Site Visit Assessment Form – Far Park 2, Cumbria

Site Name Far Park 2	**Grid Ref** SD477978	**County** Cumbria	
River Kent	**Ownership** Private	**Designation** None	**Size (ha)** 3.35
Date 5th July 2017	**Meeting with** No one	**Managed by** Private	
Management and History			
Agri environment agreement			
AG00352474			
Current management			
Hay cut and aftermath graze. Site was grazed by sheep on a day of visit 4/07/2017			
Restoration			
Technique used/Dates			
A hay cut was restored in about 2010 when the site was surveyed. Brush harvested seed was applied after the fields were harrowed, however the fields were so wet that the seed had to be stored before being sown, ended up being sown in patches. The landowner doesn't think it worked therefore as he can't see evidence of clumps of plants.			

Hydrology	Field does flood
Flooding regime Water management Soil-water levels (indicated by auger hole/any other data)	

Historical information	
During the war, some of these fields were ploughed for potatoes, but this stopped in the 1950's. Hay was taken in the mid-50's but just been grazed since then. Not been improved other than small amount of slurry. Been just grazed for about 50 years therefore.	
Current site interest	Attach excel spreadsheet for botanical data
Field 2 is slightly more species rich than field 1, averaging 19.4 species/m^2. Despite regular floods, the soil nutrient level of the field is relatively low (Ellenberg N=4.18). The sandy and extremely shallow soil profile means that nutrients are less likely to accumulate in the soil. At the same time the field is relatively wet (Ellenberg F=5.18), resulting in a community most similar to MG8 Kingcup-carnation sedge meadow *Cynosurus cristatus-Carex panicea-Caltha palustris*. Meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, rough hawkbit *Leonthodon hispidus*, eyebright *Euphrasia nemorosa*, red fescue Festuca rubra and red clover *Trifolium repens* are growing on the meadow very well. Common bent grass *Agrostis capillaris* dominates among the grasses indicating a mild acidity of the soil which is confirmed by Ellenbergs soil reaction value of R=5.6.	
Phosphorus levels	Not known
Soil profiles	
Soil profile at quadrat 180 (no photo) *A horizon* 0 – 10 cm – silty loamy sand *B horizon* 10 – 20 cm – silty loam with gravel Stones below 20 cm	
Site manager aspirations/objectives	
Species rich meadow	
Management recommendations	
The plant community is relatively well balanced in terms of success of germination and establishment of both grasses and forbs. Consistent management of the field as a hay meadow will ensure the plant community becomes less patchy and more species rich.	

	Far Park	
	Field 1	Field 2
Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)	5.42	5.18
Ellenberg N (fertility)	4.48	4.18
Ellenberg R (Reaction)	6.16	5.6
Species/quadrat (mean and range /1 m x 1 m)	17.6 (16-19)	19.4 (15-22)
NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)	MG8 MG4b	MG8 MG8d