

Site Visit Assessment Form – Aldwincle Field 3, Northamptonshire



Site Name Aldwincle Field 3	Grid Ref TL017817	County Northamptonshire	
River Ouse	Ownership Lillford Estate (Society of Merchant Ventures)	Designation None	Size (ha) 5.27
Date 22 June 2017	Meeting with Matt Johnson and Tim Hankins. Plus Pete Stroh (BSBI). David Gowing, Emma Rothero and Irina tatarenko	Managed by Tim Hankins	
Management and History			
Agri environment agreement			
Fields went into Countryside Stewardship in early 1990's. Had 2 lots of 10 year blocks of CS and are now in the 5 th year of an HLS agreement.			
Current management			
Cut and aftermath grazed annually.			
Restoration			
Technique used/Dates			

Commercial, standard grass seed mix sown. Don't know what year.	
Hydrology	
Flooding regime Water management Soil-water levels (indicated by auger hole/any other data)	
Historical information	
Current site interest	
<p>This field displayed a substantial diversity of grasses (14 species) and accommodates a well-established population of red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>. Forbs are less abundant and mainly represented by three species of clover, meadow buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i> and creeping buttercup <i>R.repens</i> (the latter dominates in some areas), Mouse-ear chick-weed <i>Cerastium fontanum</i> and rough hawkbit <i>Leonthodon hispidus</i> were also found on this field. The MAVIS analysis suggests this community is similar to an MG4 Typical sub-community although it lacks great burnet <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>. It appears that great burnet, present on the donor site in small amounts, hasn't established itself on any of the three restoration fields. Poor seed transfer rate and high competition from grasses are likely to have prevented great burnet seedlings from developing in this field.</p> <p>Ellenberg values for moisture and fertility suggest a dry but slightly fertile field, with good potential to develop a more species rich plant community, probably shifting towards MG4-<i>Dactylis glomerata</i> subcommunity, or MG4 Typical subcommunity.</p> <p>Surveyed in 2015 by Wildlife Trust (Matt Johnson) and 2008 (Wildlife Trust) but after the hay cut.</p>	
Phosphorus levels	Not known
Soil profiles	
	No data
Site manager aspirations/objectives	
Management recommendations	
<p>The field looks very suitable for establishment of such species as great burnet, ox-eye daisy, glaucous sedge <i>Carex flacca</i> and other species of the drier sub-communities of MG4. Targeting particular species rather than applying green hay or seed mixture, may be a more effective technique to increase the species diversity on the site. The vigour of the grasses should be reduced by either sowing yellow rattle</p>	

or by carrying out double hay cuts for 1 or 2 years before sowing more species in the field.

Aldwincle			
	Field 1	Field 2	Field 3
Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)	5.8	5.44	5.72
Ellenberg N (fertility)	5.6	4.96	5.56
Ellenberg R (Reaction)	6.4	6.12	6.04
Species/quadrat (mean and range /1 m x 1 m)	10.7	16.3	13.5
NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)	MG15a MG4c	MG6a MG6d	MG4b MG4v2