           270         NS84574           355         NS80077           366         NS83474           274         NS84074           18         NS80573	6       2500         8       2941         1       6203         1       3324         8       3701         4       1529         8       2147         5       721         7       6152         1       3405         6       1772         6       1746         6       2549         7       1414         7       2773         8       2107         1       6603         8       1104         6       1236         5       1077         1       4104         3       31649         5       3059         2       3612	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	000001000101100000011000000011000	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	YO G G G G A Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y B Y Y Y Y Y Y Y G G G G	Short Short Short Short Short Short Short Short Short Long Medium Medium Short Long Medium Medium Short	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 5 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 1$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0			0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0											

						[				Bo	oundar	y type								]									
Field number	Grid reference	Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
271         NS84           288         NS82           81         NS82           282         NS83           293         NS81           291         NS82           265         NS84           290         NS82           17         NS80           85         NS83           32         NS81           267         NS84           213         NS87           48E         NS81           31         NS81           353         NS80           354         NS80           355         NS81           290A         NS82           348         NS79           350         NS79           352         NS80	3737         2           3746         2           3737         3           2738         2           3737         3           2738         2           3734         1           2741         1           3739         4           3735         2           3738         1           3735         7           3738         3           3735         7           3738         3           3735         7           7756         2           77723         3           3755         2           7772         3           3755         1           37761         2           27770         3           3756         1           37766         1           37766         2           37767         1           37766         2           37767         3	4019 2507 2213 3206 2801 1392 1811 4400 2137 1104 2789 1004 33900 7410 2140 7700 1780 3162 2600 3313 2220 3166 1838 1802 1831 2220 3106 1838 1802 2846 2846 2846 2846 2961	$\begin{array}{c} 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ $	0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	YGG 3G 3	Short Short Medium Medium Short	$\begin{array}{c} 30\\ 30\\ 40\\ 40\\ 40\\ 40\\ 40\\ 40\\ 50\\ 50\\ 50\\ 50\\ 50\\ 50\\ 50\\ 50\\ 50\\ 60\\ 60\\ 60\\ 60\\ 60\\ 60\\ 60\\ 60\\ 60\\ 6$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0			0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0										

					[				Bo	oundar	y type								]									
Field number	Grid reference Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
37         NS8167           23         NS8097           43         NS8167           38         NS8157           22         NS8097           266         NS8457           48H north         NS8247           48H south         NS8137           44         NS8137           340         NS8137           340         NS8137           341         NS8137           90         NS8367           30         NS8097           52         NS817           121         NS8447           46L         NS8217           47         NS8197           296         NS8097           26         NS8207           27         NS8137           80N         NS8257           19         NS8087           27         NS8137           80N         NS8247           21         NS8077           21         NS8077           21         NS8077	34         707           34         707           45         1341           42         1140           33         781           39         4100           58         2758           54         2267           48         2102           56         2846           56         2846           56         3132           449         3352           337         538           54         1700           46         4455           45         4044           18         1923           48         1749           16         2353           27         2000           43         2137           31         894           34         1029           49         2236           34         538	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0	$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ $	YG G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	Medium Medium Medium Medium Short Sh	70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 90 90 90 90 90 90 90	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 $		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0										

					[				Bo	oundar	y type								]									
Field number Grid reference	Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
41         NS82074           53B         NS81275           29         NS81273           48D         NS81273           46K         NS82074           25         NS81373           87         NS83474           357         NS83474           357         NS81777           354         NS79977           91         NS84075           45         NS82074           42         NS82074           43         NS81777           354         NS79977           91         NS84075           45         NS82074           42         NS82776           334         NS83276           335         NS83276           336         NS83276           336         NS83276           336         NS83276           325         NS83076           326         NS8276           327         NS83076           327         NS83576           337         NS83576           337         NS83576           338         NS83077	1969         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         824         826         948         3104         3453         3238         3794         5         6         3794         5         7         3889         4103         7         3801         2         3324         5         3687         3801         2         3801         3471         3801         3471         3801         34318         4244	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	001000100000000000000000000000000000000	000110000000000000000000000000000000000	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	YG G Y Y Y G G G G G Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Short Short Long Short Short Short Short Short Short Short Short Short Short Short	90 90 95 100 20 0 70 1 80 90 20 60 60 60 70	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 9 12 14 15 19 50 62	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0										

				[				Bo	oundar	y type								]									
Field number	Grid reference Distance to Fannyside Muir	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
170A         NS8357           202         NS8907           98         NS8457           276         NS8457           223         NS8767           143         NS8687           226         NS8737           134A         NS8687           134A         NS8007           248         NS8597           232         NS8687           255         NS8477           152         NS8787           190         NS8897           345         NS8047           154         NS8747           9         NS8187           259         NS8467           264A         NS807           240         NS8647           166D         NS8637           182         NS8657           166C         NS8657           166C         NS8657           166A         NS8627	35         8609           54         4365           36         4110           39         7200           42         6407           38         6900           39         5800           22         2549           23         1649           38         5500           30         6462           36         4310           43         6917           46         7433           38         8500           58         2900           48         7057           22         2202           34         4617           32         6040           547         5656           5510         43           43         8109           48         5869	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1$	29999999999999999999999999999999999999	Short Short Short Short Long Short Long Short Long Short Long Short Long Short Long Short	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 30 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 $	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		$\begin{array}{c} 10\\ 0\\ 0\\ 70\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\$	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		

					[				Bo	oundai	y type								]									
Field number	Grid reference Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
166B         NS8627           305         NS8217           285A         NS8347           230         NS8667           166F         NS8587           129         NS8587           222         NS8747           197         NS8967           163         NS8657           153         NS8737           188         NS8877           304         NS8257           251         NS8507           263         NS8477           214         NS8507           249         NS8577           94         NS8767           157         NS8767           157         NS8767           141         NS8677           155         NS8767           157         NS8767           157         NS8767           157         NS8767           141         NS8677           155         NS8767           147         NS8677           156         NS8677           157         NS8677           156         NS8677           157         NS8677           157         NS8677	22         2404           43         3026           34         6220           48         5474           44         5423           33         7025           50         6198           41         6902           39         8400           27         3984           30         7752           20         2831           33         6328           29         1220           37         5303           54         3900           43         8309           46         7233           44         7217           44         6220           48         6363           52         6236	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	000001000010000100000000000000000000000	$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\ 0\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 0\\ 0\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 0\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 1 \end{array} $	YG G G G Y G G G G Y G G G Y G G G Y G G G Y G G G Y G G G Y G G Y G G Y G G Y G G Y G G Y G G Y Y G G Y G G Y Y G G Y Y G G Y G G Y Y G G Y G G Y Y G G Y G G Y Y G G Y G G Y Y G G Y G G Y Y G G Y G Y Y G G Y G Y Y G G Y G Y Y G G Y G Y Y G G Y Y G Y Y G Y Y G Y Y G Y Y Y G Y Y Y G Y Y Y G Y Y Y Y G Y Y Y Y Y G Y	Short Short	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 50 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 60 \\ 1 \\ 90 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ $	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		$\begin{array}{c} 30\\ 50\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 54\\ 0\\ 0\\ 21\\ 0\\ 21\\ 24\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 30\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0$	0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0$		$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0			0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

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245       NS         92       NS         239       NS         161       NS         264       NS         120       NS         120       NS         119       NS         194       NS         215       NS         285B       NS         110A       NS         184       NS         193       NS         195       NS         97       NS         101       NS         287       NS         287       NS         130       NS         131       NS	S807729 S861730 S836748 S864731 S80743 S847742 S859740 S859740 S852749 S894740 S876735 S885745 S885745 S844754 S834741 S852759 S866755 S890740 S893740 S893740 S893740 S893740 S895748 S846753 S848750 S855748 S825738 S847733 S858742 S850744 S829739	1044 5770 3324 6053 7610 4310 5500 4356 4903 9000 7211 8122 4272 3006 5200 6403 8620 8600 8900 9202 4427 4535 5178 2102 4341 5408 5622 2500	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 $	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0$	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y Y	Long Medium Short	50 70 90 100 0 40 0 0 40 10 70 30 0 0 40 50 50 0 1 10	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 10 30 40 100 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	$\begin{array}{c}1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\0\\0\\0\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 $	$\begin{array}{c}1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0$		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0			$\begin{array}{c}1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\$		0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0					

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Field number	Grid reference Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
99         NS8422           126         NS8557           178         NS8917           206         NS8337           234         NS8737           229         NS8677           150A         NS8657           208         NS827           231         NS8717           233         NS8707           137         NS8647           207         NS8847           232A         NS8677           137         NS8647           207         NS8847           232A         NS8677           180         NS8887           13         NS8027           235         NS8757           203         NS8897           136         NS8837           231A         NS8717           205         NS8667           257         NS8427           332         NS8497           105         NS8497           252         NS8497           252         NS8497           252         NS8497           252         NS8497           252         NS8497           252         NS8597     <	45         5135           46         8728           34         7915           31         6946           37         6303           39         6500           40         6100           32         7831           33         6726           30         6661           42         6007           32         8030           32         6537           50         7778           33         6726           33         821           43         5913           33         6726           33         821           43         5913           33         8221           43         5913           33         8221           43         5913           33         8221           33         8221           33         8221           33         8233           33         8243           33         8243           34         3883           35         4916	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\1\\1\\1\\0\\0\\1\\1\\1\\0\\0\\1\\1\\0\\1\\0\\1\\1\\0\\1$	YG Y Y Y Y G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	Short Short Long Short Medium Short	$\begin{array}{c} 70\\ 80\\ 100\\ 2\\ 60\\ 60\\ 90\\ 95\\ 0\\ 0\\ 5\\ 10\\ 0\\ 5\\ 40\\ 100\\ 80\\ 0\\ 0\\ 5\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 5\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 5\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0$	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 25 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 25 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ $	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c}1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\1\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1\\1$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0						

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322         NS846724           132A         NS855733           145         NS865744           199         NS900742           250         NS852733           164         NS865744           109         NS900742           250         NS852733           164         NS863744           107         NS863744           107         NS863744           107         NS863744           108         NS861742           100         NS892733           134         NS861742           187         NS848753           100         NS843754           1010         NS843754           132         NS856744           286         NS831744           286         NS851733           253         NS855743           260         NS851733           253         NS852733           191         NS891733           256         NS846733           261         NS80723           261         NS80723           246         NS858733           246         NS861733           246         NS861733 <td>9       5100         6       6140         2       9604         4866       6395         6       6140         2       9604         4866       6395         6       5941         4       5028         9608       9608         9       8800         2       5707         8502       5741         3       4617         0       5200         0       2701         5103       4704         3       4801         7       8702         2       4257         3       1118         4       5423         2       5742         4       8714</td> <td></td> <td>001001011100000100010000000000000000000</td> <td>000010000100000000000000000000000000000</td> <td><math display="block"> \begin{array}{c} 1\\ 1\\ 0\\ 1\\ 0\\ 0\\ 1\\ 1\\ 0\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\</math></td> <td>0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0</td> <td>Short Short</td> <td><math display="block">\begin{array}{c} 40\\ 0\\ 0\\ 5\\ 40\\ 60\\ 0\\ 20\\ 50\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0</math></td> <td>0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0</td> <td></td> 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Field number	Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
155         NS8767           109         NS8567           110         NS8537           201         NS8837           201         NS8777           219         NS8777           219         NS8777           218         NS8767           144         NS8667           142         NS8667           225         NS8807           104         NS8477           217         NS8477           216         NS88177           216         NS88177           216         NS88177           217         NS88177           218         NS8677           217         NS88177           216         NS88177           224         NS88677           215         NS87377           216         NS88177           217         NS87377           218         NS8677           214         NS8677           215         NS87377	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$		000101100100000010000000000000000000000	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Y G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G G	Long Short Short Short Short Short Medium Short Short Medium Long Medium Medium Long Short Short Long Short Short Short Short Medium	$\begin{array}{c} 0\\ 70\\ 20\\ 0\\ 10\\ 0\\ 60\\ 1\\ 90\\ 0\\ 0\\ 80\\ 80\\ 70\\ 1\\ 0\\ 10\\ 50\\ 0\\ 0\\ 15\\ 0\\ 0\\ 15\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 15\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 15\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\ 0\\$	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 35 9 40 0 0 26 0 100 0 0 100 0 0 100 0 0 100 0 0 16 0 0 0 40	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 $	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\$	0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1$	0 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 $	$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 $	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	$\begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\$	$ \begin{array}{c} 1\\1\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0\\0$	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	

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Field number	Grid reference	Distance to Fannyside Muir	Bog	Recently improved pasture	Rough grassland	Old improved pasture	Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus cover (%)	Flooding (temporary water)	Flooding (permanent water)	Stock (Sheep)	Stock (Horses and ponies)	Post & Wire	Hedged boundary	Tree'd bounded (forestry)	Wooded boundary	Drystane dyke	Watercourse	Waterbody	Former railway line	Road	Track	No boundary	Scrub	Farm buildings	Buildings	Heather Moor	Opencast
319	NS838728	3573	0	0	0	1	G	Short	80	0	0	50	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
158	NS876742	7206	0	1	0	0	G	Short	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
125	NS851745 NS852742	4825	0	1	0	0	YG YG	Short	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
127 160		4955	1	1	1	0		Short	90	0	0	0	0 0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0 0	1	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	1
188A	NS882747 NS888739	8010 8380	0	0	1	0 0	B G	Short Short	0 30	0 0	0 0	0 10	0	1	0	0	0 0	0 0	0	0	0	1	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0
262	NS854739	5150	0	1	0	0	YG	Short	30 40	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Notes: The total number of fields detailed in this table is less than the overall number of 384 as those fields which are now in forestry, or have otherwise been, in effect, lost to the geese because of development, *etc.*, have been discounted from the analysis. Some 44 fields are now in forestry and, further, fields 8 and 59 are now partially in forestry, (although included herein). 'Fields' 400 (West Fannyside Loch), 401 (East Fannyside Loch), 402 (Loch Elrig), 403 (Carron Valley), are actually water-bodies and as such aren't included here.

# APPENDIX B: NOTES ON THE SURVEY OF THE SLAMANNAN PLATEAU BEAN GOOSE FIELDS IN LATE WINTER 2012-2013

These notes describe the approach used during the survey of the Slamannan Plateau bean goose fields that was completed during late winter 2012/2013.

They include an outline of the ways in which different field characteristics were defined and described, including, in particular, those of field boundaries.

#### **B.1 Survey approach**

Between 10 January and 20 March 2013 all 384 fields on the Slamannan Plateau which had previously been allocated a field-code as part of the ongoing monitoring of the bean geese flock were visited or viewed so that a set series of criteria could be visually assessed.

#### B.1.1 Field numbering system

For purposes of continuity, as it is the basis for all monitoring of the bean geese, the adoption and evolution of the field code system is initially described here, (for example, there are large similarities between the field survey exercise that was completed in January to March 2103 and that conducted in November 1993).

In addition, it is important for reasons of posterity that the work conducted in the early years is properly reported and credited.

In the winters immediately after the wintering population of bean geese was first discovered on the Slamannan Plateau in the late 1980s monitoring work conducted by John Simpson aimed to define the range of the birds by identifying the areas that they were using, as at this time this was unknown. In addition, this work was given further impetus by proposed developments on the Plateau, which included the opencast workings and a shooting school. In this context it was vital that data relating to the fields that were important to the birds was assembled so that potential conflicts could be highlighted; for example, this level of detail was required in relation to a public inquiry that was held at this time. This initial work is described more fully in the reports prepared by Simpson, (1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993)<sup>2</sup>. On occasions this work was supported by members of the Cumbernauld Bird Club, and subsequently AM also became an integral part of the overall effort.

As such, this vital initial work conducted between the winters of 1989/1990 and 1992/1993 accurately defined the range the birds were using at this time. In doing so, necessarily, the field numbering system was instigated. As suggested, field numbers were only allocated to those fields within which bean geese were recorded, so that at this time only 40 or so fields were numbered. These fields were accurately defined; field work was conducted to ensure that the current field boundaries were identified.

This initial work also highlighted the conservation status of the birds, and as a result, in 1993, the RSPB commissioned a study which was conducted by Trevor Smith. Before this study commenced a meeting was held at which John Simpson and AM briefed Ian Bainbridge, Mark O'Brien and Trevor Smith in relation to what was then known about the bean geese.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Simpson, J. G., 1993, *Bean Geese* (Anser fabalis fabalis) *in Scotland 1992-1993*, Simpson, J. G., 1992, *Bean Goose* (Anser fabalis fabalis) *records season 1991-1992*, Simpson, J. G., 1991, *Bean Geese. Winter Report 1990-*91, and Simpson, J. G., 1990, *Bean Geese. A population and distribution study, Winter 1989-90.* Unpublished reports.

As such, although the study conducted by Smith had different aims to the initial work which had been conducted by Simpson, necessarily it was strongly influenced by it, and as such the field numbering system was retained, (despite having been established for different reasons).

Further, although the existing field numbering system was adopted by the study conducted by Smith, it was obviously also developed as this progressed, (and extended to include all fields within what had became defined as the study area, whether these had previously been recorded as being used by the geese or not).

This is described in Smith, *et al.*,  $(1994 \text{ and } 1995)^3$ . For example, in November 1993 the entire study area was carefully checked in the field for any changes in field boundaries relative to those indicated on the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder maps for the area, and also for changes such as forestry felling or planting. Any amendments that were considered necessary were made to the maps and all open fields in the study area were then numbered. In addition to all fields, numbers were also allocated to all areas of muir, *etc.*, and the three lochs. Built-up areas and forestry, woodland and shelterbelts, *etc.*, were excluded.

This resulted in 324 individually numbered fields being created, (although four of these fields were subsequently excluded from the fieldwork in 1994/1995 as they were subject to opencast activities).

In addition, two other measures were used to enable the continuity and comparability of the various survey efforts. These were the allocation of six figure grid references for the centre of each field, and the inclusion of the comparable field number as allocated by Simpson, (although field boundaries changes did not always achieve a direct match between the two).

This numbering system was then used as the basis for all subsequent fieldwork, (both the work completed and described by Smith, *et al.*, and by Simpson and Maciver and Maciver ever since). In principle, it remains the same, although there have been two ongoing developments. These involve additions and sub-divisions, as follows:

- Additions: as bean geese were progressively recorded using 'new' fields, the next number in the numerical sequence was allocated to this field; and,
- Sub-divisions: in some instances, such as large partially unenclosed muirs, *etc.*, it proved useful to sub-divide the area involved. For example, the Garbethill Muir area, which was originally allocated the numbers 46, 48, 51, 53 and 80, was sub-divided into many smaller areas, (*e.g.*, 46K, 48H, 51C and 80M), partly because the area was subject to an agri-environmental scheme aimed at improving the area for bean geese. As such, management prescriptions were devised for each agricultural unit, and the numbering system was revised accordingly.

Note, in terms of sub-divisions, different forms of suffix have been used at various times, (e.g., 13A, 13.1, 13a, *etc.*). As part of the current work it was decided that the correct format for all suffixes should be 287A (field-code plus capital letter) and not 287a (lower case) or 287.a or 287.A (dots); as such any historical anomalies were rationalised accordingly, with for example, 287.1 being changed to 287A, *etc.*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Smith, T., Bainbridge, I., & O'Brien, M., 1995. *Distribution and Habitat Use by Bean Geese in the Slamannan Area. Second Year 1994/95.* Report to the Bean Goose Working Group / SNH. RSPB. 51pp and Smith, T., Bainbridge, I. & O'Brien, M., 1994. *Distribution and Habitat Use by Bean Geese in the Slamannan Area.* Report to SNH. RSPB. (Not entitled as such but relates to the first year, *i.e.* 1993/1994). 71pp

#### B.1.2 The 2013 Fieldwork

Site visits and / or vantage points were used to record a set series of characteristics for each individually numbered field unit.

Most of this field work was completed by AM, although a significant proportion of the visits were completed by both AM and BM.

The survey was completed during a ten week period during the same season by the same two observers.

During the later winter period in 2013, the conditions were reasonably consistent; for example, levels of wintering flooding were broadly similar on each survey visit. Further, for instance, BM accompanied AM on, amongst others, the first and last survey visits, and as such, during the survey visits efforts were made to ensure that some of the more subjective characteristics were recorded in reasonably consistent ways.

Before the survey commenced, survey criteria were established and both a survey fieldsheet and a checklist of survey criteria were prepared. For the purposes of continuity, copies of these documents are included at the end of this appendix.

During the initial survey visits it became apparent that many fields on the Slamannan Plateau had complex boundaries. To facilitate recording of such details, it was decided that such boundaries should be noted in a systematic way. All boundaries were recorded, (and were then listed in the 'neat copy' documentation), in a set north-east-south-west sequence.

Subsequent to each survey visit, completed field-sheets were progressively converted into electronic versions in date identified WORD files. As part of this process, details were checked against the mapping detailing the field numbering system and remote imagery available on the Google website.

In some instances, the details of field characteristics were not just confirmed using this approach, rather, they were established. Such instances included areas of extensive open habitat such as Garbethill Muir and Darnrig Moss, recent extensive areas of forestry and 19 fields in the Beam Farm and Tippetcraig areas which could not be accessed.

Ultimately some 20 individual WORD files relating to each individual site visit were assembled into one overall WORD file incorporating all of the details recorded for each of the 384 fields during the field visits.

This WORD file was then used as the basis for creating a comprehensive EXCEL spreadsheet file containing the same information.

These notes are intended to facilitate the use of this data-base, and to ensure any further recording can be carried out to similar standards.

## **B.2 Details recorded and provided in the EXCEL spreadsheet**

#### B.2.1 Field number

As suggested, the long-established field numbering system was used to ensure continuity of effort; the field numbers established as part of the ongoing bean goose monitoring work were used to identify each 'field' using reference maps.

Further, larger areas have often been sub-divided using a number / letter combination.

As this system has been used throughout the ~30 year period that monitoring of bean geese has been conducted this continuity was considered important.

However, the numbering system is not without its idiosyncrasies, and several minor corrections were necessary.

The current work, in effect, involved an 'audit' of the numbering system, and it was established that although numbers between 1 and 403 have been used, this includes sequences such as 48D - 48J, (but not 48A, 48B and 48C).

Further, it has been established that some 62 numbers between 1 and 403 have not been used, although 384 'fields' have been allocated a number or number-letter.

Table B.1 defines the details of all fields for which details were recorded during the fieldwork.

As can be seen, some 46, (12%), of these fields have been lost to forestry, (and some others have been lost for other reasons). Field / land units, 400, 401, 402 and 403 are all actually water-bodies and, further, 403 (Carron Valley) is not on the Slamannan Plateau, but is included for the sake of completion.

Despite these anomalies, the numbering system 'is what it is' and for the reasons of continuity already mentioned has to be persisted with, rather than rationalised or re-invented.

Finally, and again as has already been mentioned, certain 'fields' have been sub-divided during the monitoring programme to facilitate recording.

#### B.2.2 Grid reference

AM had previously manually allocated grid references to most of the fields. These grid references relate to the nominal centre of each field, and were established to facilitate the monitoring of field usage by the bean geese. However, this list wasn't comprehensive and also had become somewhat complicated because of sub-divisions, *etc.*. Therefore, BM used the automatic grid reference generating tool on the Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside, (MAGIC), website<sup>4</sup> to determine a comprehensive series of grid references for all 384 fields.

Again, the nominal centre of each field was used as the basis for this.

Frequently these grid references corresponded with those contained in the list provided by AM. However, in some instances they differed. For reasons of continuity, Table B.2 includes details of both the new and the old grid references of all fields; where these are the same, just one grid reference is shown.

#### B.2.3 Notes

In many instances additional information was evident at the time of the survey which it was considered worthy of recording. This included past or current use of the field, signs of former runrig, any presence of geese at the time of the survey visit, *etc.*. Details of the amalgamation of fields were also recorded in the Notes section.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx</u>

No. range	Fields recorded	Field numbers which haven't been allocated / use
1 - 9	1, 9, <del>2, 3, 4, 5, 7 – all forestry</del> , 8 - partially forestry	6
0 - 19	13, 13A, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, <del>10, 11, 12 – all forestry</del> ,	
0 - 29	20 - now farm buildings, etc., 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 25A, 26, 27, 28, 29	
80 - 39	30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39	
0 - 49	40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46K, 46L, 47, 48D, 48E, 48F, 48G, 48H, (north and south), 48I, 48J, 49	
50 - 59	50 - now farm buildings, etc., 51B, 51C, 52, 53A, 53B, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59 - partially forestry	51
0 - 69	60, 62, <del>61, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 – all forestry</del>	
0 - 79	76, 77, 78, 79, <del>70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75 – all forestry</del>	
80 - 89	80M, 80N, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89	
0 - 99	90, 91, 92, 93A, 93B - Beam Farm, 94, 95, 97, 98, 99	93, 96
00 - 109	100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 109, <del>108 – forestry</del>	
110 - 119	110, 110A, 113, 114, 117, 118, 119, <del>111, 112, 115, 116 – forestry</del>	
20 - 129	120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129	
130 - 139	130, 131, 132, 132A, 133, 134, 134A, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139	
40 - 149	140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, <del>148 – forestry</del>	
50 - 159	150, 150A, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159	
60 - 169	160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166A, 166B, 166C, 166D, 166E, 166F, 166G, 167	168, 169
70 - 179	170A, 170B, 171, 172, 173 - all Beam Farm or Tippetcraig, 178	170, 174, 175, 176, 177, 179
80 - 189	180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 188Å, 189	
90 - 199	190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199	
200 - 209	200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209	
210 - 219	210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219	
220 - 229	220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229	
230 - 239	230, 231, 231A, 232, 232A, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239	
240 - 249	240, 240A, 241, 242, 243, 245, 246, 246A, 247, 248, 249	244
250 - 259	250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 259	258
60 - 269	260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 264A, 265, 266, 267, 268	269
270 - 279	270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279	
280 - 289	280, 282, 283, 284, 285A, 285B, 286, 287, 287A, 287B, 288, 289	281, 285, 287
290 - 299	290, 290A, 291, 292, 293, 294, 294A, 295, 296, <del>297, 298, 299 – all forestry</del>	
800 - 309	303, 304, 305, 306, 307, <del>300, 301, 302, 308, 309 – all forestry</del>	
810 - 319	312, 319, <del>310, 311, 313, 313A, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318 – all forestry</del>	
320 - 329	320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327 - all Beam Farm or Tippetcraig, 328, 329	
330 - 339	331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339A, 339B - all Beam Farm or Tippetcraig	330, 339
340 - 349	340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349	
50 - 359	350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357	358, 359
60 - 369		360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369
70 - 379		370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379
80 - 389		380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389
90 - 399		390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399
400 - 403	400 (West Fannyside Loch), 401 (East Fannyside Loch), 402 (Loch Elrig), 403 (Carron Valley)	, ,,,,,,,,,,
otals	384	62

Table B.1, Details of the fields for which details were verified during the fieldwork

Fields struck through thus - <del>66</del> - became forestry during study period Fields in italics thus - 173 - fields not visited as they are at Beam Farm / Tippetcraig

# B.2.4 Date

The date on which the data relating to each field was recorded. All of the field work was completed between 10 January and 20 March 2013 but it was still considered appropriate to record the date.

### B.2.5 Observers

All of the field work was completed by AM, or by AM and BM and was denoted as such.

### B.2.6 Field details

The following categories were used; indeed these were included on the checklist of survey criteria. However, in many instances these categories were refined or some of the defined categories were not used. Where appropriate, this is noted.

#### B.2.6.1 Field type

• Arable cereal; arable root crop; bog/moor; old improved pasture (OIP); recently improved pasture (RIP), rough grassland (RG).

It was intended that 'recently' should relate to fields that have been ploughed and re-seeded, *etc.*, within last 5 years or so, whereas 'old' relates to fields that have been ploughed and re-seeded, *etc.*, prior to this, and 'rough grassland' relates to fields that have apparently not been ploughed, *etc.*, during the period the BGAG have been undertaking work on the Plateau.

In the event, the vast majority of fields were categorised into either RIP or OIP, and recent was perhaps during the past 10 or 15 years.

B.2.6.2 Main grass colour

• Brown (B); Yellow (Y); yellowy-green (Y-G); greeny-yellow (G-Y); green (G); very green (VG) e.g., bright highly-improved silage fields.

As had been indicated prior to the survey, this, in particular, is subjective.

Therefore it was considered to be important to, if possible, be consistent when recording this feature, by, for example, using two observers, undertaking all assessments in broadly the same timeframe, *etc.*. This was generally achieved. Brown, yellow, yellowy-green and green were the only categories used.

B.2.6.3 Sward length

• Short (<5cm) Medium (5-15cm) and Long (>15cm).

This assessment of sward length was rather subjective and was based on visual estimation rather than any direct measurements. Sward length also varied within the same field unit especially in instances where the 'field' involved more than one habitat type, *e.g.*, part improved pasture and part rough grassland.

Further, all assessments were done visually from nearby; closer examination was invariably not conducted. Also, and obviously, sward length will change with time of year and stocking levels; this was particularly noticeable in the instance of the Luckenburn fields where the

cannon netting was conducted in October 2012 and the sward length was long (>15cm) but by March 2013, after grazing by sheep, the sward height was much shorter.

#### B.2.6.4 *Juncus* cover (%)

An estimate of percentage *Juncus* cover for each field was provided, although again this was rather subjective and based on visual estimation rather than any direct measurements.

#### B.2.6.5 Flooding (Temporary water) and Flooding (Permanent water)

An assessment of evidence of temporary or permanent flooding within each field unit was undertaken and provided as a percentage of temporary water cover, or as a percentage of temporary water cover.

During the field work there was a tendency to concentrate on the presence of any flooding rather than the evidence of any flooding. For example, when Field 13A was visited, AM was able to identify that there had been a significant area of flooding within this field unit alongside the Upper River Avon, (which had been used by roosting bean geese), although the field was recorded as not being flooded at the time.

#### B.2.6.6 Domestic grazing animals

Details of the number and type of farm animals were recorded in most instances, although stocking levels were generally low, and only sheep and horses / ponies were recorded.

#### B.2.6.7 Boundary type

• Post and Wire fence; Hedge; Treeline/Shelter Belt; Wall; Woodland (use this if more of a visual boundary than the Shelter Belt category); Open.

In this instance it was intended to be as specific as possible, whilst not necessarily noting every individual boundary feature. For example, it was intended that if there were significant amounts of hedge along a boundary to provide a percentage for it, and, excepting for combinations of fences and hedges, to indicate if more than one type is present. In addition, it was intended to note that instances of where a woodland bordered a field and there was no fence present to record those as Woodland+Open as it is known that bean geese do venture into open woodland areas.

During the fieldwork and accompanying desktop study, the following types of boundary were recognised and used; in effect, the following are the definitions of the various boundary types adhered to.

Most boundaries involved some sort of fence.

1. **Post and wire** – was used in a generic sense to denote any fence comprised of post and wire not solely, but invariably agricultural ones. This was abbreviated as P & W, (and was used rather than Rylock).

As far as practicable, boundaries demarcated by trees and shrubs were differentiated from boundaries beyond which there are trees and shrubs.

The premise for this was that field boundaries which were demarcated by hedgerow shrub species, or along which trees have been incorporated or planted, were generally **boundaries that can be seen over or through.** Therefore, they were defined as either hedged or tree'd boundaries.

Field number	New grid reference	Old grid reference	Notes
1	NS812717	NS 813717	
2		316718	Now forestry
3	NS8	315719	Now forestry
4	NS8	317720	Now forestry
5		311719	Now forestry
7		312721	Now forestry
8	NS817725	NS817728	Now forestry
9	NS818722	NS819722	n.b. field area to west of tree-line boundary on west side not allocated a number
10	NS8	09722	Now forestry
11	NS8	311723	Now forestry / merged with 12 NS811724
12	NS811724	NS811725	Now forestry / merged with 11 NS811723
13	NS802727	NS803726	
13A	NS8	00723	
14	NS811729	NS811730	merged with 19 NS808731
15	NS8	07729	
16	NS8	06728	
17	NS805728	NS805729	
18	NS805730	NS806730	
19	NS8	08731	merged with 14 NS811729
20	NS8	05732	
21	NS8	06734	
22	NS8	09733	Includes Fannyside Mill farm buildings
23	NS8	09734	
24	NS8	10735	
25	NS8	313736	
25A	NS8	16736	
26	NS820727	NS821727	
27	NS8	313734	
28	NS8	314735	
29	NS812737	NS812738	
30	NS809737	NS810737	
31	NS811739	NS810739	
32	NS814738	NS814739	

Field number	New grid reference	Old grid reference	Notes
33	NS8	312740	East Fannyside Farm fields re-configured
34	NS8	313741	East Fannyside Farm fields re-configured
35	NS8	313740	East Fannyside Farm fields re-configured
36	NS8	313740	East Fannyside Farm fields re-configured
37	NS816739	NS816760	
38	NS8	315742	
39	NS810743	NS811743	
40	NS8	318743	
41	NS8	320740	
42	NS8	322744	Sewage sludge
43	NS816745	NS817745	
44	NS8	318746	
45	NS820745	NS820746	
46K	NS8	320749	merged with 46L NS821748
46L	NS821748	NS820748	merged with 46K NS820749
47	NS8	319748	
48D	NS817758	NS817756	
48E	NS8	317756	Runrig
48F	NS820758	NS820757	
48G	NS8	320756	
48H north	NS8	324758	n.b. separated from 48H south by 48I
48H south	NS8	321754	n.b. separated from 48H north by 48I
481	NS8	323756	
48J	NS821752	NS820751	
49	NS8	315753	
50	NS8	316754	Now largely occupied by Garbethill House farm buildings
51B	NS814758	NS813757	merged with 51C NS814757 and with 53A NS813758
51C	NS814757	NS813757	merged with 51B NS814758 and with 53A NS813758
52	NS8	312754	
53A	NS813758	NS813757	merged with 51C NS814757 and with 51C NS814758
53B	NS8	312757	
54	NS8	311756	
55	NS8	310756	

Field number	New grid reference	Old grid reference	Notes
56	NS809756	NS807756	merged with 57 NS808756
57	NS8	08756	merged with 56 NS809756
58	NS8	06755	
59	NS8	06756	
60	NS8	10758	
61	NS8	05756	Now forestry
62	NS8	07754	
63	NS8	07753	Now forestry
64	NS8	08753	Now forestry
65	NS8	09752	Now forestry
66	NS8	08750	Now forestry
67	NS8	06751	Now forestry
68	NS8	05751	Now forestry
69	NS8	08748	Now forestry
70	NS8	06749	Now forestry
71	NS8	05753	Now forestry
72	NS8	04755	Now forestry
73	NS8	03753	Now forestry
74	NS8	01753	Now forestry
75	NS8	02751	Now forestry
76	NS797740	NS803741	·
77	NS802741	NS804740	
78	NS795736	NS799737	
79	NS8	21746	
80M	NS8	23748	
80N	NS824749	NS823749	
81	NS8	25746	Reinstated opencast Sewage sludge
82	NS825743	NS826743	
83		29745	
84	NS8	28746	Reinstated opencast Sewage sludge
85	NS831746	NS832746	
86	NS834745	NS833765	
87		34747	

Field	New grid	Old grid	Notes
number	reference	reference	Notes
88	NS832748	NS831748	
89	NS8	34749	
90	NS836749	NS835750	
91	NS840751	NS836748	
92	NS836748	NS840751	
93A	NS832757	NS834758	Garbethill Muir: Note: This is a very extensive site which complex and multi-various boundaries, many of which are
93B	NS835761	NS834762	
94	NS8	40754	
95	NS844754	NS843754	
97	NS8	46753	
98	NS845754	NS845755	
99	NS842747	NS843747	
100	NS843750	NS844750	
101		48750	
102	NS8	48753	
103	NS8	47754	merged with 104 NS846756
104	NS846756	NS847756	merged with 103 NS847754
105	NS8	49754	
106		50754	
107		52754	
108		52756	Now forestry
109		56757	
110	NS853754	NS854755	
110A	NS852759	NS853759	
111		51761	
112		45762	Now forestry
113		57760	merged with 114 NS859761 – mature trees on another former boundary within merged fields
114	NS8	59761	merged with 113 NS857760 – mature trees on another former boundary within merged fields
115		60759	,
116		61757	
117	NS866755	NS865754	Darnrigg Moss: Note: This is a very extensive site which complex and multi-various boundaries, many of which are
118	NS854751	NS854752	
119		52749	

Field	New grid	Old grid	Notes
number	reference	reference	-
120	NS8	47746	
121	NS848746	NS845765	
122	NS8	44745	
123	NS842744	NS842745	
124	NS8	55748	
125	NS8	51745	
126	NS8	55745	
127	NS8	52742	
128	NS8	55741	
129		58744	
130		58742	
131	NS860744	NS860745	
132		56740	
132A		55739	
133	NS8	59740	
134		61742	
134A	NS8	62739	
135	NS863746	NS863766	
136	NS8	63743	
137		64742	
138		65740	
139	NS866741	NS866743	merged with 142 NS866744
140	NS865743	NS865744	
141		66744	
142		66744	merged with 139 NS866741
143	NS868742	NS868743	
144	NS869744	NS870745	merged with 150 NS870741
145		65746	
146	NS865747	NS865767	
147	NS867748	NS867747	
148		71748	Now forestry
149		71745	
150	NS870741	NS871742	merged with 144 NS869744

Field number	New grid	Old grid	Notes
	reference	reference	
150A	NS8	369739	
151	NS8	373745	
152	NS8	373743	
153	NS873741	NS874742	
154	NS8	374748	
155	NS876748	NS877749	
156	NS8	376746	Used for grazing horses
157	NS8	376744	
158	NS876742	NS876743	
159	NS878746	NS879746	Used for grazing horses
160	NS8	382747	
161	NS880743	NS880744	Sewage sludge
162	NS8	382741	merged with 224 NS878740 and with 225 NS880741
163	NS8	365750	
164	NS8	367750	
165	NS865752	NS865753	
166A	NS8	362752	
166B	NS8	362750	
166C	NS8	362748	
166D	NS860747	NS861747	Trees in field itself
166E	NS8	359746	Runrig
166F	NS8	358748	Runrig
166G	NS858750	NS859750	Runrig
167	NS8	381750	
170A	NS835765	NS835763	
170B	NS836764	NS836763	
171	NS832763	NS833763	Runrig
172	NS830762	NS830763	Runrig
173	NS8	328762	Reinstated opencast
178	NS891746	NS892746	
180	NS888748	NS887747	
181	NS8	385745	
182	NS885743	NS886744	

183 184	NS887743 NS890745 NS8 NS891744	NS887744 NS891745	
	NS8 NS891744		
105	NS891744	00711	
185		09144	
186	NC000744	NS829744	
187	NS889741	NS890742	
188	NS888739	NS885740	
188A	NS8	88739	
189	NS8	90740	merged with 193 NS893742 – mature trees on another former boundary within merged fields
190	NS889738	NS890738	merged with 191?
191	NS891737	NS892735	merged with190?
192	NS892739	NS893740	
193	NS893740	NS893742	merged with 189 NS890740 – mature trees on another former boundary within merged fields
194	NS894740	NS894741	
195	NS896741	NS896742	merged with 198 NS898741
196	NS8	97743	
197	NS896746	NS897746	
198	NS898741	NS899742	merged with 195 NS896741
199	NS900742	NS900743	
200	NS900743	NS901744	
201	NS8	88736	
202	NS890735	NS891735	
203	NS889733	NS890734	
204	NS8	86735	
205	NS8	86733	
206	NS883734	NS883735	
207	NS884732	NS884733	merged with 208 NS882732
208	NS8	82732	merged with 207 NS884732
209	NS8	80732	5 GJ at time of survey
210	NS8	77731	merged with 235?
211	NS876732	NS877732	
212	NS8	79733	
213	NS8	78735	merged with 216 NS881736 and with 217 NS881738
214	NS867733	NS876733	

Field number	New grid reference	Old grid reference	Notes
215	NS	876735	Field boundaries at SW end have been altered
216	NS	881736	merged with 213 NS878735 and with 217 NS881738
217	NS	881738	merged with216 NS881736
218	NS	876937	merged with 219 NS875736
219	NS	875736	merged with 218 NS876937
220	NS	873736	
221	NS	873734	
222	NS	874733	
223	NS	876739	
224	NS	878740	merged with 162 NS882741 and with 225 NS880741
225	NS	880741	merged with 162 NS882741 and with 224 NS878740
226	NS873738	NS873739	
227	NS	871736	merged with 228 NS870736
228	NS870736	NS870737	merged with 227 NS871736
229		867737	
230	NS	866734	
231	NS871733	NS867732	
231A	NS	871733	
232	NS	868730	
232A	NS	869732	
233	NS870730	NS871730	
234	NS	873731	
235	NS	875730	merged with 210?
236	NS	873729	
237	NS	872729	
238	NS868727	NS870728	
239	NS864731	NS865731	
240	NS	864732	
240A		863730	
241	NS	864733	
242	NS863736	NS863737	Runrig
243	NS	861732	
245	NS861730	NS862730	

Field number	New grid reference	Old grid reference	Notes
246	NS858734	NS858733	
246A	NS860734	NS849743	
247	NS859736	NS858736	
248	NS859738	NS860739	
249	NS857737	NS857738	
250	NS852731	NS851731	
251	NS8	50734	
252	NS8	53735	
253	NS852738	NS847730	
254	NS8	47733	
255		47736	
256	NS8	46732	
257	NS842731	NS843731	
259		46734	
260	NS8	51737	
261	NS849738	NS850738	
262	NS854739	NS854740	
263	NS847730	NS852738	
264	NS847742	NS847762	
264A	NS850743	NS849744	
265		48739	
266	NS845739	NS847740	
267		43739	
268	NS845741	NS845741	
270	NS845743	NS846743	
271	NS8	44743	
272	NS8	42743	
273		43741	
274		40742	
275	NS841738	NS842738	
276		45736	
277	NS841739	NS843741	
278	NS8	38741	

Field number	New grid reference	Old grid reference	Notes
279	NS837745	NS838745	
280		36740	
282		36737	
283		34739	
284	NS832738	NS832338	
285A	NS833744	NS834763	
285B	NS833741	NS834763	
286	NS8	31740	
287	NS825738	NS826738	
287A	NS8	28741	
287B	NS8	29739	
288	NS8	29737	Runrig
289	NS832735	NS832736	
290	NS825735	NS826734	
290A	NS822737	NS822738	
291	NS8	22741	
292	NS8	21737	
293	NS817734	NS818734	
294	NS818737	NS819738	
294A	NS820736	NS819737	
295	NS815738	NS816738	
296	NS809716	NS809717	
297	NS8	07722	Now forestry
298	NS8	08718	Now forestry
299	NS8	05716	Now forestry
300	NS8	05719	Now forestry
301	NS8	03719	Now forestry
302	NS8	01718	Now forestry
303		20719	
304	NS821720	NS822721	
305	NS8	21722	
306	NS8	23722	
307	NS8	25720	

Field number	New grid reference	Old grid reference	Notes
308	N.S	827720	Now forestry
309		827722	Now forestry
310		830721	Now forestry
311		828724	Now forestry
312		829727	Now forestry
313		824727	Now forestry
313A		825726	Now forestry
314		822729	Now forestry
315		827731	Now forestry
316		831723	Now forestry
317		833723	Now forestry
318	NS	835725	Now forestry
319	NS	838728	-
320	NS839725	NS839726	
321	NS	842727	
322	NS846728	NS846729	
323	NS	827764	Runrig?
324	NS	828765	Runrig?
325		830765	
326		832765	Runrig?
327	NS835768	NS8935767	
328		881730	
329	NS882730	NS883731	
330		884731	
331		886731	
332		884728	
333	NS829767	NS830767	
334		831767	
335		832769	Runrig
336		838767	
337		836768	
338	NS830770	NS829769	Runrig
339A	NS826770	NS826771	

Field number	New grid reference	Old grid reference	Notes
339B	NS	327768	
340	NS813766	NS814766	
341	NS8	313769	
342	NS8	313771	
343	NS8	304765	
344	NS8	807761	
345	NS804768	NS803768	
346	NS800766	NS801767	
347	NS798765	NS799766	
348	NS795766	NS795767	
349	NS797767	NS798768	
350	NS798768	NS800769	
351	NS8	302770	
352	NS803771	NS804771	
353	NS8	301772	merged with 354 NS799771
354	NS799771	NS799772	merged with 353 NS801772
355	NS800723	NS797723	
356	NS816764	NS817771	
357	NS817771	NS816772	
400	NS800734	NS800735	W. Fannyside Loch
401	NS8	307736	E. Fannyside Loch
402	NS887749	NS885749	Loch Elrig
403	NS	693838	Carron Valley
Field /	land unit 403		ley] is not on the Slamannan Plateau, but is included here for the sake of con

Conversely, various types of 'woodland' frequently lie <u>beyond</u> field boundaries, and were <u>generally</u> features that can't be seen over or through. Therefore, they were defined as wooded boundaries. This was a generic term which included all wooded or forested features beyond field boundaries, including, but not limited to, woodlands, plantations, shelter-belts, *etc.*.

These sorts of boundaries were then sub-divided and defined as follows:

- 2. Hedged boundary was used to describe any boundary along which there was a hedge. An indication of the length of that boundary that was comprised of hedge is provided by the % figure. Additional details were included in brackets in some instances, e.g., (Tall) was used to denote a hedge that has not been maintained for many years, (Remnant) was used to denote a former field boundary were some hedge is still present. Hedged boundaries typically also included a post and wire fence. Further, some hedged boundaries were also tree'd boundaries.
- 3. Tree'd boundary was used to indicate a boundary along which there were trees; typically this involved a single line of mature deciduous trees, although in a few instances this term was also used to indicate more recently planted trees. Generally, if the boundary feature involved, (or was considered to involve), more than a single line of trees it was considered to be a wooded boundary.
- 4. Wooded boundary this term was used to describe all areas of trees beyond field boundaries, from relatively insignificant deciduous copses, to more significant areas of deciduous woodland, to very significant coniferous plantations. As far as possible, the type of trees involved was categorised as either deciduous or coniferous. As such features are beyond, rather than on, boundaries they are shown in brackets as follows, '(Wooded – area of deciduous and coniferous woodland)'.

Further, the term **Forestry** was used to refer to any numbered field that has been lost to 'recently' planted forestry. It should be noted that in some instances, such as field 318, the field was apparently assigned to forestry but was never planted, although it is now rank grassland of no use to the geese. By definition, 'recently' relates to the past 20 or 30 years, *i.e.*, during the period in which fieldwork on the bean geese has been conducted. The boundary details provided in the instances of former fields that are now in forestry are indicative only as they generally weren't physically checked and may well have been partly or completely altered as part of the forestry operations.

An attempt to differentiate these more recent areas of tree-planting from older areas of forestry planting was made, but this wasn't necessarily comprehensive. Specifically the term **Plantation** was used to indicate areas of coniferous planting which pre-date the bean goose study period. Similarly the term Woodland was used to indicate areas of deciduous woodland, *etc.*, that pre-date the same period, although again this differentiation wasn't necessarily comprehensive.

- 5. Drystane dyke this term was used to indicate any type of wall, although typically it includes drystane dykes which were often no longer very well maintained, and as such drystane dyke boundaries typically also included a post and wire fence. Many such dykes were now 'tumbledown' dykes.
- 6. **Watercourses** this term was used for all ditches, burns, *etc.*, except the larger River Avon. In many instances the details given were indicative only, as ditches, *etc.*, can be less than easy to see either in the field or in aerial imagery.

- 7. **Waterbody** this term was used to indicate a pond or loch, such as West Fannyside Loch.
- 8. **Former railway line** this term was used to define any feature relating to former railway lines, including cuttings, embankments and bounding fences, dykes, *etc.*, and included all types of railway line, including mineral railway lines.
- 9. Road this term was used for public highways.
- 10. **Track** this term was used for all tracks, including surfaced and un-surfaced farm and forestry track.
- 11. **No boundary** over the years field boundaries have progressively been altered and rationalised. Often this has involved removing former field boundaries to create larger fields. In such instances the term no boundary was used. Further, where possible it was attempted to indicate which fields have been merged with which fields.
- 12. **Scrub** in some instances field margins include often extensive areas of scrub. This might be birch scrub, or gorse scrub. As such, in some instances, this was detailed.

#### B.2.7 Additional comments

1. Zeros, *e.g.*, 0 stock or 0% were used as this was considered to be valid data and also indicated that the data was recorded rather than not recorded or inadvertently omitted.

2. The exercise was undertaken for as many fields as possible as even if they have never recorded as being used by bean geese it was considered that it would be useful to see if there are any differences in these no use or low use fields compared to the fields bean geese use more regularly.

3. The details recorded relate to observations made on the date indicated; obviously circumstances can change – both in the time period preceding the survey visit date, and also in the time period following the same.

4. Details recorded relating to a boundary between two numbered fields <u>may</u> not have been recorded identically if this was recorded for one side and then the other on two visits, and as such the detailed provided for the same boundary feature may vary.

5. In many instances the fields involved complex boundaries with other fields; as far as possible this was recorded and characterised.

#### B.2.8 Recording sheets

A copy of the field recording sheet proforma which was used during the field work is included here. In addition, a copy of the explanatory guidance notes, codes, etc., which were used is also included. However, it is stressed that the notes, codes, *etc.*, might need to be slightly modified if it was to be used again, such that it reflects both what was actually recorded in early 2013 (rather than what it was originally intended to record), and also better reflects any new aims for any future such survey.

l Main grass colour	Sward length	Juncus	Flooding	Doundom, dotoilo	
		cover	liccumg	Boundary details	Stock
Y-G	Short	0%	TW <1% PW 0%	305 - P & W 304 - P & W 303 - P & W West - P & W 90% + Treeline 10% North - Woodland	Sheep 55
	Y-G	Y-G Short	Y-G       Short       0%         Image:		PW 0% 304 – P & W 303 – P & W

#### Notes, codes, etc.

Use vantage points and site visits to record the following for each individually numbered field unit:

**Field type categories**, ("recently" relates to fields that have been ploughed and re-seeded, *etc.*, within last 5 years or so, whereas 'old' relates to fields that have been ploughed and re-seeded, *etc.*, prior to this, and 'permanent' relates to fields that have apparently not been ploughed, *etc.*, during the period the BGAG have been undertaking work on the Plateau);

Arable cereal; arable root crop; bog/moor; old improved pasture (OIP); permanent pasture (PP); recently improved pasture (RIP).

Main grass colour, (this, in particular, is subjective, so it is important to, if possible, be consistent by using two observers, undertaking all assessments in broadly the same timeframe, *etc*.);

Yellow (Y); yellowy-green (Y-G); greeny-yellow (G-Y); green (G); very green (VG) e.g., bright highly-improved silage fields.

Sward length, (this may necessitate closer examination and, obviously, will change with time of year and stocking levels);

Short (<5cm) Medium (5-15cm) and Long (>15cm).

#### Juncus cover

% cover estimate for each field.

#### Flooding within the field:

Temporary water cover (%TW cover); Permanent waterbody evidence (%PW cover); No waterbody as such.

**Boundary:** (be as specific as possible, whilst not necessarily noting every individual boundary feature, *e.g.*, if there were significant amounts of hedge along a boundary give a percentage for it, and, excepting for combinations of fences and hedges, indicate if more than one type is present. If a woodland bordered a field and there is no fence present to record as Woodland+Open; geese do venture into open woodland areas);

P & W; Hedge; Treeline/Shelter Belt; Wall; Woodland (use this if more of a visual boundary than the Shelter Belt category); Open.

#### <u>Stock</u>

Type and number of stock, (and also details of any fields being run with adjacent ones).

#### Additional comments

1. Use zeros, e.g., 0 stock or TW 0% as this is valid data and also indicates that the data was recorded rather than not recorded or omitted.

2. Undertake for as many fields as possible; even if they have never recorded as being used by bean geese it was considered that it would be useful to see if there are any differences in these no use or low use fields compared to the fields bean geese use more regularly.

3. Also annotate a good base map with any boundary changes, and, as necessary, devise new field numbers for sub-divided, larger, field units, such as 166.

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Policy and Advice Directorate, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW T: 01463 725000

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