

Site Visit Assessment Form – The Earth Trust - Ferry Field, Oxfordshire



Site Name Earth Trust – Ferry Field	Grid Ref SU 589 925	County Oxfordshire	
River Thames	Ownership The Earth Trust	Designation None	Size (ha) 10.43
Date 19 th May 2018	Meeting with No-one	Managed by The Earth Trust	
Management and History			
Previously pasture. Forms part of the River of Life project which has involved re-modelling of river and floodplain in some areas, combined with sowing wildflower areas.			
Agri environment agreement AG00402391 (HK7?)			
Current management Manged on rotation, with 2 years grazed and third year hay cut.			
Restoration			
Sowed commercial seed in 2015 on a previously species poor field. Not sure of actual method.			
Hydrology	Floods regularly.		
Flooding regime			
Water management			


Soil-water levels (indicated by auger hole/any other data)	
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Current site interest See attached excel spreadsheet for botanical data.

On this very sandy and well-drained soil, MG4a, the dry sub-community of the MG4 plant community, is the most likely. With a relatively high cover of grasses on the field, there is still enough spaces left to allow for the presence of a number of herbs, spread across the field, including bulbous buttercup *Ranunculus bulbosus*, meadow buttercup *R. acris*, oxeye daisy, *Leucanthemum vulgare*, sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, and common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*. The composition of grasses in the community is quite diverse and includes yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* and crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*. This combination of herbs and grasses has resulted in a species rich sward with one quadrat recording 25 species per m², which is a very high level of species richness for a recently sown restoration site.

Phosphorus levels	Not known
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Soil profiles

	<p>Soil profile at quadrat 53</p> <p><i>A horizon</i> 0 – 10 cm – dark-brown sandy loam</p> <p><i>B horizon</i> 10 – 50 cm – light-brown sandy loam with some amount of clay. 50 – 70 cm – very sandy loam</p> <p><i>C horizon</i> 70 – 100 cm – sand, no gravel</p> <p>The soil here is very well drained, with no evidence of waterlogging.</p>
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Site manager aspirations/objectives
Species rich meadow
Management recommendations
Consistent, annual hay cuts with aftermath grazing if possible should be sufficient for the continued development of a species rich floodplain meadow likely MG4a or MG5 NVC types.

The Earth Trust			
	Two Pond Field	The Waterboard	Ferry Field
Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)	5.38	5.2	4.96
Ellenberg N (fertility)	6.18	5.24	5.2
Ellenberg R (Reaction)	6.04	6.28	6.4
Species/quadrat (mean and range /1 m x 1 m)	13 (12-14)	17 (15-19)	21 (16-25)
NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)	MG7D MG7	MG7D MG4v2	MG4a MG4v2