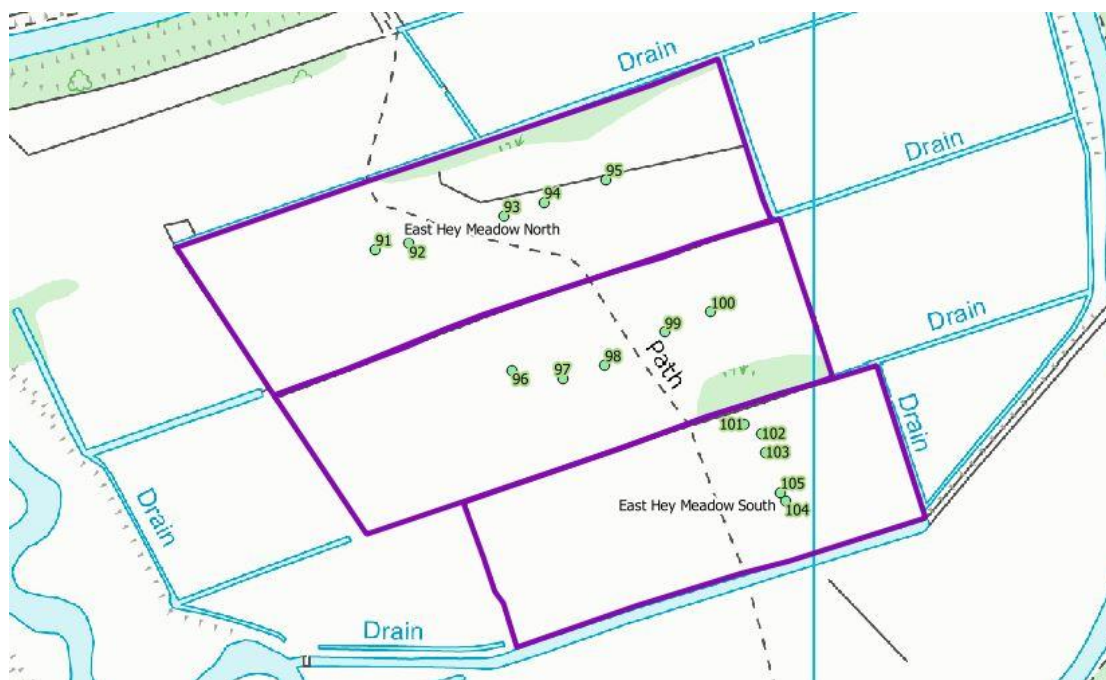



Site Visit Assessment Form – Chimney Meadows, The Island (Easy Hey North, Central and South)



Site Name Chimney Meadows East Hey Meadows north, central and south	Grid Ref North - SP367006 Central – SP 368 005 South – SP 369 004	County Oxfordshire	
River Thames	Ownership BBOWT	Designation	Size (ha) N – 4.12 C – 3.86 S – 3.06
Date May 2017	Meeting with Lisa Lane	Managed by BBOWT	
Management and History			
Managed as hay meadow when BBOWT bought the land in 2003 and managed as such since, although had a few years when the hay cut didn't happen. Old maps show the whole island (including these 3 fields) to be enclosed meadow in 1789.			
Agri environment agreement AG00418144			
Current management Annual hay cut followed by aftermath grazing			
Restoration			
Central – whole field was tine harrowed and then green hay spread in July 2016. Hay taken and aftermath grazed. Hay cut and aftermath grazed in 2017 South – whole field was tine harrowed, restoration strips were cultivated and whole field green hay spread in July 2016. No hay cut in 2017, grazed off instead.			

North – the intention was to tine harrow and spread green hay but the field seemed to be recovering following a few years of not being hay cut, just with reinstatement of the hay cut and aftermath graze. Hay cut in 2017 and aftermath grazed	
Hydrology	In full flood, most of the island is covered with water including 50% of each of these fields, when it does so. In these fields, water may lie for a few weeks but quickly drains as the river drops.
Flooding regime Water management Soil-water levels (indicated by auger hole/any other data)	
Current site interest See attached excel spreadsheet for botanical data.	
Three fields were surveyed on this site.	
East Hey South On East Hey South, half of the field was closed for grazing (sheep) on day of survey. The field is already species-rich, with up to 27 species per 1m ² in places and an average of 15.4 species/m ² . Forbs and grasses are both well presented in the field, but the spread of species is very uneven. However, many target meadow species are present here, and newly-harrowed strips will help their further distribution across the field.	
East Hey Central field is more grassy, with red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i> , cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> and meadow brome <i>Bromus racemosus</i> being well presented in the sward. Forbs are spread rather patchily, with ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , bulbous buttercup <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> and creeping cinquefoil <i>Potentilla reptans</i> covering up to 40% of the ground surface in some places. The average species richness of 16.8 species/m ² is the highest among the five fields surveyed in 2017. MG7 (<i>Lolium perenne</i> leys) scored highest in the MAVIS calculation, even though both neighbouring fields showed a clear similarity to the MG4 Typical sub-community.	
East Hey North had no specific restoration measures applied. Species diversity varies from 14 to 16 species per m ² , with an average of 14.6/m ² . Red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i> dominates the entire field with a cover of up to 50%, and also forming a substantial litter. Other meadow grasses like meadow foxtail <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , cock's-foot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> , meadow barley <i>Hordeum secalinum</i> , and meadow fescue <i>Festuca pratensis</i> are evenly distributed across the field but in small numbers. Another abundant species is meadow buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i> , however, other forbs are very sparse and patchy, probably because of increased competition with <i>F.rubra</i> .	
Phosphorus levels	P index 0
Soil profiles	

	<p>Soil at quadrat 104 (EH South)</p> <p><i>A horizon</i> 0 – 10 cm - light-brown sandy loam</p> <p><i>B horizon</i> 10 – 30 cm – organic rich loam with 5% gravel, 1x2 cm pieces 30 – 50 cm – yellow-brown sandy loam with manganese nodules</p> <p><i>C horizon</i> 50 – 60 cm – sand with 50% of gravel</p> <p>Water tends to fluctuate around 30-50 cm below ground, making this suitable for an MG4 type community, underlain by sands and gravels, which facilitate free drainage and water availability during the summer.</p>
<p>Site manager aspirations/objectives</p>	
<p>Species rich floodplain meadow and good quality hay</p>	
<p>Management recommendations</p>	
<p>There was a substantial layer of litter (up to 30% of ground cover) recorded on all three fields. It was disturbed by harrowing on EH South, but was almost uninterrupted on EH Central and in particular on EH North, which may be the reason for the slightly lower species diversity on this field. Winter grazing is recommended on all three fields to prevent litter from building up along with a consistent hay cut.</p>	

Chimney Meadows					
	Upper Common	Lock Ham	East Hey Central	East Hey South	East Hey North
Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)	5.12	4.48	4.94	4.6	5
Ellenberg N (fertility)	5.1	5.4	5	5.3	5
Ellenberg R (Reaction)	6.4	7.1	6	6.8	6
Species/quadrat (mean and range /1 m x 1 m)	15.4 (14-16)	15.4 (10-20)	16.8 (12-19)	15.4 (9-27)	14.6 (14-16)
NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)	MG5a MG4a	MG4b MG4v2	MG7 MG7E	MG4v2 MG4b	MG4b MG4v2