

Guidance notes for recording DAFOR

In order to make species records more useful it is good practice to record the relative abundance of each species you find on your site.

Abundance		Cover of the churchyard (%)
D	Dominant	50-100%
A	Abundant	30-50%
F	Frequent	15-30%
O	Occasional	5-15%
R	Rare	< 5%

The trick to doing this is to go through the list quickly and for each species write the first score that comes into your head. Try not to think about it too much.

If a species seems intermediate between two categories and you are unsure which to assign to it, choose the lower category, e.g. if you are unsure if something was occasional or frequent, choose occasional.

D for Dominant

In practice you will rarely, if ever use this. To score **D**, a species would have to be the most common plant by far on your site. If you are not sure if something should score **D** or **A**, give it **A**.

A for Abundant

Only use **A** if the plant is really common on your site. If you are not sure if something should score **A** or **F**, give it a **F**. Please write **LA** if the plant is locally abundant in a particular part of the site.

F for Frequent

Use **F** if you found the plant in several places on your site. Please use **LF** if the species is Locally Frequent in a certain area of the site. If you are not sure if something should score **F** or **O**, give it **O**.

O for Occasional

Use **O** for species that occur in a few places on your site, populations are usually not very big. You are likely to use **O** for many species in many areas.

R for Rare

Use **R** for any species that occur as a small number of individuals. This small number of individuals may be located in one place, or scattered over your site.

