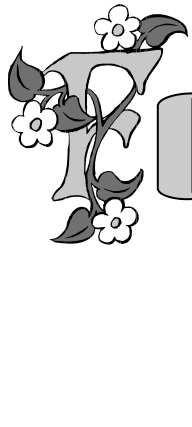




Flowering Fields Grassland survey



A meadow is a piece of land that is used to produce hay, often old agricultural land. It is home to a variety of plants, insects, birds and animals. Due to intensive farming practices and new technologies meadows are now very rare habitats.

This form is intended to be used to record details of unimproved grassland habitats that is to say meadow and pastureland. However, you may find small areas of remnant meadow land, such as roadside verges or field corners, that may also be considered as unimproved grassland habitats, though on a smaller scale. This form should be used in conjunction with a large scale base map on which the position of the meadow can be marked.

Using this form you can help us identify where in the county we have areas of unimproved grassland. You can also help us identify the best examples of this habitat that could be classified as a Wildlife site. For an area of unimproved grassland to be classified as a wildlife site it must meet certain criteria about its size and the number of indicator species that it contains. These depend on the type of grassland that is being surveyed e.g. neutral, limestone/calcareous, acidic or wet.



Instructions

1. Chose an area such as a village or parish
2. Obtain an Ordnance Survey base map. The Community Heritage Initiative can supply you with this if necessary.
3. Copy a number of Flowering Fields Survey forms if you need more than supplied, download extra copies from the Leicestershire County Council website at www.leics.gov.uk/celebrating_wildlife or contact the Community Heritage Initiative for more copies.
4. Write a title on the map which describes the location.
5. Identify the area of grassland to be surveyed and outline it on the map.
6. If you are surveying more than one area, give each one a unique number and mark this on the map and on the survey form.
7. Ask for permission before entering private land and do not leave a public right of way without a landowner's consent, otherwise you will be trespassing and liable to prosecution. Always let the owner know when you will be visiting if you will be leaving a right of way.
8. Measure the length and width of the area (you could measure your stride and then pace out the area to calculate this).
9. For each area fill in all of the parts of the form.
10. Return the base map and the forms to the Community Heritage Initiative

Please do not forget to include a six figure grid reference and map where possible.



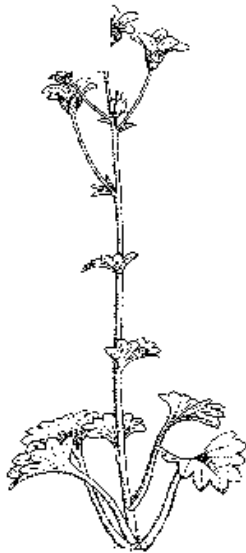
Wildlife Site Criteria

For an area of unimproved grassland to be classified as a wildlife site it must meet certain criteria about its size and the number of indicator species that it contains. These depend on the type of grassland that is being surveyed e.g. neutral, limestone/calcareous, acidic or wet.

Beside each species is a letter to identify what sort of grassland it is an indicator species for. From this you should be able to work out what category of grassland you are surveying.

Meadow length and width

Please give the size of the meadow you are surveying. You could measure the length of your pace in metres and then work out the size of the meadow by pacing it out and multiplying the number of your paces by the length of your pace.



Meadow saxifrage

Meadow Boundary:

Take a look at the boundaries of the meadow and please tick the box or boxes that best describe them. The boundaries may be different on different sides of the meadow or the boundary may incorporate two of the types given—please tick the box for each of the types you can see.

Adjacent land use:

Please tick the box(es) that best describe the use of the land surrounding the meadow you are surveying. If there is more than one land use, please tick all of the relevant boxes.

Evidence of management:

If you are familiar with the site you may already know whether the site is used for grazing or hay making. If you do not know, you could ask a local person or look for signs of either—i.e. cow pats!



Viper's bugloss



Harebell

Safety tips

- When surveying it is better to work with someone else because not only is it more fun but safer too. Always let someone else know where you are going.
- Keep children in sight at all times.
- Beware of any livestock that may be near by.
- Make sure you wear suitable outdoor clothing.
- Always wash your hands before eating or drinking after carrying out a survey.

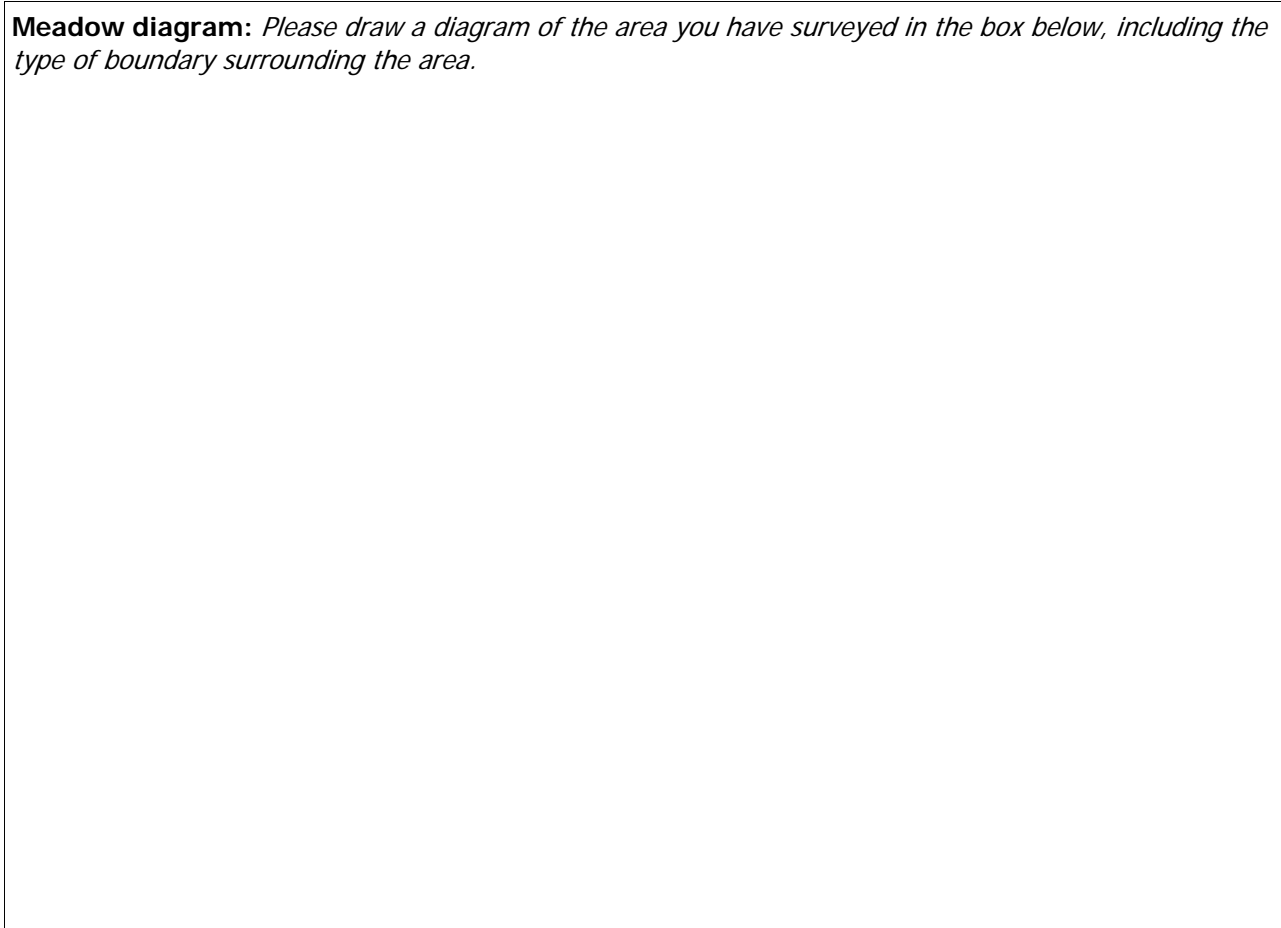
You may find it useful to take a wildflower identification guide with you when you go out surveying. If you do not have one of these you could borrow one from the library. Recommended identification guides:

Fritter, R., Fritter, A. and Blamey. *Collins Pocket Guide Wildflowers of Britain and Northern Europe*. Collins. 1974.

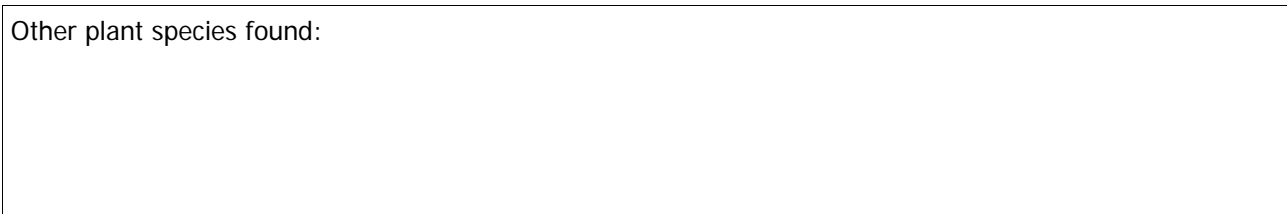
Rose, F. *The Wildflower Key, British Isles - N.W. Europe*. Penguin. 1981.

Hayward, J. *A New Key To Wildflowers*. Cambridge University Press. 1987

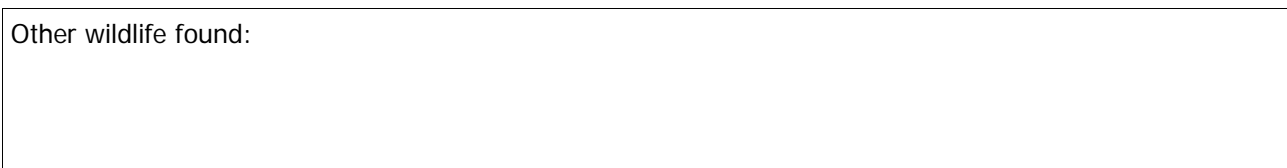
Meadow diagram: *Please draw a diagram of the area you have surveyed in the box below, including the type of boundary surrounding the area.*



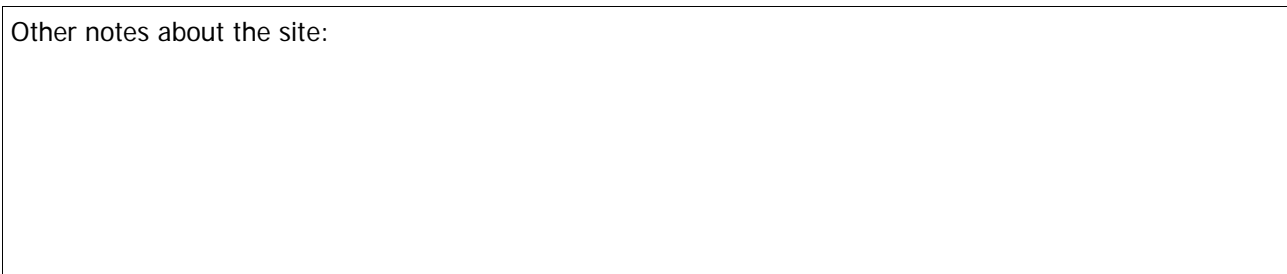
Other plant species found:



Other wildlife found:



Other notes about the site:



What happens to records sent to the Environment and Heritage Resources Centre? The Centre holds the 'people's collection', keeping natural history information from Leicestershire and Rutland safe and available to all. The information you send to the Centre is checked and then added to the main database. It can then be used to interpret changes in our countryside and wildlife populations, and to inform local plans or conservation strategies. Anyone can ask to see the information, and data is often published online or in reports. The information is never sold, but organisations may be charged a fee to cover staff time spent searching and reporting on some data. Your personal details will be stored with your records. Your personal details will not be passed on to anyone else.

Can we contact you if we need to ask you about your record? Yes No If you would like to receive reports of the findings of this survey, please tick here

Survey date:	Recorder name:
Location: (including nearest settlement)	Landowner details:
6 fig grid ref:	Photo enclosed: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If you have marked the field location on a map please give:	
Map Title:	Field number on map:

Meadow length: (metres)		Meadow width: (metres)	
Meadow boundary: <i>(Please tick all present)</i>	Hedgerow <input type="checkbox"/>	Trees <input type="checkbox"/>	Road <input type="checkbox"/>
	Fence <input type="checkbox"/>	Wall <input type="checkbox"/>	Ditch <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other:		
Adjacent land use: <i>(tick all present)</i>	Arable land <input type="checkbox"/>	Grazed land <input type="checkbox"/>	Farmhouse <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland <input type="checkbox"/>
	Road <input type="checkbox"/>	Housing <input type="checkbox"/>	Parkland <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other:		
Evidence of management:	Used for haymaking <input type="checkbox"/>		Grazed for livestock <input type="checkbox"/>
Type of livestock:	Sheep <input type="checkbox"/>	Cattle <input type="checkbox"/>	Horses <input type="checkbox"/> Llamas <input type="checkbox"/>
	Other:		

Species found:											
Agrimony	<input type="checkbox"/>	N L	Field scabious	<input type="checkbox"/>	N L	Marsh arrowgrass	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	Rough hawkbit	<input type="checkbox"/>	N
Autumn gentain	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Field woodrush	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Marsh bedstraw	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	Rush	<input type="checkbox"/>	W
Autumn Hawkbit	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Great burnet	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Marsh marigold	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	Salad burnet	<input type="checkbox"/>	L
Bee orchid	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Greater knapweed	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Marsh thistle	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	Sedge	<input type="checkbox"/>	N W
Betony	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Greater birds-foot-trefoil	<input type="checkbox"/>	N W	Mat-grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Sheep's fescue	<input type="checkbox"/>	A
Bilberry	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Harebell	<input type="checkbox"/>	N A	Meadow buttercup	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Sheep's sorrel	<input type="checkbox"/>	A
Birdsfoot trefoil	<input type="checkbox"/>		Heath bedstraw	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Meadow saxifrage	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Small scabious	<input type="checkbox"/>	L
Bitter vetch	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Heath-grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Meadowsweet	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Sneezewort	<input type="checkbox"/>	W
Blue fleabane	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Heath rush	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Meadow vetchling	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Sorrel	<input type="checkbox"/>	N
Bulbous buttercup	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Heath wood-rush	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Oxeye daisy	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Thyme	<input type="checkbox"/>	L
Burnet saxifrage	<input type="checkbox"/>	N L	Hoary plantain	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Pepper-saxifrage	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Tormentil	<input type="checkbox"/>	N A
Clustered bellflower	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Kidney vetch	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Pignut	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Tubular water dropwort	<input type="checkbox"/>	W
Common fleabane	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	Knapweed	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Ploughman's-spikenard	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Tufted vetch	<input type="checkbox"/>	L
Common bent	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Knapweed broomrape	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Cowslip	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Viper's bugloss	<input type="checkbox"/>	L
Common meadow rue	<input type="checkbox"/>		Lady's bedstraw	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Purging flax	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Wavy hair-grass	<input type="checkbox"/>	A
Cross-leaved heath	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Lady's-mantle	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Pyramidal orchid	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Wild angelica	<input type="checkbox"/>	W
Cuckoo flower	<input type="checkbox"/>		Lesser spearwort	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	Ragged robin	<input type="checkbox"/>	W	Yellow-rattle	<input type="checkbox"/>	N
Devil's-bit scabious	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Ling	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Red clover	<input type="checkbox"/>	N	Yellow-wort	<input type="checkbox"/>	L
Eyebright	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Marjoram	<input type="checkbox"/>	L	Rest-harrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	N L			

L = Limestone, or calcareous grassland. Number of indicator species recorded: _____

N = Neutral grassland. Number of indicator species recorded: _____

W = Wet grassland. Number of indicator species recorded: _____ Does the area flood seasonally?

A = Acidic grassland. Number of indicator species recorded: _____