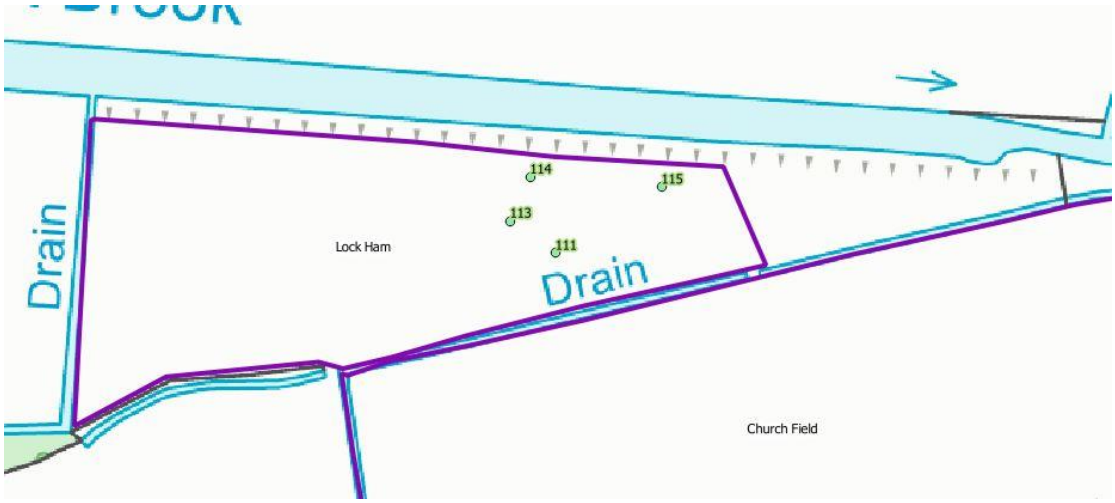
Site Visit Assessment Form – Lock Ham - Chimney Meadows Oxfordshire



Site Name Chimney Meadows Lock Ham	**Grid Ref** SP362 016	**County** Oxfordshire	
River Thames	**Ownership** BBOWT	**Designation**	**Size (ha)** 1.86
Date	**Meeting with**	**Managed by** BBOWT	
Management and History			
Species poor sward previously managed as hay meadow			
Agri environment agreement AG00418144			
Current management Annual hay cut followed by aftermath grazing			
Restoration			
In 2015 spread green hay. Kept the field short through grazing, then spring tyne harrowed in 2-3 directions to open up sward then green hay spread on, using hay from Church Field (itself an arable reversion using hay from the NNR). Spread using a forager and muck spreader in second half of July 2015. Has been a long term meadow, so some species like meadow brome and meadow barley are present. It's possible that previously, hay had been spread here from North Meadow (Cricklade) by Peter Devere Hunt. There was a patch of great burnet in existing sward.			
Hydrology	Floods? Does it?		
Flooding regime Water management Soil-water levels (indicated by auger hole/any other data)			

Current site interest See attached excel spreadsheet for botanical data. In some areas of Lock Ham up to 20 species per 1 m2 were recorded. However over large areas the vegetation is very uneven, with only 10 species per 1 m2 elsewhere. The annual grass *Bromus commutatus* dominates the field with up to 90% cover. Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria,* ladies bedstraw *Galium verum,* meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis,* Autumn hawkbit *Leonthodon autumnalis,* bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus,* meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris,* ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata,* sorrel *Rumex acetosa* and goat's-beard *Tragopogon pratensis* can be considered to be established in the field, but their presence is extremely patchy and the formation of more even vegetation may take a long time. Overall, 18 species of forbs were recorded on 5 plots. The MG4 Typical sub-community scored highest in MAVIS showing a good level of restoration success. The high soil reaction value (Ellenberg R=7.1) shows the soil is favourable for a species-rich plant community.	
Phosphorus levels	Not known
Soil profiles - No soil profile at this field	
Site manager aspirations/objectives	
Species rich floodplain meadow and good quality hay	
Management recommendations	
Consistent management with a regular hay cut should be sufficient to continue to move this site towards a species rich meadow.	

Chimney Meadows					
	Upper Common	Lock Ham	East Hey Central	East Hey South	East Hay North
Ellenberg F (moisture tolerance)	5.12	4.48	4.94	4.6	5
Ellenberg N (fertility)	5.1	5.4	5	5.3	5
Ellenberg R (Reaction)	6.4	7.1	6	6.8	6
Species/quadrat (mean and range /1 m x 1 m)	15.4 (14-16)	15.4 (10-20)	16.8 (12-19)	15.4 (9-27)	14.6 (14-16)
NVC (top 2 MAVIS subcommunities)	MG5a MG4a	MG4b MG4v2	MG7 MG7E	MG4v2 MG4b	MG4b MG4v2