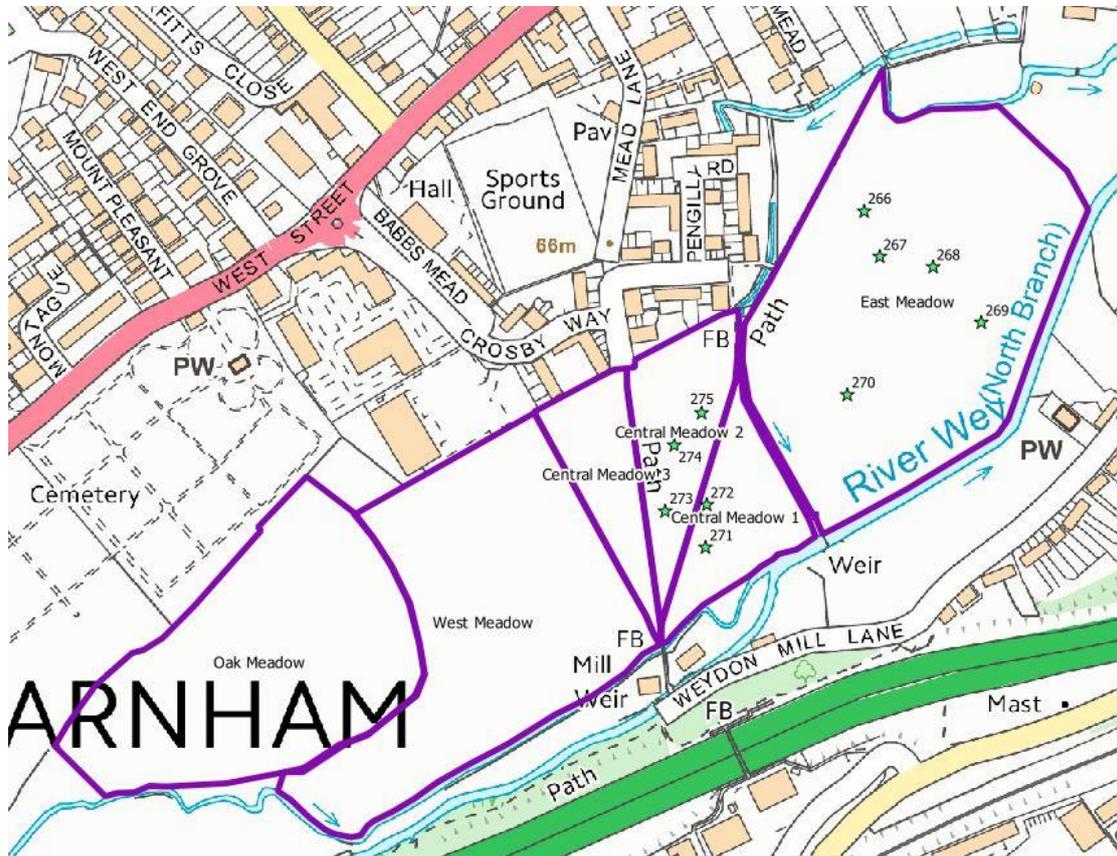


Site Visit Assessment Form Bishops Meadow, Surrey



Site Name Bishops Meadow	Grid Ref SU 83578 46302	County Surrey	
River Wey	Ownership Bishops Meadow Trust	Designation None	Size (ha) EM= 4.26 CM 1=0.71 CM 2=0.8 CM 3=0.6 WM=3.14 OM=2.87
Date 18 th May 2018	Meeting with James Munro	Managed by Bishops Meadow Trust	
Management and History			
Agri environment agreement			
Not in an AE scheme currently. Will think about approaching NE to see if they would be eligible.			
Current management			

It is typically cut in early July, but lots of docks. A weed boom was used to control docks in Spring 2018 across East and West Meadow. Some parts of the meadow were not sprayed.

Cows are now installed in West Meadow from April to November for grazing. The rest of site isn't fenced so can't aftermath graze. The aspiration is to use the cows for aftermath grazing for the whole meadow if can get fencing sorted out. Fencing for initial field where cows are now grazed was supported through the FMP Ellerman fund. A water trough was also installed (FMP funded).

No hay cut was in 2017 as the meadow was so weedy that the farmer wouldn't take it. As a result there is now lots of litter/thatch.

Dog pooh, especially in bags is a problem. Do have signs and bins etc.

The site is heavily used by locals for dog walking and general recreation etc. Approx. 20-30 dog walkers/day (probably more), 100 people per day crossing the meadow to get to town (probably more).

Use it for various summer activities (e.g. summer fun day for kids, Tudor medicines etc.

Restoration

Technique used/Dates

The site was ploughed in the war, then grazed until 1970 ish. It was then largely abandoned and became overgrown with scrub.

In about 1990, Central Meadow was ploughed for potatoes. For the rest of the field from 1970 till 2010, there was no hay cut. In 2010, the land was cleared ready for sale.

Since 2010, the whole site has been hay cut, but not aftermath grazed most years. BMT had some HLF money to write a management plan.

A small part of the field had some annuals sown as a restoration project, but these did not return after the first year although they were popular with locals.

Hydrology	Flooded in 2015, but not since then. Water tends to sit longer in East Meadow. 70 cm before hit gravel in the soil profile.
Flooding regime Water management Soil-water levels (indicated by auger hole/any other data)	

Historical information

Thought to have been a meadow for at least 600 years. Is on the Saxon map as a meadow, and used to extend further up the hill. Wasn't a Lammas Meadow, was farmed as a drowning meadow (water meadow). Sluices can still be seen outside the main meadow area, where drowning occurred upstream o the suite. Can see rill furrows going towards the old river in Oak Meadow.

In Saxon times Meadow Mill is on the maps and the lane is called Mead Way, going from the meadows up top Farnham.

In 1840, the field arrangements are the same as now. Was then owned by the church at that time before being sold on.

Current site interest	Attach excel spreadsheet for botanical data
<p>Two areas were surveyed on the site, the sprayed area (East Meadow) and unsprayed area (Central Meadow).</p> <p>East Meadow</p> <p>The plant community is very grassy, with species richness ranging from 6 to 13 per 1 m². Only five herbs including docks were recorded on the botanical quadrats. Very thick thatch (up to 20 cm deep) covers 40-60 % of the soil surface indicating that the field was not cut in 2017. This has an additional impact on herbs, in that it will prevent further germination of seedlings.</p> <p>Central Meadow</p> <p>Species richness on the non-sprayed field was similar to the sprayed one (6-12 species per m²), suggesting that there were not many herbs before spraying that could have been impacted. The non-sprayed field also suffers from the thick thatch.</p> <p>Both fields fall into the NVC community MG7 <i>Lolium perenne</i> leys and related grasslands, a relatively species poor type of vegetation according to the NVC (Rodwell 1992), however the similarity scores calculated by MAVIS are not very convincing (50-52%).</p>	
Phosphorus levels	Not known
Soil profiles	
	<p>Soil profile at quadrat 269</p> <p><i>A horizon</i> 0 - 15 cm – very dark organic-rich silty loam</p> <p><i>B horizon</i> 15 – 20 cm – transition layer with characters of both above and below. 20 – 70 cm – intensively orange iron in grey-brown clay with very slight sign of gley.</p> <p><i>C horizon</i> 70 cm - gravel</p> <p>Largely a clay soil. Not much evidence of water logging, seems free draining.</p>

Site manager aspirations/objectives

Enhance diversity, restore to a good meadow, botanically and for farming purposes, as is likely to have been 100 years ago. To provide a green heart in Farnham for the locals.

Finance and administration are a problem.

Management recommendations

Soil moisture (Ellenberg F), nutrients (Ellenberg N) and soil reaction (Ellenberg R) estimated using Ellenberg's indicator scores, based on the plant data collected all fall into the range that a more species rich plant community could be expected to thrive.

The soil profile shows intensive and frequent fluctuation of the ground water table, but no significant waterlogging. Again, these are soil-water conditions that could be expected to support a more species rich vegetation. Therefore in order to improve the diversity of the plant community here, prompt management and intervention through adding seeds/plants are critical.

Cut in June for 3-4 years to get on top of weedy species, manage nutrients and improve the quality of the hay.

We recommend managing docks in the future through a timely hay cut (June), as the site is well drained and only experiences infrequent flooding. Once a suitable and more grassy sward is present, and the hay is cut regularly and not left, docks should not be such a big problem.

Consider seed spreading, particularly some of the quick and easy to establish species like oxeye daisy, and knapweed. Plug plant more difficult to establish species like great burnet.

Approach Natural England to talk about a stewardship application to help with fencing and to get the hay cutting management right. Could also cover cost of seed/green hay/plug plants.

Alternatively, an HLF grant might be good to secure some funds for a part time ranger, who could get the management sorted out and under control, deal with the finance and admin work and undertake public engagement. In partnership with the Wildlife Trust maybe? A model might be this community wetland in Worcestershire <http://foam.btck.co.uk/>

Bishops Meadow		
	East Meadow (sprayed)	Central Meadow (unsprayed)
Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)	5.46	5.2
Ellenberg N (fertility)	6.1	6
Ellenberg R (reaction)	6.44	6.5
Species/quadrat (mean and range /1 m x 1 m)	6-13 (9.4)	6-12 (8.8)
NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)	MG7D MG7C	MG7D MG9b