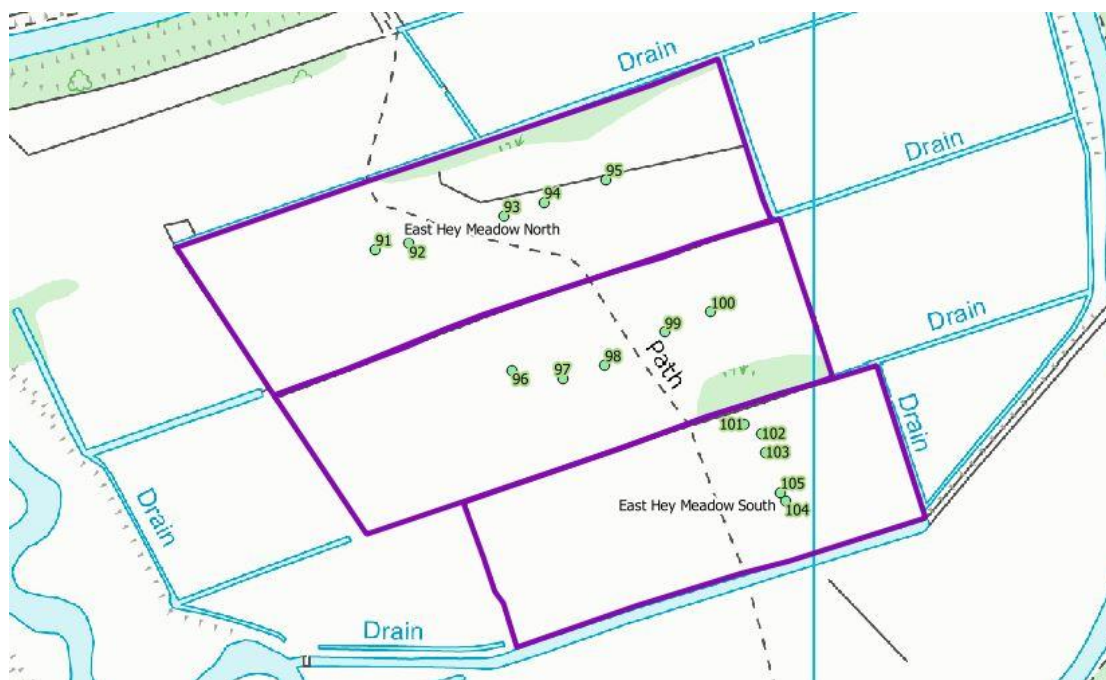



**Site Visit Assessment Form – Chimney Meadows, The Island (Easy Hey North, Central and South)**



<b>Site Name</b> Chimney Meadows East Hey central and south	<b>Grid Ref</b> North - SP367006 Central – SP 368 005 South – SP 369 004	<b>County</b> Oxfordshire	
<b>River</b> Thames	<b>Ownership</b> BBOWT	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Size (ha)</b> N – 4.12 C – 3.86 S – 3.06
<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting with</b>	<b>Managed by</b> BBOWT	
<b>Management and History</b>			
Not sure what this was before restoration			
<b>Agri environment agreement</b> AG00418144			
<b>Current management</b> Annual hay cut followed by aftermath grazing			
<b>Restoration</b>			
Central – field was harrowed and then green hay spread in 2016 South - restoration in 2016 using cultivated strips Not sure that the northern field has undergone any restoration. Possibly a control for comparison?			
<b>Hydrology</b>	Floods? Does it?		

Flooding regime Water management Soil-water levels (indicated by auger hole/any other data)	
<p><b>Current site interest</b> See attached excel spreadsheet for botanical data.</p> <p>Three fields were surveyed on this site.</p> <p><b>East Hay South</b>          On East Hay South, half of the field was closed for grazing (sheep) on day of survey. The other half was sown in harrowed strips. The field was harrowed again in 2017 (?), creating more open surface for potential seed germination. The field is already species-rich, with up to 27 species per 1m<sup>2</sup> in places and an average of 15.4 species/m<sup>2</sup>. 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.</p> <p><b>East Hay Central</b> 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<sup>2</sup> 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.</p> <p><b>East Hay North</b> had no specific restoration measures applied. Species diversity varies from 14 to 16 species per m<sup>2</sup>, with an average of 14.6/m<sup>2</sup>. 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>.</p>	
<b>Phosphorus levels</b>	Not known
<b>Soil profiles</b>	

	<p><b>Soil at quadrat 104 (EH South)</b></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><b>Site manager aspirations/objectives</b></p>	
<p>Species rich floodplain meadow and good quality hay</p>	
<p><b>Management recommendations</b></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
<b>Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)</b>	5.12	4.48	4.94	4.6	5
<b>Ellenberg N (fertility)</b>	5.1	5.4	5	5.3	5
<b>Ellenberg R (Reaction)</b>	6.4	7.1	6	6.8	6
<b>Species/quadrat (mean and range /1 m x 1 m)</b>	15.4 (14-16)	15.4 (10-20)	16.8 (12-19)	15.4 (9-27)	14.6 (14-16)
<b>NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)</b>	MG5a MG4a	MG4b MG4v2	MG7 MG7E	MG4v2 MG4b	MG4b MG4v2