

Site Visit Assessment Form – Oundle Big Meadow Field 1. Northamptonshire



Site Name Oundle Big Meadow	Grid Ref TL03867651	County Northamptonshire	
Catchment Nene	Ownership John Gent	Designation none	Size (ha) 17 ha
Date 9 th June 2016	Meeting with FMP Steering Group	Managed by John Gent	
Management and History			
Agri environment agreement			
AG00292818 HK8			
Current management			
Annual hay cut followed by aftermath grazing			
Restoration			
Technique used/Dates			
Sown with EM8 mix in 2010 on land that was formerly arable as farmer wanted more land for stock. 400 kg of seed was spread.			

Hydrology	Floods regularly
Historical information	
Current site interest	Attach excel spreadsheet for botanical data
<p>We visited in 2012, but did not collect any quadrat data. The Wildlife Trust have collected quadrat data from here – 10 quadrats across the field from the river to the hedge, possibly annually over 3-4 years but data currently unavailable. The farmers' sister is keen to start monitoring up again so BCN Wildlife Trust are going to do a transect with her next summer.</p> <p>The species diversity on the site is relatively high, varying from 17 to 23 species per square metre. MG9 of the NVC - <i>Holcus lanatus-Deschampsia cespitosa</i> grassland (typically found on permanently moist, gleyed and periodically inundated soils) – proved the best match from MAVIS. MG5 is also a good match for the community here, and is typically found in the drier end of the floodplain meadow community range. Both grasses and forbs get equal amounts of cover (20-30%). Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> is dominant on some of the plots with 40% cover. Other abundant species include meadow foxtail <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, smooth brome <i>Bromus racemosus</i>, crested dog's-tail <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>, rough meadow grass <i>Poa trivialis</i>, selfheal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>, meadow buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i>, lesser trefoil <i>Trifolium dubium</i>, ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> and creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>, thereby maintaining high diversity across the field.</p> <p>According to Ellenberg indicator scores, the soil on the field is not very fertile (N=5.16), and the soil moisture is not high (F=5.58). These scores make the site a very suitable habitat for an MG5 plant community.</p>	
Phosphorus levels	Not known
Soil auger photo and findings	None taken
Site manager aspirations/objectives	
More species rich grassland	
Management recommendations	
Maintain management regime.	

Oundle Big Meadow	
Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)	5.58
Ellenberg N (soil fertility)	5.16
Ellenberg R (pH)	6.02
Species/quadrat (mean/1 x 1 m² and range)	20.8 (17-23)
NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)	MG9 MG5b