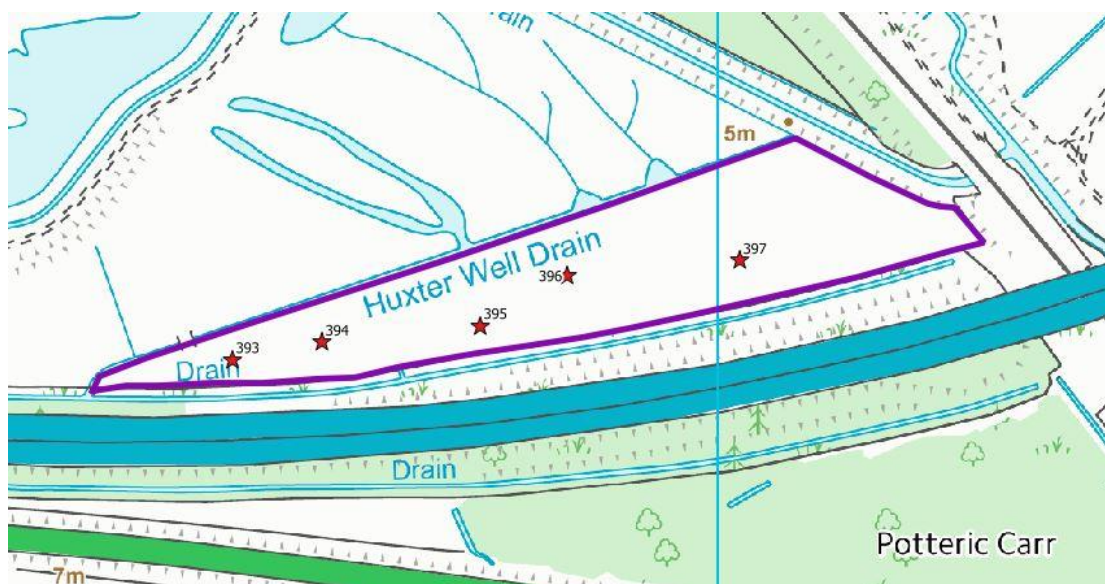


Site Visit Assessment Form Rossington Carr Field 2, (Potteric Carr NR), South Yorkshire



Site Name Rossington Carr Field 2	Grid Ref SK609994	County South Yorkshire	
River River Torne	Ownership Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Designation Not part of SSSI	Size (ha) 3.2
Date 19 th June 2018	Meeting with Jim Horsfall	Managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	
Management and History			
Agri environment agreement			
This field is not part of the wider site Agri-Environment Scheme.			
Current management			
Current management has been inconsistent as is a very recent restoration site and there have been issues with the grazier.			
Restoration			
Technique used/Dates			
<p>The site was arable until 2004, for decades as far as is known. Sometime between 2004 and 2006, the field was sown with a seed mix of an MG5 type community. Information about ground preparation and application method is not known. It was possibly cut once. It was then unfenced and unmanaged at this point.</p> <p>From 2006 to 2012 the field had no management at all, no cutting or grazing. In 2014 fencing was installed, which facilitated grazing. The site was topped, as it was full of raspberries and brambles.</p> <p>In 2015 it was disked twice, rolled and seeded (September 2015). Brush harvested seed came from other sites.</p>			

In 2016 the site was grazed by sheep in the spring , but no hay cut was taken. It was then grazed by cattle in late summer. Plug planting was also undertaken by volunteers and included planting Devils'-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, cowslip *Primula veris*, pepper saxifrage *Silau silaus*, knapweed *Centurea nigra*, meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and some meadow rue *Thalictrum flavum*. Plug plants were grown from seed collected from local sites and then sent on to Cumbria Wildflowers to grow into 4 cm pots.

In 2017 there was no hay cut, but the growth was grazed from July onwards. The plan for 2018 is to allow grazing in summer, and control the thistles. They also wish to build a barn to store hay. Currently the site is not in a good enough condition to take a hay cut.

In 2019 the plan is to take a hay cut, or wait until 2020 if the barn has not been built in 2019.

Hydrology	The area does not flood overland as whole area is pump drained and defended through land drainage and flood protection banks. Interior drainage is through ditches that link to ex-IDB drains. The water table sits close to the surface throughout much of the year. The site get some standing water but is from rainfall. There is soil water movement through the sandy soil. A dipwell installed in the wider area shows the soil water regime is appropriate for an MG4 type community.
Flooding regime Water management Soil-water levels (indicated by auger hole/any other data)	


Historical information

Part of this site was originally a coal mine that collapsed and is now a lake, which forms part of the nature reserve. The YWT acquired this land, and then extended the ownership around it to include wetlands and grasslands. The whole site now about 250 ha. Historically the area was the Humber Lake, hence the sandy soil profile.

Current site interest	Attach excel spreadsheet for botanical data
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Soil on the site is very sandy and well-drained. It supports a large population of red fescue *Festuca rubra*, false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata* on the site. There were no species from the plug plants found in the quadrats in the survey in 2018 although there were some plants of great burnet and pepper saxifrage across the meadow. The current plant community showed the strongest similarity with the MG9b *Holcus lanatus-Deschampsia cespitosa* grassland, *Arrhenatherum elatius* sub-community. The site has a good potential to accommodate an MG5 or MG4a type species-rich plant community, as the soil is not too fertile and is towards the dry end for a floodplain meadow.

Phosphorus levels	At the start of the project, soil P was index 0.6 or below, neutral pH (6.7), with high Mg due to Magnesium limestone nearby (index 8.2).
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Soil profiles	
	<p>Soil Profile 1. Quadrat 397</p> <p><i>A horizon</i> 0 - 20 cm very fine sandy loam. Very rich organic layer. 20 – 40 cm silty sand, and high amount of organic material</p> <p><i>B horizon</i> 40 cm – 60 cm Sand, iron rich, still good amount of organic matter, but decreasing down the soil profile.</p> <p><i>C horizon</i> 60 – 80 cm moist sand, some iron. Small amount of organic material 80 cm – 100 cm wet iron rich sand 100 cm – 115 cm black organic material in a layer. Iron rich clayey sand 115 cm – 120 cm sand</p>
Site manager aspirations/objectives	
Species rich meadow with wet influence.	
Management recommendations	
Start taking a regular hay cut (aim for end June) and control weeds. Look at more plug plants and seed application once management regime under control. If plug plants, consider keeping them in pots until they are bigger to ensure more successful establishment in the plant community.	

	Rossington 2	Potteric Carr 2
Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)	5.36	5.46
Ellenberg N (fertility)	5.62	5.28
Ellenberg R (Reaction)	6.34	6.26
Species/quadrat (mean and range /1 m x 1 m)	13.2 (8-20)	11.4 (7-16)
NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)	MG9b MG9	MG4c MG6