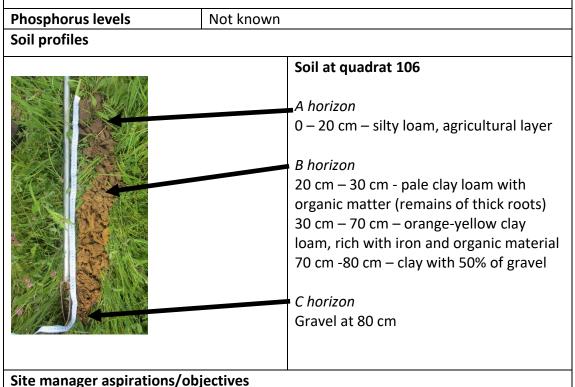


Site Visit Assessment Form – Upper Common, Chimney Meadows. Oxfordshire

Site Name	Grid Ref	County	County		
Chimney Meadows Upper	SP369 015	Oxfordshire			
Common					
River	Ownership	Designation	Size (ha)		
Thames	BBOWT		10.14		
Date	Meeting with	Managed by BBOWT			
Management and History					
This field was originally arab	le, then grass/pasture.				
Agri environment agreemer AG00418144	nt				
Current management					
Annual hay cut followed by	aftermath grazing				
Restoration					
In 2015 spread green hay fo	llowing extensive creation	n of bare ground. Fie	eld was		
species poor when in grass,	low herbs, but P levels w	ere low. Green hay o	came from		
Church Field. Took whole fie	ld back to bare ground as	s no existing botanic	al interest.		
Disked two ways, then powe	· · ·	, 0			
Resulted in a good seedbed		y, but lots got eaten	by badgers		
and muntjac deer although	•				
Hydrology	Floods.				
Flooding regime					
Water management					
Soil-water levels (indicated					
by auger hole/any other					
data)					

High level of meadow brome *Bromus racemosus*, red clover *Trifolium pratense and* ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata* are typically found in restoration sites that are in the early stages of development towards a more permanent plant community. Several grass species, e.g., cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*, crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus* and red fescue *Festuca rubra* have established well whilst not dominating the community because of a low soil nutrient level (Ellenberg N=5.2). A species richness of 15.4 species/m<sup>2</sup> is relatively high for a newly restored site, but the number of forbs are very low compared to grasses. 20% of the ground was covered by a layer of litter which could have a negative effect on germination of the forbs' seeds. Dry subcommunities of MG5 and MG4 both scored highly according to the MAVIS calculation. The Ellenberg indicator score for wetness (F=5.12) also suggests the site is relatively dry.



Species rich floodplain meadow and good quality hay

## Management recommendations

Winter grazing is recommended to prevent plant litter from building up and limiting germination of weakly competitive forbs. Bearing in mind the very small number of forbs species recorded on the meadow, additional sowing of seeds from some target species from elsewhere on the reserve could be recommended in 2018 while the sward is still quite open. Ensure a regular hay cut.

Chimney Meadows						
	Upper	Lock	East Hey	East Hey	East Hay	
	Common	Ham	Central	South	North	
Ellenberg F (moisture	5.12	4.48	4.94	4.6	5	
tolerance)						
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	15.4	15.4	16.8	15.4	14.6	
and range /1 m x 1 m)	(14-16)	(10-20)	(12-19)	(9-27)	(14-16)	
NVC (top 2 MAVIS	MG5a	MG4b	MG7	MG4v2	MG4b	
subcommunities)	MG4a	MG4v2	MG7E	MG4b	MG4v2	