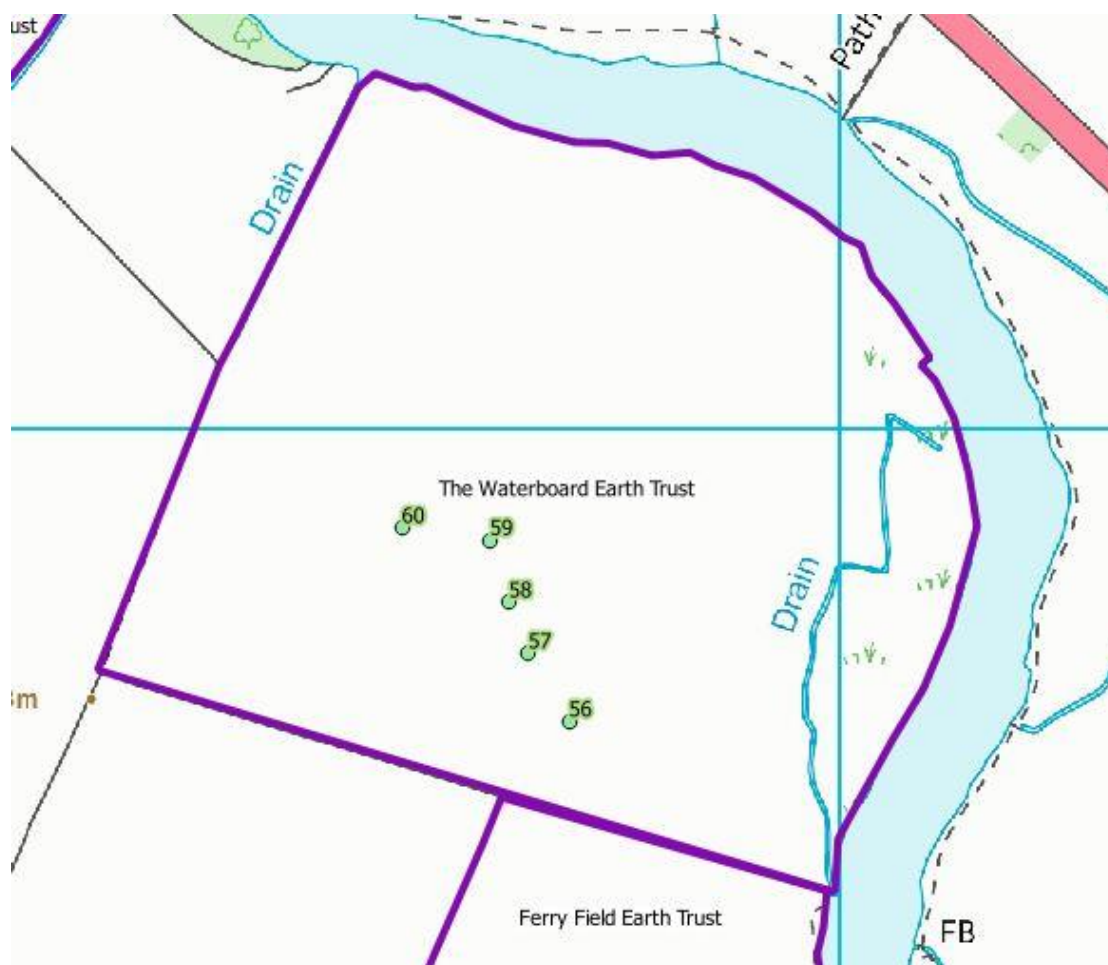



Site Visit Assessment Form – The Earth Trust The Waterboard, Oxfordshire



Site Name Earth Trust – Two Pond Field	Grid Ref SU 589929	County Oxfordshire	
River Thames	Ownership The Earth Trust	Designation None	Size (ha) 12.02
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 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)	
<p>Current site interest See attached excel spreadsheet for botanical data.</p> <p>The soil here is very shallow and well drained, suggesting that a species rich meadow is a very likely outcome with careful management.</p> <p>Both creeping bent grass <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> and red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i> are dominant on the field, with other grasses and forbs present in small amounts. Nutrients brought in by regular floods are likely to be resulting in a dominance of grasses here. The NVC community is closest to MG7, and with such shallow, well-drained and sandy soil the restoration of a drier species-rich meadow of MG5 or MG4a would be expected.</p>	
Phosphorus levels	Not known
Soil profiles	
	<p>Soil profile at quadrat 59</p> <p><i>A horizon</i> 0 – 20 cm – dark-brown sandy loam</p> <p><i>B horizon</i> 20 – 40 cm – sandy-sandy loam with large stones up to 5-7 cm, impossible to auger deeper.</p>

Site manager aspirations/objectives
Species rich grassland
Management recommendations
An annual hay cut in late June/early July would be recommended to decrease the vigour of the grasses and also to prevent the build-up of litter. Litter will prevent germination and re-growth of weak competitors like forbs. Aftermath grazing if possible will also help with the reduction of litter. Soil conditions are likely to support a more species rich sward if suitable management can be implemented.

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