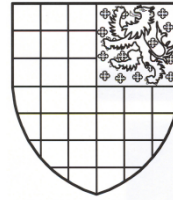


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

To: Cllrs Bird; Burrows; Handy; Henman; O'Keeffe; Sains and Vernon

A Meeting of the **Landport Bottom Management Committee** will be held on **Tuesday 7th July 2020**, via Zoom video-link (*please see below*) at **7:00pm** which you are summoned to attend.

***VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE:** This meeting can be joined using computer video and audio using any suitably equipped digital device (*eg* laptop; tablet or smartphone) or, by audio only, using a telephone.

To join this meeting either follow this link: <https://zoom.us/j/93075713088>

Or telephone 0131 460 1196 or +44 (0)330 088 5830. Use **Meeting ID: 930 7571 3088**

***Please also see the note below regarding password-controlled access to this online meeting**

S Brigden, Town Clerk 30th June 2020

AGENDA

1. ELECTION of CHAIR

To elect a Chairperson for the municipal year 2020/21

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

To receive apologies from members of the committee who are unable to attend.

3. MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To note declarations of any personal or prejudicial interests in matters on this agenda.

4. QUESTION TIME

To consider any questions received regarding items on the agenda for this meeting.

5. MINUTES

To agree Minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2020.

(attached page 3)

6. REPORT by SPECIALIST ADVISER

To receive a progress report from Lewes District Council's Specialist Adviser

(notes attached page 6)

7. UPDATE TO SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN

To consider an updated Plan

(discussion draft attached page 8)

8. BENCH SEAT

To consider a request for a bench seat

(oral report by Town Clerk)

For further information about items on this agenda please contact the Town Clerk BY E-MAIL at the above address

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE – Covid-19 emergency arrangements:

Members of the public have the right, and are welcome, to attend* this meeting of the Council – questions regarding items on the agenda may be heard at the start of the meeting with the Mayor's consent.

Questions or requests to address the Council must be submitted by email to the Town Clerk at least 3 days in advance.

This meeting will be held online via Zoom Pro video link. To join the meeting follow the instructions above.

***Members of the public wishing to join this meeting must request a password by email at least 24 hours before the published start time. Please submit your request to townclerk@lewes-tc.gov.uk**

For guidance on joining online meetings please see the notes overleaf

This agenda and supporting papers can be downloaded from www.lewes-tc.gov.uk

Guidance on attending ‘virtual meetings’



Joining a meeting:

1. Invitations to COUNCILLORS and officers to join a virtual meeting of the Council; a committee, or Working Party will be included in an email accompanying the agenda, and will look similar to this (*examples only*):

Lewes Town Council is inviting you to a meeting of ??????????????????

To join the meeting, use this **link**: zoom.us/j/nnnnnnnnnnnn

Meeting ID: 123 4567 8910 (*example only*)

Password: 123456 (*example only*)

OR dial by your location

+44 (0)131 460 1196 United Kingdom or +44 (0)330 088 5830 United Kingdom

The link (but not the password) will be also repeated at the head of the Agenda and can be accessed from either. The **password** should not be shared, as **PUBLIC** attendees are asked to request a password by email at least 24hrs before the scheduled start.

2. Using a digital device with camera and microphone (*eg* laptop; tablet, smartphone), access can be gained by following the link. If audio-only is preferred (or problems interfere with video connection), telephone connection can be made using either of the numbers and following the prompts. Meeting ID and Password may be required dependent upon your chosen method.
3. If using computer audio and video a screen will open, similar to this:

Launching...

Please click **Open Zoom Meetings** if you see the system dialog.

If nothing prompts from browser, [click here](#) to launch the meeting, or [download & run Zoom](#).

If you cannot download or run the application, [join from your browser](#).

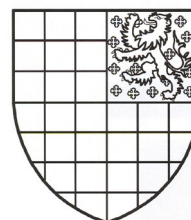
4. If you cannot download the application (or choose not to), or cannot run it, you may join from your internet browser by selecting that option.
5. On first connecting with the meeting you will be admitted to a virtual **Waiting Room**. Please follow any prompts, whether on-screen or audible. Attendees will be admitted once the meeting starts and what you see or hear after entry to the meeting may depend upon the equipment you are using.
6. To begin each meeting, the Chair will introduce some **meeting protocols** and all those attending will have live audio connections but will be asked to ‘mute’ their microphone when not speaking. Those wishing to speak will be asked to indicate by raising their hand or using the ‘hand up’ icon or sending a Chat message and they will be invited to do so by the Chair. The Chair can mute all attendees and selectively unmute individual speakers if there are interruptions or background noise issues.
7. While it is possible to use on-screen options to signify **voting** this will NOT be used. Should a vote be called during any meeting the Chair will ask Members to signify by raising their hand or, if there are any voting members attending by audio only, asking each in turn to voice their vote or abstention.
8. Attendees can send short **‘Chat’ messages** to one another privately and publicly during the meeting.
9. Meetings will be recorded, but records kept only until the Minutes have been subsequently validated.

PLEASE NOTE:

Before connecting, it is good practice to ensure that your equipment is adequately charged; that you will not be interrupted, and that your camera’s field of view or microphone do not capture anything you would prefer is not seen/heard publicly. Functions will be available once you have entered the meeting to alter the background, and your camera and microphone can be muted at will.

Please also ensure that other equipment nearby does not introduce audio ‘feedback’; that background noise is minimal, and that you select appropriate levels of microphone sensitivity and speaker volume on your device.

To learn more, a number of helpful FAQ’s and video tutorials are available at www.zoom.us



MINUTES

of the **Landport Bottom Management Committee** held on **Wednesday 26th February 2020**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes** at **7:00pm**.

PRESENT Cllrs Burrows; Handy; Sains and Vernon

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*) B Courage (*LTC Town Ranger*) and Ms Thyone Outram (*Lewes District Council Specialist Advisor - Downland and Nature Reserves*).

LBMC2019/09 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Bird, who had a medical appointment, and Cllr Henman who was working abroad. No message had been received from Cllr O'Keeffe.

LBMC2019/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Handy noted that he lived adjacent to Landport Bottom.

LBMC2019/11 **QUESTIONS:** There were none.

LBMC2019/12 **MINUTES: it was resolved that**

LBMC2019/12.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2019 are received and signed as an accurate record.

LBMC2019/13 **REMIT of the COMMITTEE:**

The Chairman briefly rehearsed the remit of the Committee, which is:

- a. To conserve and enhance Landport Bottom as an important feature of the local landscape
- b. To increase biodiversity by appropriate habitat management
- c. To protect and conserve the Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Registered Battlefield site, and other important historical features.
- d. To promote quiet, informal enjoyment of Landport Bottom by the general public.
- e. To involve the local community in the development and management of the site
- f. To increase the understanding and awareness of the importance of the site, amongst local people and visitors.
- g. To manage the site with the Health and Safety of the visitors, staff and volunteers as a high priority.
- h. To manage stock with the highest welfare standards.
- i. To maintain current fixed assets to high standards.

LBMC2019/14 **HIGHER-LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME RENEWAL:**

1 The meeting welcomed Ms Outram, Lewes District Council's (LDC) Specialist Advisor - Downland and Nature Reserves, who was contracted to manage the land on the Town Council's behalf. Ms Outram gave a short but extremely informative visual presentation on the nature of chalk downland and its importance and rarity globally. Members were interested to note that the UK holds 5% of the world's chalk grassland and that, although the South Downs appeared to be a large area only 4% of that was in fact classified as 'Lowland Calcareous Grassland' – the greater portion being farmed too intensively; to the detriment of the natural-occurring species and habitats that were so important.

2 The presentation demonstrated the variety of species and varieties of flora and fauna that had evolved to require this specialized environment; and emphasized the fragility of the ecosystems. Whilst the grazing (by sheep) of the land often appeared

to observers to be ‘farming’ it was described as extremely low-intensity and carefully managed to optimum benefit of the landscape.

3 Since the initial reversion of the land in 1992, which had previously been used for arable crops, it had benefitted from successive environmental support programmes funded by European grants. Currently the land was part of an ‘estate’ entered into the Higher-Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS) and comprising LDC’s nature reserves and specialized land-holdings. Due to the importance of Chalk Downland and the land area represented by Landport Bottom, it validated a high proportion of the total grant payable. Whilst this grant was actually ‘pooled’ and used across all the sites in the estate, it was nonetheless a beneficial scheme as it also offered expert advice services and other ancillary advantages.

4 The present 5-year scheme Agreement expired in April 2021, and the government Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was already trialling a new (“post-Brexit”) Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM); expected to be in place sometime after 2022. This would follow the evolving Environment Bill, delayed by the national elections and ‘Brexit’, and was anticipated to match the needs of Landport Bottom extremely well. With this in view DEFRA had offered HLS scheme members with agreements expiring in 2019 and 2020 the option to ‘roll-over’ for an additional year or more. It was extremely likely that this opportunity would be offered for the current Agreement, but the decisions had hitherto not been announced until within one year of expiry. An offer was unlikely, therefore, before May or June (or later). Lewes District Council’s preferred option would be to apply to roll over the HLS agreement until 2022 (when/if offered). This would involve continuing the current arrangement between LTC and LDC until April 2022 – by which time there should be more clarity on what the new ELM grants scheme would involve and detail of availability/eligibility. This was recommended by Ms Outram, and supported by the Town Clerk, who had been closely-connected with these issues since original purchase of the land in 1992.

5 There followed a brief discussion regarding possible alternative options, and a question about potential for tree-planting. It was accepted that trees were damaging to an evolving Lowland Calcareous Grassland ecosystem and would essentially destroy it. Also, it was noted that there were likely to be many hectares of conventional farmland available in the future where tree-planting would be more appropriate, especially if farming practices changed to reduce meat production.

6 Members concluded that they would recommend extension of the present HLS Agreement, when/if the option was offered, pending announcements regarding the anticipated Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM).

LBMC2019/15

HIRE of LAND:

The Committee had sought assurance that the prevailing land use Agreement for hire of the land to *eg* local Bonfire Societies, was sufficiently robust in terms related to restoration of the landscape following events. Example Agreement forms, currently used by Lewes District Council as the Town Council’s contracted Agent, were considered and it was acknowledged that the relevant clauses were appropriate.

Some discussion followed on the actual experience in recent years, of both Ms Outram and Mr Courage when dealing with post-event activities by regular hirers. A minor extension to one descriptive paragraph was suggested and accepted, but both officers confirmed that they were confident of proper consideration by hirers, and simply noted that it was important to them to know that the Committee was supportive of their role in such day-to-day matters.

LBMC2019/16

HISTORIC SIGN:

A request had been received from Lewes Racecourse History Group regarding location of an historic commemorative sign somewhere on the Council’s land at Landport Bottom. The sign had been made by local blacksmith Ben Autie and

erected for the 50th anniversary of the closure of the Lewes Racecourse. A photograph had been provided depicting its inaugural ceremony. The two men who had unveiled it were the jockeys who were first and second placed in the last race in 1964. The sign was later removed to safe storage as someone had unilaterally cut it down and re-erected it on another part of the race hill. The Group hoped that the Council would assist in agreeing a permanent place where it could be seen and appreciated as originally intended.

Members were happy to agree this request, and some locations were suggested for discussion with the Lewes Racecourse History Group.

LBMC2019/17

REALIGNMENT of FENCING TO DEWPOND (“Jill’s Pond”):

Ms Outram outlined proposals for extending outward the fencing surrounding Jill’s Pond. This area housed an important colony of protected Great Crested Newts, and a larger area of protected ground was desirable. The enclosed zone provided a breeding pond, nesting habitat and foraging ground. There were considerations regarding planning consent as the area had been originally protected by an ‘Article 4 direction’ under planning statutes, which required special permissions. The current status of this Direction following designation of the South Downs National Park Authority was not clear. TC would investigate this, as it also has bearing on other matters which would need to be addressed by the Committee in the foreseeable future. Members were supportive of the extension to the fenced area proposed, in-principle.

LBMC2019/18

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 The Committee **recommends** that Council should agree to an extension of the Higher-Level Stewardship Agreement (HLS) Agreement expiring in April 2021, when/if the option is offered, pending future replacement by the anticipated Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELM).
- 2 The current Agreement for use of the land for events *eg* bonfire, is accepted for continued use subject to minor rewording and reformatting as a Town Council document, as discussed.
- 3 The siting of an historic wrought-iron commemorative sign, by Lewes Racecourse History Group, at a mutually-acceptable location within Landport Bottom is agreed (at the Group’s expense).
- 4 Proposed extension outward of the fencing enclosing Jill’s Pond, to provide a larger habitat for the important colony of protected Great Crested Newts, is agreed subject to Planning considerations.

LBMC2019/19

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm

Signed date

LDC Specialist Advisor (Ranger) Progress Report 07/06/20

Grazing

- Southdown sheep were introduced to Landport with young lambs almost exactly as lockdown got started. There have been increased numbers of people including dog walkers some of whom do not use the site regularly and seemed unaware of the rules around not disturbing the sheep.
- There were a lot of sheep worrying incidents with sheep and lambs being chased by dogs and sometimes by people too. There was one lamb death - the shepherd thought from stress since it was a large strong lamb with nothing obviously wrong with it. Stronger, more powerful notices were erected.
- The Southdown breed lambs were very popular. They have been weaned and replaced by tegs (non southdowns breed sheep in their second year).
- There was a second sheep death (a teg) due to a dog attack on 25/26 June. We are reimbursing Plumpton for the cost of the sheep.
- The sheep have grazed the pond field and the tumuli field over the spring and summer. The orchids have flowered in the pond field. All fields look good and floristically diverse.

Infrastructure

- The water supply failed due to Southern water works. There is a new meter and water is running again but not clear where the bills will be sent.
- The sheep signs have been made informing the public of sheep in or out of each field to replace those broken some months ago.
- Fence repairs have taken place where needed during lockdown.

Community Engagement

- There have been no walks or community wildlife events over the spring and summer so far. None are planned
- There was conflict between the dog walking community and those keen to allow the skylarks space to nest undisturbed. Members of the public added their own signs to those erected by the ranger. These were left due to the special circumstances of Covid-19 but will be removed shortly.
- Changing Chalk project: a consultant has been appointed for the development work for this project. It is hoped that there will be funding for a community ranger who will do community nature engagement across the Downs based

on Lewes and Eastbourne councils sites. This will include Landport Bottom and hopefully will include some work on responsible dog ownership. If the final bid is successful, the 4 year post should be in place at the beginning of 2022.

Lewes District Council Staff

- One of the two Specialist Advisor for Downland and Reserves (SADR) has left the LDC (Kim Dawson) and is not to be replaced.
- Thyone Outram (SADR) will have an increased work load but will continue to spend the time agreed with LTC on Landport Bottom work.
- This may mean a reduction in service e.g. around volunteering or community engagement since SADR work tended to exceed the agreed monthly hours.

Stewardship agreement extension.

- The Rural Payments agency has advised that extensions to Higher Level Stewardship agreements are usually not offered until two or three months before the end of the agreement (end April 2021). It may be possible to apply for Countryside Stewardship (a newer scheme). Applications for Countryside Stewardship 2021 open in February so this should be reviewed at the turn of the year to establish the situation then.

Woodland

- The woodland at the lower part of the slope beside the Nevill Road was mostly felled due to ash dieback. There is dying ash in the upper part of the woodland. A risk assessment needs to be done to establish how much of this part of the woodland should be felled.

Landport Bottom, Lewes *Site Management Plan* 2020-2025



Prepared for:
The Landport Bottom Management Committee



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10 year vision

In 10 years time the grassland at Landport Bottom will have increased in biodiversity with a greater number and more varied wildflowers and plants thriving on the chalk downland. Butterflies and other insects will increase including some of the rarer chalk downland specialist species.

The site will continue to have a wild open feel with views across Lewes to the chalk quarry cliffs. Skylarks will nest on the ground and be heard singing above the fields in spring and summer.

Scrub and woodland surrounding the fields will allow shelter for birds, reptiles and amphibians and if too much scrub in the areas surrounding Landport Bottom are lost, more scrub will be allowed to develop inside the fields or around the field edges.

Great crested newts, dragonflies and other insects will continue to breed in the pond. Swallows will be seen swooping down over the pond and fields catching insects and other birds like linnet and yellowhammer will be heard in the surrounding trees and scrub. The fenced area around the pond will be larger to allow more undisturbed rough ground and shelter for the great crested newts and creatures that are attracted to the pond area.

The history of the site will continue to be celebrated and interpretation will remain in place.

Local people will visit the site to walk, run ride and watch wildlife and visitors will be attracted from further afield for educational purposes about the nature and history of the place.

There will continue to have a low level of mixed uses beyond this including the annual bonfire celebration and limited cultural historical events that do not damage the chalk downland flora and fauna as they continue to develop.

It will remain a site primarily for local people and wildlife, not attracting many visitors from further afield. This will be achieved through maintaining the current low level of tourist publicity and low amount of parking facilities.

Landport Bottom will provide valuable ecosystem services to the Lewes area and beyond, absorbing and storing carbon in the soil, supporting pollinator populations, providing food through grazing, clean water through organic soil and chalk filtration, and raising the level of mental health and wellbeing of those who visit.

All visitors to the site will understand their role and how to act responsibly.

1. Introduction

Landport Bottom is three fields of priority habitat chalk grassland lying just on the edge of Lewes and much loved by the residents. It hosts many chalk downland flowers such as pyramidal orchid, fairy flax, restharrow, wild thyme, wild basil, kidney vetch and dropworts; and butterflies such as the small blue, marbled white and essex skipper. It is managed by grazing to slowly restore it to high quality flower-rich chalk downland.

It has great historic significance being the site of the Battle of Lewes in 1264 which is known as the Battle where Parliament was won. It also has clear burial mounds dating from the Bronze Age. In more recent times it hosted sheep fairs and adjoins the Lewes Old Race Course.

It is managed through the Landport Bottom Management Committee.

ADD PICTURE

2. Description

2.1 General Information

Name: Landport Bottom
Location: TQ 397110 East Sussex
Area: 44 hectares

2.2 Landowner

Lewes Town Council.

2.3 Site Status

- Lies within the South Downs National Park
- Lies within the Brighton and Lewes Downs Biosphere¹
- Registered Battlefield² (Historic England)
- Scheduled Ancient Monument SAM³ on the site (Historic England)
- The southern tip of the site is part of the Lewes Old Racecourse Local Wildlife Site (LWS)

2.4 Legal and other constraints

- There are several Rights of Way including Bridleways crossing the site (see appendix for maps).
- The area round the pond is subject to an article 4 direction meaning any changes to fencing in that area must have planning permission.
- Classified as chalk grassland a UK Priority Habitat.

¹ <https://thelivingcoast.org.uk/about/unesco-biospheres>

² <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000018>

³ <https://historicengland.org.uk/sitesearch?search=lewes+barrow>

- The motor road and some of the water supply is owned by Lewes Old Racecourse Management Committee and access is by permission.

3. Environmental information

3.1 Ecosystem Services and Climate Change

Landport Bottom provides a number of ecosystem services to the town and beyond

- **Carbon storage.** As unploughed grassland it acts as a carbon sink and long term carbon store with most carbon storage from grassland being underground and if unploughed it builds up over tens or hundreds of years.
- **Climate Change resilience.** Landport Bottom has biodiversity that helps provide climate change resilience. Rarer habitats such as chalk grassland provide a diversity of species not found in commoner habitats. As the climate changes the larger the species bank the more likely that there will be some that can adapt to the new climatic circumstances.
- **Pollination.** The insect life including butterflies and moths, hoverflies bees, beetles etc supports pollination of crops and wild plants in the wider landscape
- **Water purification.** Its unfertilized grassland on chalk allows the filtration of rain water through the downs to be used as drinking water. Hundreds of thousands of people across the south downs are dependent on chalk filtered water.
- **Flood relief:** The grassland helps alleviate flooding by slowing surface water run-off and allowing it to drain into the land. The Neville area used to be flooded from surface water run-off when the fields were arable.
- **Health and wellbeing.** The quiet remote feel of Landport Bottom so close to the town allows a great number of people to walk from Lewes town and experience the mental health and well being benefits that come from access to nature.
- **Food.** Stock grazing provides good quality, local meat.

3.2 Geology and Soils

- The underlying geology of the site is Upper and Middle Chalk that are undivided in this area.
- Landport Bottom lies on the dip slope of the South Downs where the soils are characteristically thicker than those of the escarpment and most of the site has been subject to agricultural enrichment. The alkaline character of the soil is apparent in the vegetation however it is lush and more neutral in character in places than much of the scarp slope chalk downland vegetation.

3.3 Hydrology:

- The steep slopes channel rain water down towards the Nevill estate, which caused significant problems during the reversion process from arable to grazing land during the late 1990's. However, since the turf has become established these problems very rarely recur. Steve --- ever?/?
- The underlying chalk within this area provides a well drained substrate, and associated flora has developed.

3.4 Landscape

The South Downs Landscape Character Assessment classifies the area as part of the Ouse to Adur 'Open Downs'⁴

Some key characteristics of this Landscape Character type are:

- Vast open rolling upland chalk landscape of blunt, whale-backed Downs with landscape features clearly revealed and landmarks visible over long distance
- Open views with the urban area directly abutting the open downland
- Ancient historic features
- Some areas of remnant old chalk grassland
- Proximity to urban areas leads to a high degree of public access

3.5 Habitats, Flora and Fauna

The site is a significant size (44ha), which is of more conservation value than of a smaller site. The fragmented nature of the fields and being dissected by the road, does not diminish

⁴ <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ILCA-Appendix-A-Open-Downland.pdf>

from the landscape scale of the site. Landport Bottom has added value as a chalk grassland site because of its proximity to other downland including the Offham Hill LWS and the Clayton to Offham SSSI. Being part of this ecological network has already allowed the migration of species typical of the downland habitat.

Most of Landport Bottom is ex-arable. The main habitat now is chalk grassland, a national priority habitat which is rare both nationally and internationally. The process of restoration has been going on for over 20 years with original seeding taking place around 2000. The quality is improving but is not comparable to ancient chalk grassland.

Landport Bottom is split into three distinct fields (see appendix map or insert map) which are further subdivided here

Pond Field (formerly Comp 3) South

The thin well drained soil on the slope toward the South of Pond Field supports one of the richer areas for chalk downland plants with frequent rough hawkbit, fairy flax, kidney vetch and some cowslips and has the highest number of pyramidal orchid of anywhere at Landport Bottom (high count of over 4000 in 2017). Common spotted and fragrant orchid are also occasionally found here and a good deal of restharrow is spreading from the top of the field down through this area. The fencing was moved in 2013?? To include an area that had scrubbed over in the field. This small area has enriched soil due partly to past use as a hay-piling area. It has less chalk grassland indicators and more rough grasses with some bramble scrub, tall/ribbed melilot and hawthorn trees .

Large amounts of the ground cover in the South end of Pond Field is forbs (small vegetative plants and flowers that are not grass or scrub). The numbers of chalk grassland indicator species in this field overall has increased in the last 10 years.

A colony of small blue butterflies has been seen in this area in recent years.

Pond Field (formerly Comp 3) North

Further north in Pond field the grasses increase and the forbs cover decreases, Both the north west and north east part of this field are more lush and less diverse than the southern part. Chalk grassland flowers such as birdsfoot trefoil, fairy flax and rough/lesser hawkbit are still found but in smaller numbers. It is rich in ant hills which is encouraging but is dominated by commoner grasses such as perennial ryegrass, false oat grass, yorkshire fog and cocksfoot, There is false brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* that has formed a number of mats and is spreading through the field with creeping thistle common throughout the sward.

Hawthorn saplings, small amounts of bramble and cotoneaster are spreading in pond field.

Skylarks nest in pond field and corn buntings have also been seen in this field.

Pond

There is a dewpond on the western boundary of this field surrounded by a chestnut post and rail fence. Adjacent to this pond is a small patch of scrub.

The pond was re-profiled in autumn 2003, to remove steep sides which were not ideal for wildlife colonization. Vegetation was also imported from a Dew Pond at Keymer, on the South Downs (less than 10 miles away), with support from English Nature. Willow, pondweeds, yellow flag iris, rushes and some cowslips occur in the pond and surrounds. The pond also includes some non-native species such as nuttalls pondweed

Despite the isolated nature of the pond, a breeding population of Great Crested newts has established itself in the last 10 years. These are small for great crested newts and there is a suggestion that the population may be isolated from surrounding populations and therefore inbreeding. Apart from the small patch of scrub directly next to the pond, outside the breeding season the nearest good newt habitat and hibernation potential (rough grass, scrub and trees) are on the land adjacent to Landport Bottom at the Old Racecourse.

Tumuli Field (formerly Comp 1)

The north east end of this field supports the most diverse chalk grassland community at Landport Bottom with frequent fairy flax and birdsfoot trefoil and with squiancywort, eyebright, stemless thistle, thyme-leaved sandwort, wild thyme, rough/lesser hawkbit, marjoram, ladies bedstraw and other chalk grassland indicator species also evident. This area has been the most rich in chalk grassland wildflowers for at least 20 years probably because it adjoins the Offham chalkpit (off-site) which is even more varied.

In recent years *Brachypodium sylvaticum* has started to spread into the field with some mats forming. Creeping thistle has also been common throughout the sward in the northern part of the field with some hawthorn saplings also present,

The southern and central parts of the field contain less chalk grassland indicator species and the east side of the field lower on the hill has a tendency to become lush and rank. There are good patches of marjoram and some squiancywort and wild carrot. A small area at the very south of this field was incorporated into the field in 2013? check date. This area had been ash, bramble and scrub and is still more rank than other areas.

Small Field South (formerly Comp 2a)

This area has developed from a fairly rank species poor area 15 year ago to include more chalk grassland flowers such a dropwort, ladies bedstraw, birdsfoot trefoil and marjoram with occasional orchids. However it still has a good deal of bramble and is currently cut and collected every year.

Small Field North (formerly Comp 2b)

This side of the field looks very different in the summer to the southern area with longer grasses, more flowers and almost no bramble. There are some pyramidal orchids, mats of kidney vetch, rough/lesser hawkbit and birdsfoot trefoil as well as frequent red clover and black knapweed and some wild basil. The bank of the bridleway is probably remnant old chalk grassland. This bank is particularly good for chalk grassland species and is the only place on the site where harebell is found.

Both sides of the field are prone to ragwort which, given the proximity of the horse fields must be controlled by cutting or pulling.

There is a band of mainly hawthorn and blackthorn scrub with old man's beard and bramble running through between the two sides of the field.

Scrub and scrubby hedges

The scrub along the bridleways and field edges provide good habitat for birds – common garden birds such as blackbird and goldcrest and those more associated with downland such as yellowhammer and linnet. The scrub also provides further opportunities for invertebrates as well as shelter and forage opportunities for reptiles and amphibians. Reptiles are rarely found in the field proper and are almost always to be found at the woodland and scrub edges or undisturbed areas just outside the field fences.

Woodland (formerly Comp 5)

This is a strip of woodland that extends beyond the site boundary adjacent to the A259. It is dominated by Ash trees, although Sycamore is frequent and other trees such as Field Maple, Turkey Oak and yew also occur. The under-storey is dominated by mature Hawthorn with frequent Elders. The ground flora is poor due to historic heavy shading from the canopy. There is much bare ground with Ivy being the dominant ground cover plant. A third to half of the trees in this woodland were felled in spring 2020 due to ash dieback leaving a large area where light is now reaching the ground and the understory, which could allow a more diverse flora to develop. Sycamore is likely to coppice up and dominate unless it is re-coppiced regularly or different tree species planted to compete with it. There are many more ash in the remaining woodland and decisions will need to be made over the next two years what should happen to these as they die and whether there is sufficient danger to the public that the rest of the woodland should be felled.

In 2018 a mixed species hedge including field maple, wayfaring tree, dogwood, hazel, spindle and holly was planted beside the footpath that runs along the western side of the woodland .

Bats

Common pipistrelle bats have been recorded at the woodland edge of tumuli field but no full survey has been done. There are some bat boxes on trees in the woodland.

Reptiles

Surveys in 2011/2012 showed high numbers of slow worms, medium populations of common lizard and low populations of adder and grass snake. Smaller surveys in 2015/2016 and ad hoc sightings showed lizards, slow worm and adder still on site. Reptiles have been seen near to the motor road in the last 10 years especially adders in the spring. The scrub/secondary woodland strip along the motor road line was severely depleted in 2019. With the loss of potential hibernacula, further reptile surveys should be done in this area to establish if the population is still in existence.

Birds

No formal bird survey has been done of the site but skylarks are known to nest in the grassland in pond field and some years have been observed in Tumuli and Small field. Peregrine falcons and ravens nest nearby and are sometimes seen flying over. Linnets, yellowhammer, buzzard and common garden and woodland birds have also been observed on site.

Fungi

The rare golden-eye fungus has been recorded at two location at Landport Bottom

4. Cultural information

4.1 Archaeology and History

At the south of the Tumuli Field there is a platform barrow and two bowl barrows forming a linear barrow group. Platform barrows are funerary monuments dating back to the late Bronze Age. They are the rarest type of round barrow (with fewer than 50 recorded nationally) and are normally considered to be of national importance. They form a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) that has statutory protection from Historic England. The platform barrow is approximately 20m in diameter, slightly raised and surrounded by a ditch. According to the Monument Schedule (see appendix): “The platform barrow survives particularly well and is the best example of its kind in East Sussex.” The two bowl barrows are slightly raised, but the ditches around them have been in-filled. The larger of the two is about 20m in diameter and the smaller about 13m. In 2003, the site was stock fenced, to allow grazing of the Tumuli.

They are susceptible to damage by vehicles, machinery and large animals (horse riding and possibly cattle).

Landport Bottom and some of the surrounding downland is the site of a Registered Battlefield, the Battle of Lewes 1264, and is one of only 46 in the country.

The battle was fought between the 5000 strong forces of a number of rebel Barons led by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, and the 10,000 strong army of King Henry III. It was probably the first time an English monarch was defeated by his subjects and in the aftermath, the foundations were laid that led to the formation of our modern parliament.

It is thought that Simon de Montfort used the geography of Landport Bottom to help him overcome these odds. The height of the ground may have given the rebel Barons forces an advantage and the undulating character of the landscape probably made it impossible for the King’s commanders in different parts of the battlefield to see what others were doing and change tactics accordingly.

The Pond field was subject to a transect survey by the Sussex Archeological Society using a local metal detectorists society in 2013. No direct evidence of the battle was found in the areas surveyed.

The Battlefield Register (Historic England, 1995) states: “apart from the expansion of Lewes towards Offham Hill, the landscape of the battlefield is essentially unchanged from the open grassland of 1264.”

Parts of the site are listed as Archaeologically Sensitive Areas

There are a number of other monuments, mainly tumuli, which are not listed, that have been damaged as a result of former agricultural operations.

4.2 Recent History

More recently sheep grazing would have shaped the landscape at Landport Bottom and the surrounding area; testimony to this is a dewpond that has been restored. It is thought that in 1829 a special flock of Southdown sheep was bought by Landport Farm and came to graze on Landport Bottom

Lewes Racecourse once had a large impact on the area. The first recorded meeting was held in 1751 and in the 19th and early 20th centuries it was an important center for horseracing. The 'motor-roads' that bisect the site were used for the racecourse traffic. The racecourse was closed in 1964 and the site of the grandstand has been developed in to housing, although parts of the track remain as training gallops.

More recently most of the site was arable farmland and was 'set-aside' between 1988 and 1993. In 1992 the site was acquired jointly by Lewes District Council and Lewes Town Council "to safeguard it from further development and to keep it usable as a general open space". A management committee was established later that year to co-ordinate the management of the land and in 1993 the land was entered in to the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme: the objective being to return arable land to downland pasture.

The land was ploughed and reseeded in autumn 1993. High levels of run off during periods of exceptional rainfall caused the flooding of four nearby properties. Soakaways were dug but proved ineffective as flooding again occurred later that winter. Further measures were taken including silt traps and retention tanks and since then flooding has not occurred???. Flooding of a similar nature to this was experienced in 1982/3 when the site was arable farmland and a report concluded that the best protection were if the "catchments area could be converted in to pasture land."

4.3 Recreation and Public Access

There is open access throughout the site for pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders except on the tumuli where cycling and horse riding is not permitted. Most users of the site are

walkers, dog walkers, runners and families and other users out to sit, watch and talk. There is no provision for disabled access. All the main routes in to the site now have kissing gates and hunt gates rather than stiles.

The Lewes Old Racecourse Management Company (LORMC) owns the 'motor-roads' and the strip of land that runs between them that bisect the site. LDC has rights of way for staff, members and invitees to use the motor roads, but not to stop on them. In the past unauthorized use of the roads by the general public has caused disputes with the LORMC. Lewes Town Council pay for a proportion of the upkeep of the motor-roads.

Many site users are local and arrive on foot. There are bus services that operate along the A275 and stop near to the site Those arriving by car tend to either park on the Nevill Estate or on the verge of the A275.

In the past there have been sporadic problems with motor bikes using the site. Other typical urban fringe problems include occasional fly-tipping and abandonment of stolen vehicles at the main entrance to the site (with A275) and traveler encroachment.

There are problems with dog walkers who do not keep dogs under control and there have been a number of incidents of dogs off the lead chasing sheep as well as dog attacks causing injury and death.

4.4 Main fixed assets:

Site furniture itemized below:

- Two Interpretation boards – located by the Dew Pond, main entrance near to the Tumuli, and at the entrance at the southern end of Pond Field.
- Three agricultural drinking troughs. Two in Pond and Small fields connected to LORMC private water supply. One trough in tumuli field connected to mains on A275 road verge.
- 17 oak gates and stiles. 4 metal fieldgates
- The Motor Road running through the middle of the site, is privately owned, by the Lewes Old Racecourse Management Committee. Parking is strictly prohibited along the course of the road.
- Two Dog bin near to Tumuli main entrance
- Bench located next to Dew Pond

5. Current and recent past management

All of the site, with the exception of the woodland in compartment 5, is grazed with sheep under the Environmental Stewardship scheme (Higher Level, HLS). The 10 year scheme was entered into by Lewes District Council when they part owned the site in 2011 and LTC now contract LDC to organize the grazing and environmental site management through provision of a Specialist Advisor - Downland and Reserves (SADR). Plumpton College, Lamberts Farm provide the sheep grazing with a negotiation taking place between chalk grassland land management and commercial stock management priorities.

The landowners bought a small flock of heritage Southdowns breed sheep in 2013 which were given to Plumpton College to help graze the site. These sheep have been bred to still thrive in nutrient poor areas such as the chalk grassland of the South Downs so are particularly suitable for grazing the site. Their descendants still graze here together with other sheep provided by the grazier.

Parts or all of Tumuli and Small field have been cut and collected in the late summer or autumn depending on the grown patterns. The tumuli are strimmed and collected separately in the early autumn. Some years it is been necessary to control creeping thistle through topping or cut and collecting. In recent years *Brachypodium sylvaticum* has been strimmed before seeding to control its spread.

The recreational side of site management is now generally managed by LTC.

A Management committee, that consists of Lewes Town Councillors **Steve – all town councilors??** which includes an annual site visit led by the SADR.

There are some LTC allotments within the landholding of Landport Bottom, but they are not considered specifically within the context of the management plan; except that all opportunities should be sought where possible for landscape and wildlife enhancements.

6. Management Plan 2020-2025

6.1 Overall Management Aims:

1. Increase biodiversity by appropriate habitat management
2. Protect and conserve the SAM, Registered Battlefield and other important historical features.
3. Promote quiet, informal enjoyment
4. Increase understanding and awareness of site importance amongst local people and other visitors.
5. Ensure Landport Bottom continues to act as a carbon sink and provide other ecosystem services.

6.2 Management Actions

6.2.1 Habitats Wildlife Conservation

Aim: Increase biodiversity by appropriate habitat management

Chalk Grassland

The aim of chalk grassland management is to reduce the nutrients in the soil and prevent build-up of thatch by removing the vegetation while enabling the creation of micro-habitats including the formation of ant hills and different sward lengths. This is achieved by grazing to keep the sward short outside the main flowering season of April/May to July and to prevent rough grasses or scrub from dominating allowing the forbs and chalk grassland specialist flower and other plants to spread and dominate. Where the soil type is right and there is a local seed source as is the case at Landport Bottom being close to other downland areas, the unique mix of chalk grassland flowers, plants, insects and birds is able to become established.

Grazing

- The grazing at Landport Bottom will continue with some cut and collect or topping where appropriate. The site has been grazed with sheep only in the last 25 years. As the sward develops cattle grazing may become necessary if it becomes too rank to manage with sheep alone. The site has been under Higher

Level Stewardship scheme since 2011 and was under ESA for a number of years before that.

- Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme will be entered into (funding and management advice) when it becomes available. It may be necessary to enter into Countryside Stewardship (CS) until ELM becomes available.
- Ideally stock will be removed or numbers dropped significantly in the spring and summer to allow downland flowers to flower without being grazed off – see appended HLS grazing recommendations. In the past this has resulted in a sward too thick to be eaten off before the next spring and prevent rank grass and scrub spreading into the grassland. When this occurs there should be occasional hard grazing years where stock are kept on through the summer. Only one summer grazed field per year.
- Cattle grazing will be considered only if sheep grazing and cutting is not adequate to restore the chalk grassland.
- No supplementary feeding except under extreme circumstances for animal welfare e.g snow
- The stock fencing should be maintained. If cattle grazing becomes necessary, some parts of the fencing will need the top strand plain wires replaced with barbed wire.
- Water trough problems will be fixed immediately.
- Only one of Tumuli and Pond field will be grazed at a time to allow for dog walking.

Cutting

- Small and Tumuli field can be cut and collected if the vegetation is too rank in the autumn to be eaten to a short sward by the following spring.
- If cutting or topping takes place in the pond field, care should be taken not to destroy the ant hills.
- Where cutting to control thistles is necessary, it should take place before setting seed (timing determined by observation usually June).
- Strimming to control *Brachypodium* to take place before seeding (timing determined by observation usually mid June). Multiple times per year if preferable but once just before seeding is necessary to help prevent further spread.
- Ragwort should be individually pulled and disposed of (burnt or removed from site) but cutting is an option if insufficient resources (volunteers and contractors) available for pulling.

- Before any cutting thistle/ragwort/brachypodium cutting takes place, the area to be cut must be checked for skylark nests.
- Glyphosate should not be used due to its detrimental effect on insects.
- No major cutting in April to July as there are skylarks nesting.

Pond

Jill's Pond supports a breeding population of great crested newts, smooth newts and aquatic invertebrates. Great Crested newts require some open water for breeding – ideally at least a third of the pond. They also need rough ground and woodland/scrub to forage and hibernate when not breeding.

- Pond vegetation should be cleared each year in autumn under the watch of a licenced ecologist leaving at least one third of the pond under vegetation.
- Nutalls pond weed particularly should be cleared
- Surrounding vegetation should be cut in autumn particularly the willow to prevent it dominating. Willow and vegetation can be left in habitat piles to provide shelter near the pond.
- Pond fencing should be moved to include a larger area of suitable habitat within the undisturbed fenced area – see appendix map.
- Stock Fencing should be maintained to prevent dogs entering the pond area

Woodland

Ash trees should be felled following risk assessment for ash dieback. Ecological best practice and legal requirement should be met with regard to bats and birds.....add references?

Dead wood will be left standing or in piles where safe to do so, to act as feeding nesting and shelter habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects and other invertebrates.

Low numbers of mixed native tree species should be planted where ash dieback causes loss of ash trees

6.2.2 Archaeological Conservation

Aim: Protect and conserve the Scheduled Ancient Monument, Registered Battlefield and other important historical features.

- These must not be damaged by allowing motor vehicles on them nor by horse riding. If cattle are introduced into this field in the future, the county archeologist must be consulted. Rank vegetation and scrub has been successfully cleared from the

monuments by cutting and removal every year since 2003. This should continue to protect this monument.

- SAM barrows (known as the Tumuli) to be hand strimmed annually in September to prevent scrub from establishing.
- All vehicles and fires kept away from them.
- Signage should warn horse riders and cyclists to stay off the SAM.
- Digging and earthworks including fencing in other areas of the battlefield Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (eg pond fence movement) should involve consultation with an archeologist.
- Historic England should be consulted on issues that could affect the site's visual appearance and integrity as defined by the battlefield designation

6.3.3 Recreation and Public Access

Aim: Promote quiet, informal enjoyment

- The footpaths and bridleways will be kept clear by strimming and cutting back overhanging scrub and trees. Work done by contractors and volunteer groups as resources allow.
- Encourage and where needed enable the Friends of Landport Bottom. Promote and accept all offers from group to help with positive site management
- Dog-fouling, fly-tipping, motorbikes and littering should be monitored and signage maintained with temporary signage used for particular issues. Encourage good behavior through links with the local community using social media, local groups and face to face on site communication.
- Clear litter and fly tips quickly
- Pursue opportunities for funding e.g. Changing Chalk Project to have a responsible dog ownership campaign.
- Maintain visibility of waymarker at corner of Neville Road.
- Install additional waymarker at tumuli field entrance to encourage use of fields and discourage use of the Motor Road

6.3.4 Public Awareness and Community Involvement

Aim: Increase understanding and awareness of site importance amongst local people and other visitors

- Maintain interpretation boards. When renewal becomes necessary add information about climate change and ecosystem services with the importance of grassland as a carbon sink and the valuable services the chalk landscape provides for water filtration, pollination and health and wellbeing
- Encourage interpretation events including themed walks eg climate change, the ecological emergency, butterflies, download flowers; schools trips; art events; natural history events; historical reenactment eg historic farming, 1264 battle and historic life.
- To hold (where resources allow) and to encourage others to hold regular activities and events aimed at exploring the ecology, and history of this site, and explaining their importance and significance. Pursuing funding for interpretation events for example through the Changing Chalk project, and encourage partners such as Wildflower Lewes/Sussex Wildlife Trust/Biosphere/South Downs National Park/Sussex Past to use the site for education events to hold such events.
- Identify and actively encourage local people to lead guided walks and education events at the site.
- Where staff resources allow, continue to use local conservation groups such as South Downs Volunteer Ranger Service and Brighton Conservation Volunteers with practical management of the site and invite the Friends of Landport Bottom to these practical days.
- Link in to the nearest school, which is Wallands, and encourage educational site activities.
- Update leaflet and ensure it continues to be available in tourist office and locally paper resources – do we still want to promote a leaflet?
- Ensure web presence on LTC and LDC website – do Mang Committee want to put on local tourist websites???
- Local residents groups and other local interest groups should be given the chance to take part in consultation process of this management plan. Is this something mang committee want?

6.3.5 Ecosystem Services

Aim: Ensure Landport Bottom continues to act as a carbon sink and provide other ecosystem services.

- Maintain grazing to maintain grassland since this maintains the carbon store
- Do not fertilise or treat with pesticide. This will maintain the water purification and pollination support services

- Retain as public space for quiet enjoyment since this this will maintain the health and cultural services.

6.2 Health and Safety

An annual risk assessment should be carried out with particular emphasis on tree safety in the light of ash dieback

6.3 Resources

LTC has been buying in land/habitat management and access work from Lewes District Council since LDC tied partly to the HLS agreement until 2021. This is provided by a Specialist Advisor (Downland and Reserves) with the help of a Neighbourhood Advisor. LTC also has a Town Ranger who deals with some of the issues involved with fixed assets and community engagement.

The National Park provide assistance with their Voluntary Ranger Service and can also provide advice from an experienced local Area Ranger where needed.

Currently there is no exchange of money between the graziers and LTC for the grazing. This may change after 2021. Historically the landowner has sometimes paid Plumpton College for the grazing.

Do we need an annexe table of current and predicted costs. How this plan is carried out depends on what staff resources are available eg volunteer or contractor work, community engagement or no communit engagement and surveys carried out by staff and volunteers or paid ecologists etc. Difficult to cost up without knowing staff resources available

6.4 Research, Survey and Monitoring

Flora surveys and chalk grassland HLS condition assessments have taken place a number of times over the last 15 years. Some are appended below.

The chalk grassland is still developing and there should be a system in place to allow regular monitoring of the vegetation at least every 5 years and ideally more often to inform grazing management

The pond has been surveyed once most years for Great Crested Newts. This protected species monitoring by an experienced surveyor should continue over the next 10 years especially given recent and planned changes to the local habitat.

As a public place, close to a town with a good deal of biodiversity, the study of Landport Bottom should be encouraged both to by professionals and citizens scientists/amateur naturalists. Records can inform site management but should also always be reported to the

Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre to form part of the national database used to study trends from Climate Change to ecological collapse or nature recovery.. Over the past 10 years there have been ad hoc surveys of the reptiles, RSPB red listed skylarks and reed buntings, and butterflies often conducted by the local community and the Friends of Landport Bottom. There are also a number of individuals who record individual sightings eg Small blue butterfly and golden-eye lichen. These should be encouraged and expanded over the next 10 years.

6.4.1 Priority Surveys

- Flora surveys including Stewardship agreement condition assessment surveys – ideally annually but at least every five years.
- Reptile survey – every 5 years or more if resources allow. Repeat 2011/2012 survey as far as possible to allow for comparisons.
- Great Crested Newt Survey
- Annual pond torching survey by qualified practitioner in main breeding season – mid-march to mid-may Timing is weather and vegetation cover dependent
- Bat tree potential surveys when trees are to be felled. Bat emergence/return surveys may be necessary.

6.4.2 Surveys if resources allow

- Annual orchid count.
- Full bat survey of woodland
- Butterfly survey
- Pond survey – plants and invertebrates
- Breeding bird survey including skylarks
- Moth trap survey

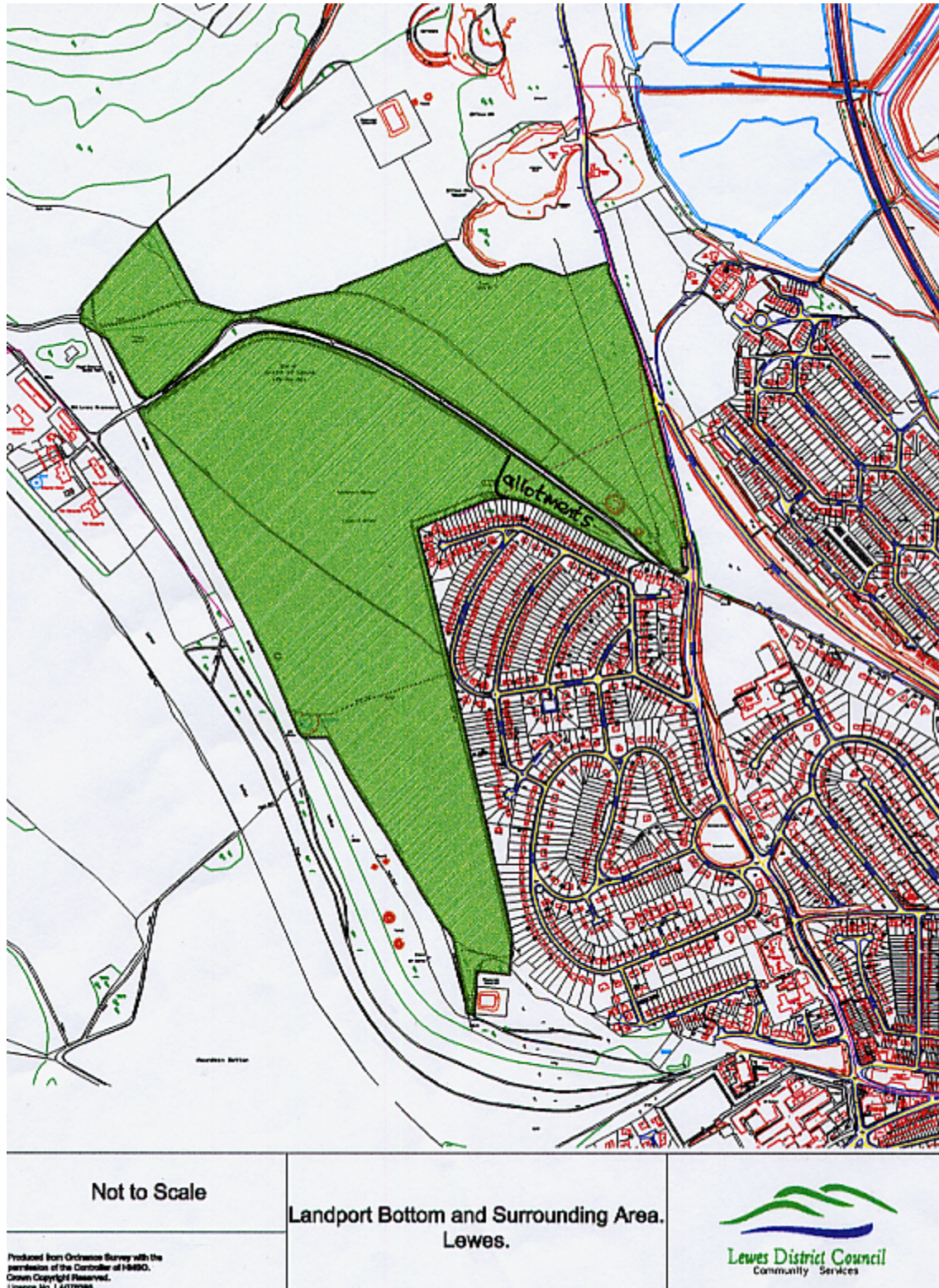
Many of these should be offered to the community as events to watch, help or get involved in.

6.5 Management Plan Update

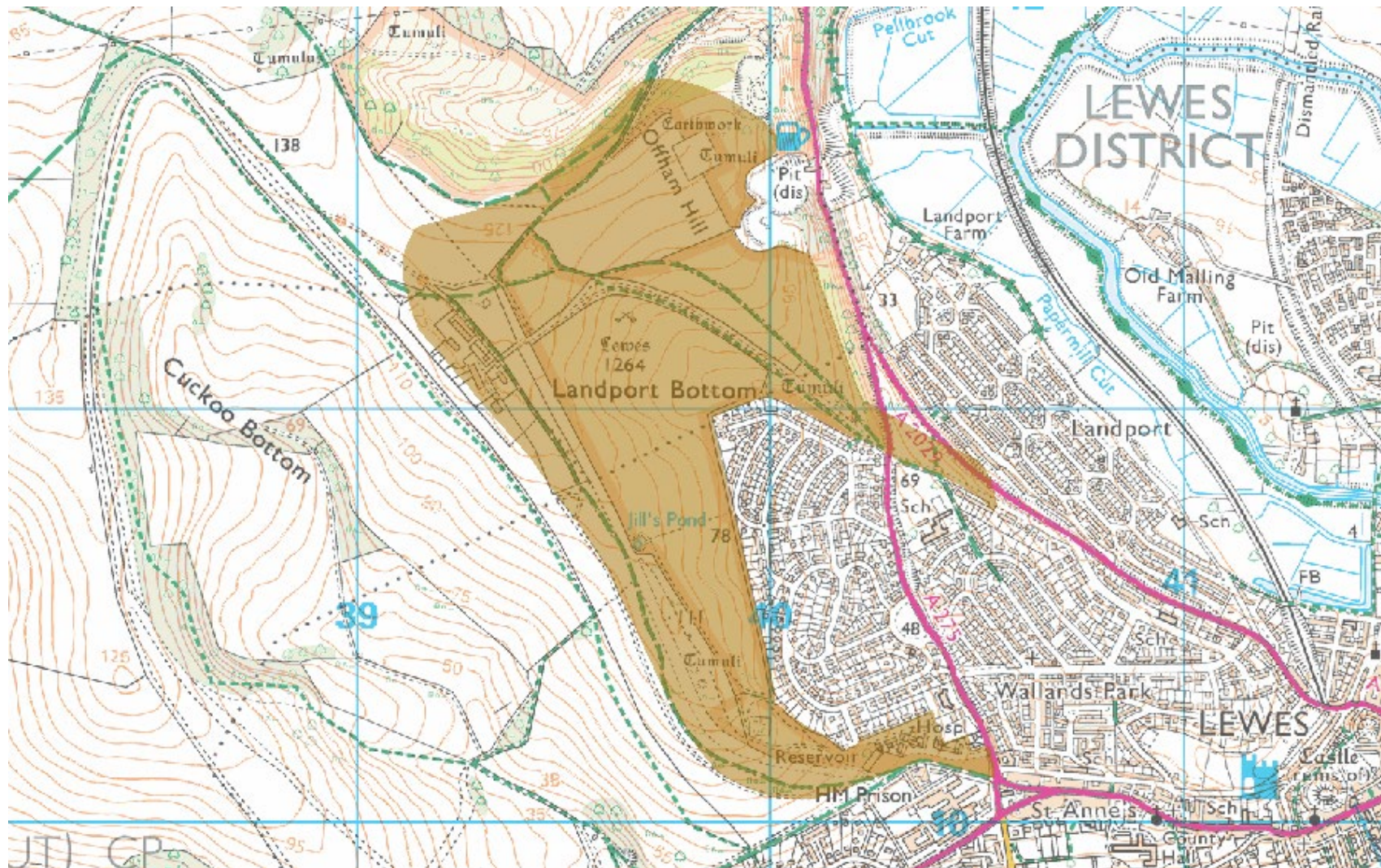
Undertake regular review of this plan and update as needed or at least every 5 years.

7. Appendices

7.1 Landport Bottom Location Map



7.4 Registered Battlefield Map

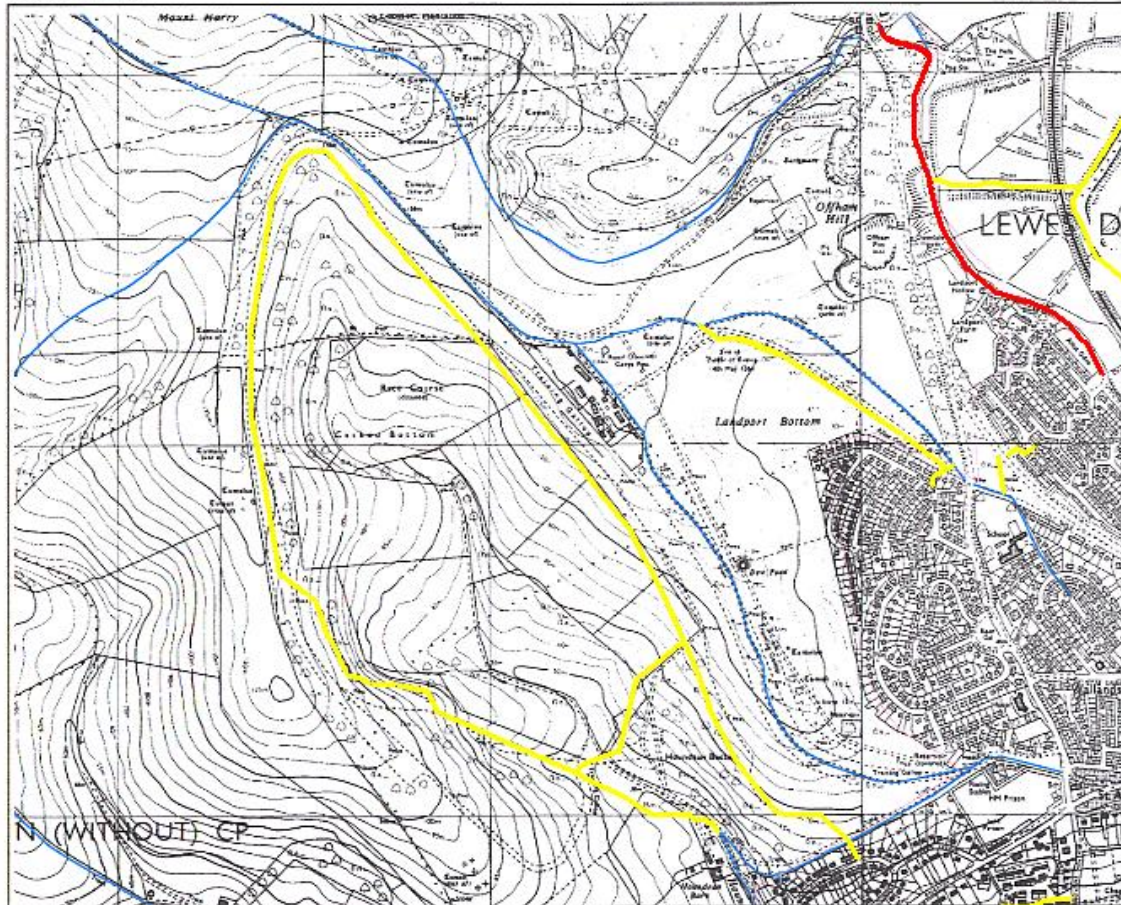


7.5 Article 4 Directive area



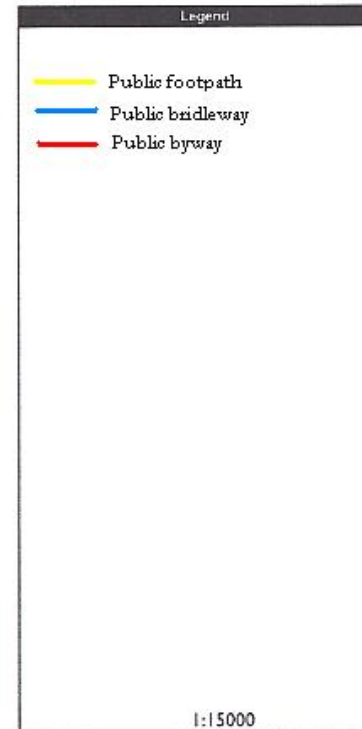
7.6 Public Rights of Way Network

Landport Bottom Rights of Way



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Produced using ESRI (UK)'s MapExplorer 2.0 - <http://www.esriuk.com> Map produced within the South Downs Geographical Information System www.vlc.org.uk/gis/



Organisation	Sussex Downs Conservation Board
Department	Central Area
Comments	
Date	25 February 2002
SLA Number	LA076902



7.7 Higher Level Stewardship Management Prescriptions

HK6 - Maintenance of species-rich, semi-natural grassland

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: TQ44005816

Features: C05 Maritime cliff and slope - BAP habitat, G02 Semi-improved grassland, G04 Lowland calcareous grassland - BAP habitat

General description of the management required:

This option is targeted at the maintenance and protection of areas of species-rich grassland. The importance of species-rich grassland is recognised by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The option can also contribute to protecting valued landscapes and archaeology, and the promotion of good soil conditions.

Management Requirements

The following rules apply across the whole area being managed under this option.

- From year 1, manage the sward by cutting and removing the cuttings, to achieve a sward height of between 2cm and 10cm in November.
- Manage the grassland to achieve the indicators by cutting and removing the field-dried hay only after 15 July.
- Do not install new drainage or modify existing drainage systems unless agreed with your Natural England contact.
- Control undesirable species such as Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Curled Dock, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Ragwort, Common Nettle so that by year 3 their cover is less than 5% of the area. Control by topping, weed wiping or spot treatment. Ploughing, sub-surface cultivation and reseedling are not permitted except as part of a grassland management plan agreed with your Natural England contact.
- Do not top, roll or harrow more than 30% of the total grassland area in any one year and always leave a minimum of 5% tussocks or longer grass.
- Rabbits must be controlled to achieve the indicators. Where this is impractical due to the nature of the land, the cutting regime must be adjusted to take account of this change to grazing pressure.
- Field operations must not damage the soil structure or cause heavy poaching. Small areas of bare ground on up to 5% of the field are acceptable. Take particular care when the land is waterlogged.
- There must be no application of nutrients such as fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials including sewage sludge.
- Follow the agreed management plan to be produced in year 1 of the agreement.

Indicators of Success

- By year 1, the average sward height in November should be between 2cm and 10cm.
- The extent of the habitats of interest within the grassland as identified in the Farm Environment Plan should be maintained or increased.
- The Soil Phosphate Index should be 0 or 1.

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- By year 3, at least 2 high-value indicator species (see list below) for the BAP habitat Lowland calcareous grassland should be frequent and 2 occasional in

the sward.

- By year 2, cover of invasive trees and scrub should be less than 5%
- By year 2, cover of bare ground should be between 1% and 5%, distributed throughout the field in hoof prints or other small patches.

Lowland calcareous grassland – BAP habitat Wildflower Indicator Species

betony, bird's-foot-trefoil, bloodycrane's-bill, carline thistle, clustered bellflower, common rock-rose, cowslip, dropworts, devil's bit scabious, eyebright, fairy flax, field scabious, gentians, greater knapweed, hairy violet, harebell, hoary plantain, hoary rock-rose, horseshoe vetch, kidney vetch, lady's bedstraw, marjoram, milkworts, mouseear hawkweed, orchids, ox-eye daisy, purple milkvetch, restharrow, rough/lesser hawkbit, salad burnet, saw-wort, small scabious, squinancywort, stemless thistle, thyme-leaved sandwort, wild basil, wild thyme, yellowwort.

HK7 - Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: TQ39107090

Features: G02 Semi-improved grassland, G04 Lowland calcareous grassland - BAP habitat, H04 Large scale archaeological feature, SB11 Skylark, SB18 Yellowhammer, W07 Ponds - BAP habitat

RLR Field Number: TQ39119926

Features: G02 Semi-improved grassland, H01 Above ground historic feature, H04 Large scale archaeological feature

General description of the management required:

This option is targeted at grasslands that are potentially rich in plant and associated animal life. They are often on difficult ground and may have suffered from management neglect or they may have been selected for agricultural improvement. The botanical diversity of such grassland may be enhanced by simply amending existing management practices. However, on many sites pro-active restoration management will be required involving introduction of seeds and creation of gaps for their establishment. Substantial changes of livestock type, timing of grazing or control of dominant species may also be required. The option can also contribute to protecting valued landscapes and archaeology, and the promotion of good soil conditions.

Management Requirements

The following rules apply across the whole area being managed under this option.

- From year 1, manage the sward by grazing to achieve a sward height of between 2cm and 10cm in November.
- See attached Technical Note Illustrated Guide to lowland chalk and limestone grassland for illustrations of how chalk grassland should best look throughout the year, general guidelines are to graze at a rate of 1 livestock unit (LU), the equivalent of 7 sheep or one cow with calf at heel, per hectare for the **whole year** with reduced or no grazing in the summer months (June to August inclusive), monitored and adjusted depending on sward structure. Follow guidance in attached Technical Note.
- There must be no application of nutrients such as fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials including sewage sludge
- Supplementary feeding is restricted to scattering of hay by hand

- Feeding sites should be moved regularly and never placed on archaeological features. Creep feeding of young stock is permitted.
 - Control by topping or spot treatment undesirable species such as Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Curled Dock, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Ragwort, Common Nettle and other invasive species so that by year 5, their cover is less than 5% of the area
 - Do not install new drainage or modify existing drainage systems unless agreed with your Natural England contact.
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- Ploughing and sub-surface cultivation are not permitted. Reseeding is only permitted as part of a grassland management plan agreed in writing with your Natural England contact.
 - Do not top, roll or harrow between 1 October and 30 June. Do not treat more than 30% of the total grassland area in any one year and always leave a minimum of 5% tussocks
 - Rabbits must be controlled to achieve the indicators. Where this is impractical due to the nature of the land, the numbers of grazing livestock must be adjusted to take account of this change to grazing pressure.
 - Field operations and stocking must not damage the soil structure or cause heavy poaching. Take particular care when the land is waterlogged.
 - Retain all standing and fallen dead wood unless it presents a genuine safety hazard.
 - All new fences should be marked with bird strike markers.
 - To protect the archaeological and historic features, the Tumuli (TQ9926) and Battle of Lewes Site do not place anything likely to cause ground disturbance on or near the features such as fences, feeders, water troughs. Do not locate access routes on or near the features. If the feature is being damaged by the use of a PROW consult the Highway Authority. Maintain under permanent grassland cover. If renewal or reseeded is required this must be done in a non-destructive manner after consultation and agreement with Natural England. Do not allow the development of burrows. Remove any scrub from the tumuli but leave stumps in situ to rot. Keep features free of scrub by grazing or cutting.

Indicators of Success

- The extent of the habitats of interest within the grassland as identified in the Farm Environment Plan should be maintained or increased.
- By year 3, at least 2 high-value indicator species for BAP grassland habitat chalk grassland (see list below) should be frequent and 2 occasional in the sward.
- By year 5, at least 4 high value indicator species for the BAP habitat feature chalk grassland (see list below) should be frequent and 2 occasional in the sward.
- By year 5 cover of wildflowers in the sward excluding undesirable species should be between 40% and 90% during May-June.
- The sward should look similar to that as shown in the attached Technical Note Illustrated Guide to lowland chalk and limestone grassland
- Archaeological and historic features, the Tumuli (TQ9926) and Battle of Lewes Site have suffered no further degradation. Detrimental indicators (e.g.

burrows, bare patches, scrub growth, poaching and erosion) cover less than 5% of the area.

Lowland calcareous grassland – BAP habitat Wildflower Indicator Species

betony, bird's-foot trefoil, bloodycrane's-bill, carline thistle, clustered bellflower, common rock-rose, cowslip, dropworts, devil's bit scabious, eyebright, fairy flax, field scabious, gentians, greater knapweed, hairy violet, harebell, hoary plantain, hoary rock-rose, horseshoe vetch, kidney vetch, lady's bedstraw, marjoram, milkworts, mouseear hawkweed, orchids, ox-eye daisy, purple milkvetch, restharrow, rough/lesser hawkbit, salad burnet, saw-wort, small scabious, squinancywort, stemless thistle, thyme-leaved sandwort, wild basil, wild thyme, yellowwort,

HK15 - Maintenance of grassland for target features

Land parcels and associated features managed under this option:

RLR Field Number: TQ39114136

Features: G02 Semi-improved grassland, H04 Large scale archaeological feature

RLR Field Number: TQ41212176

Features: T01 Ancient Tree, V07 Bracken of high environmental value

RLR Field Number: TQ43018105

RLR Field Number: TQ44005816

Features: C05 Maritime cliff and slope - BAP habitat, G02 Semi-improved grassland, G04 Lowland calcareous grassland - BAP habitat

General description of the management required:

This option will maintain semi-improved or rough grassland which is known to provide good conditions for target species and to protect other features, such as historic sites. This option can also be used to maintain moderately species-rich semiimproved grassland, where it lacks the potential to be restored to species-rich, seminatural grassland (option HK7), but which is identified as a priority in local targeting statements. This option may be applied to grassland Priority Habitat types, but which occur in land parcels that are extensively managed due to topography and location, for example species-rich upland calcareous grassland in large allotments. It may also be used to manage grassland which has limited biodiversity value, but which has been created under a classic scheme for other objectives, such as protection of the historic environment.

Management Requirements

The following rules apply across the whole area being managed under this option.

- From year 1 onwards, manage the sward by grazing or cutting to achieve a sward height of between 5cm and 15cm during April and May and between 2cm and 10cm in November. At Landport Bottom (TQ4136) if required remove livestock or do not exceed a stocking density of 0.2 LU per ha for a six week period between 1st May and 31st July.
- Rabbits must be controlled to achieve the indicators. Where this is impractical due to the nature of the land, the numbers of grazing livestock must be adjusted to take account of this change to grazing pressure.
- Field operations and stocking must not damage the soil structure or cause heavy poaching. Small areas of bare ground on up to 5% of the field are acceptable. Take particular care when the land is waterlogged.
- Do not apply fertilisers, organic manures or waste materials (including sewage

sludge) unless specifically agreed in writing with your Natural England contact or stated in a management.

- Do not top, roll or harrow between 1 October and 30 June. Do not treat more than 30% of the total grassland area in any one year, and always leave a minimum of 5% tussocks or longer grass.

- Ploughing, sub-surface cultivation and reseeding are not permitted.

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- Do not install new drainage or modify existing drainage systems unless agreed with your Natural England contact. Routine maintenance of functioning drainage systems is allowed.

- Control undesirable species such as Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Curled Dock, Broad-leaved Dock, Common Ragwort, Common Nettle so that their cover is less than 5% of the area. Control by topping or spot treatment.

Landport Bottom (TQ4136)

- By year 3 at least 2 high-value indicator species (see list below) for BAP grassland habitat lowland calcareous grassland should be frequent and 2 occasional in the sward.

Lowland calcareous grassland – BAP habitat Wildflower Indicator Species

betony, bird's-foottrefoil, bloodycrane's-bill, carline thistle, clustered bellflower, common rock-rose, cowslip, dropworts, devil's bit scabious, eyebright, fairy flax, field scabious, gentians, greater knapweed, hairy violet, harebell, hoary plantain, hoary rock-rose, horseshoe vetch, kidney vetch, lady's bedstraw, marjoram, milkworts, mouseear hawkweed, orchids, ox-eye daisy, purple milkvetch, restharrow, rough/lesser hawkbit, salad burnet, saw-wort, small scabious, squinancywort, stemless thistle, thyme-leaved sandwort, wild basil, wild thyme, yellowwort.

7.8 HLS Plant Surveys

Pond Field 2018

- HK7 - Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland
- RLR Field Number: TQ39107090 (Pond Field)
- Features: G02 Semi-improved grassland, G04 Lowland calcareous grassland – BAP habitat, H04 Large scale archaeological feature, SB11 Skylark, SB18 Yellowhammer, W07 Ponds - BAP habitat

Indicators of Success

- By year 5, at least 4 high-value indicator species for BAP grassland habitat chalk grassland (see list below) should be frequent and 3 occasional in the sward.

Results Pond Field

North End

Indicator Species	Presence in 10 stops	Frequency in 2018	Frequency in 2015
High-value indicators			
Bird's-foot trefoil	5	Frequent	Occasional/Frequent
Fairy flax	4	Occasional	Frequent
Orchids	0	Absent	Rare
Restharrow	0	Absent	Rare
Rough/lesser Hawkbit	1	Rare	Absent
40-90% herbs	1	Poor	
Negative Indicators			
Creeping thistle	10	Frequent	Frequent
Common Ragwort	2	Rare	Rare/Occasional

South End

Indicator Species	Presence in 10 stops	Frequency in 2018	Frequency in 2015
High-value indicators			
Bird's-foot trefoil	9	Frequent	Rare/Occasional
Fairy flax	9	Frequent	Frequent
Lady's bedstraw	1	Rare	Rare
Kidney Vetch	5	Frequent	Absent
Marjoram	0	Absent	Rare
Mouseear hawkweed	1	Rare	Absent
Orchids (Pyramidal)	1	Rare	Rare
Restharrow	2	Rare	Rare
Rough hawkbit	10	Frequent	Frequent
Salad burnet	0	Absent	Rare
Stemliss thistle	1	Rare	Rare
40-90% herbs	10	Excellent	
Negative Indicators			
Creeping thistle	0	Absent	Occasional/Frequent
Common Ragwort	3	Occasional	Rare

Result - Fail

Small Field 2015

- HK15 - Maintenance of grassland for target features
- RLR Field Number: TQ39114136
- Features: G02 Semi-improved grassland, H04 Large scale archaeological feature

Indicators of Success

By year 3 at least 2 high-value indicator species for BAP grassland habitat lowland calcareous grassland should be frequent and 2 occasional in the sward.

Results Small Field

Indicator Species	Presence in 12 stops	Frequency
High-value indicators		
Bird's-foot trefoil	8	Frequent
Dropworts	1	Rare
Kidney vetch	5	Frequent
Lady's bedstraw	10	Frequent
Marjoram	2	Rare
Orchids (pyramidal)	1	Rare
Rough/lesser hawkbit	4	Occasional
Salad burnet	1	Rare
Wild basil	7	Frequent
Yellowwort	1	Rare
Negative Indicators		
Creeping thistle	5	Frequent
Spear thistle	3	Occasional
Curled dock	1	Rare
Common ragwort	9	Frequent

Result - Success

Tumuli Field 2015

- HK7 - Restoration of species-rich, semi-natural grassland
- RLR Field Number: TQ39119926
- Features: G02 Semi-improved grassland, H01 Above ground historic feature, H04 Large scale archaeological feature

Indicators of Success

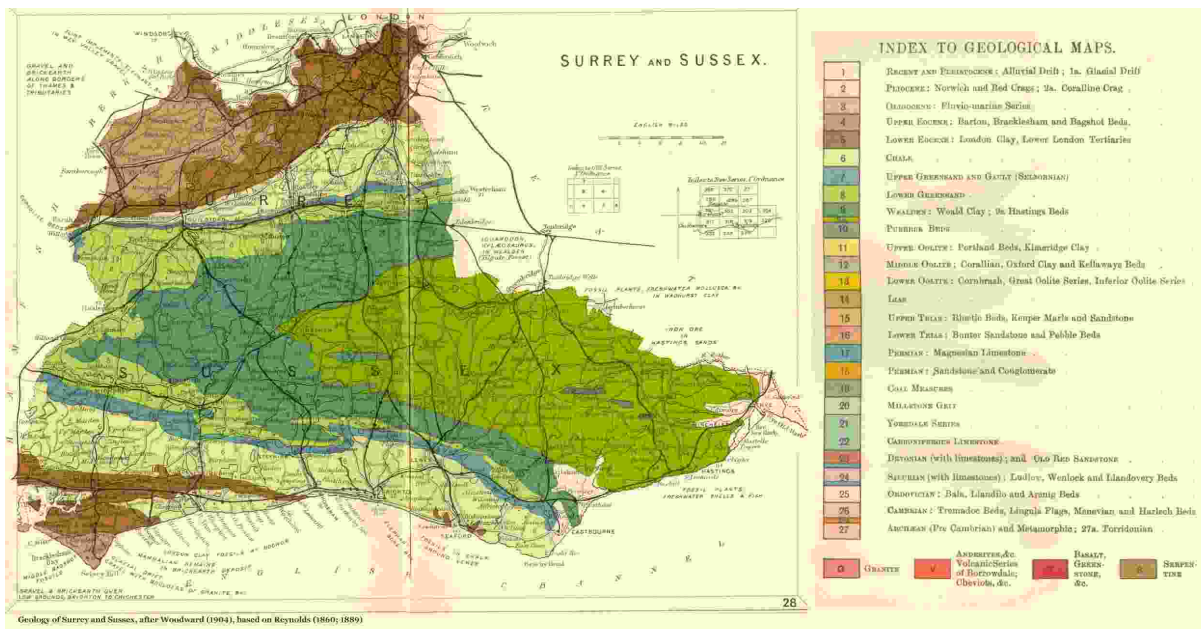
- By year 3, at least 2 high-value indicator species for BAP grassland habitat chalk grassland (see list below) should be frequent and 2 occasional in the sward.

Results Tumuli Field

Indicator Species	Presence in 30 stops	Frequency
High-value indicators		
Bird's-foot-trefoil	21	Frequent
Common rock-rose	1	Rare
Eyebright	1	Rare
Fairy flax	21	Frequent
Lady's bedstraw	7	Rare/Occasional
Marjoram	1	Rare
Milkworts	1	Rare
Restharrow	1	Rare
Rough/lesser hawkbit	11	Occasional
Salad burnet	2	Rare
Squinancywort	6	Rare
Stemless thistle	1	Rare
Thyme-leave sandwort	5	Rare
Negative indicators		
Creeping thistle	16	Frequent
Spear Thistle	3	Rare

Result - Success

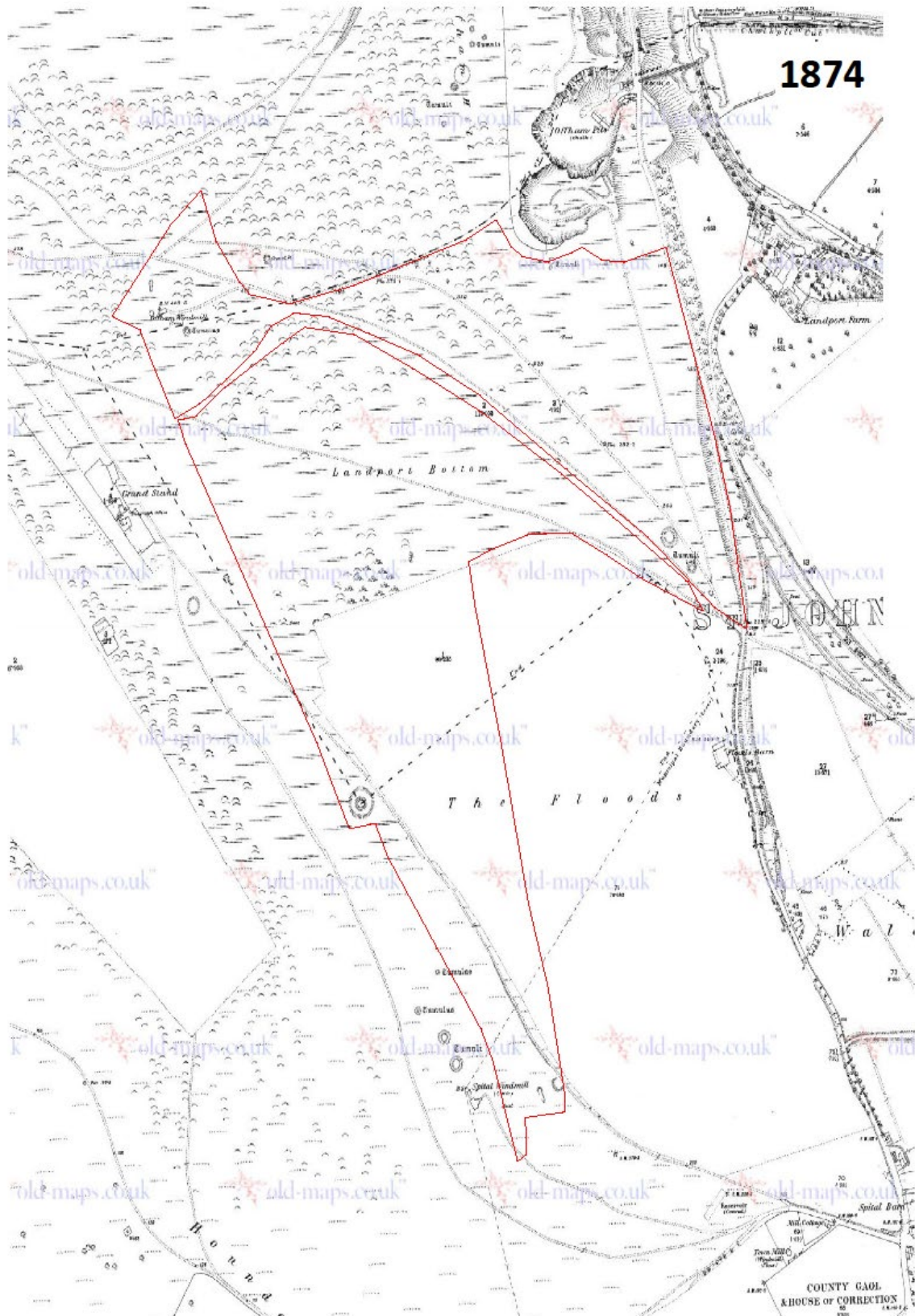
7.9 Geology Map for Sussex.



(Source:

http://www.openaccess.gov.uk/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_GS/.cmd/acd/.ar/sa.map/pm/-/c/6_3_1EU/ce/7_3_312/p/5_3_2H9/d/8#7_3_312)

7.10 Historic Map 1874



7.11 Landport Bottom leaflet – 2 pages

LANDPORT BOTTOM

This 44 hectare site offers panoramic views across Lewes, the South Downs and the meandering River Ouse, these gentle grassland slopes are a special place for both people and wildlife.

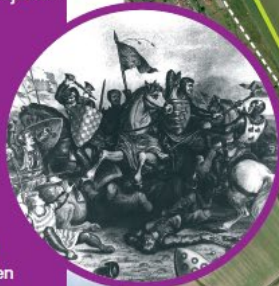
THE BATTLE OF LEWES

On the 14 May 1264 two armies clashed! The rebel army under Simon de Montfort occupied these hills above the town and Henry III's army marched out to meet them. At stake, the King's right to rule without taking advice from his subjects.

From the King's army, a devastating cavalry charge led by Prince Edward shattered the rebel left wing. But de Montfort's army rallied and were able to push the King's men back to the town, killing hundreds as they did so. The King fled, the Prince was taken hostage and his uncle was captured after hiding from the rebels in a windmill.

The battle was over and the King was forced to agree to call a council of Lords, Churchmen and Merchants to advise him. This council or "parlement – speaking place" forms the basis of the Westminster system of government by Crown, Commons, Bishops and Lords we have today.

THIS IS WHERE PARLIAMENT WAS WON!



BARROWS AND BONES

3000 years ago in the Bronze Age it was common to bury the dead under mounds. These burial mounds, also called Barrows or Tumuli, were created by digging a ditch around the grave and piling the spoil into the middle. Newly built mounds would have been very white against the grass making a striking statement in the landscape.



The dead were often buried with flints tools and pots, which may have contained food. Perhaps these objects were thought to be useful in the afterlife. The burial mounds here are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).



IN THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AND BRIGHTON AND LEWES DOWNS BIOSPHERE



LANDPORT BOTTOM

NATURE IMPROVEMENT AREA PROJECT

In February 2012 a grant was awarded as part of the Government's Nature Improvement Area (NIA) scheme. This project aimed to protect, restore and reconnect endangered chalk downland in the National Park. Lewes District Council was able to carry out a three year conservation project at Landport Bottom. Livestock fencing was extended in some of the fields and scrub cleared to expand the chalk grassland.

We purchased **Southdowns Sheep** which were originally bred for meat in Glynde around 200 years ago. This breed is now used in traditional conservation grazing which helps to create a mosaic of habitats benefiting a variety of chalk downland wildlife. Flora surveys were carried out finding flowering plants such as **Lady's Bedstraw**, **Fairy Flax** and **Dropwort** which provide an important nectar source for insects, especially butterflies. **Common Blue**, **Marbled White** and **Small Heath** can be seen here during the summer.



Local schools and residents have been engaged through education days and guided walks to learn about the rare wildlife that lives here. Ground nesting birds such as the **Skylark** uses long grass to hide their nests, but due to changes in farming practices this species has seen a recent decline in population. Conservation areas like this one across the South Downs are going some way to protecting this iconic songster.

BE AWARE, LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Dogs must be kept under control at all times, especially when livestock is present. Please report any sheep emergency to *Plumpton College* on **01273 890454**.

For more information contact Lewes District Council on **01273 471600** or visit our website at www.lewes.gov.uk

AERIAL MAP Cities Revealed® aerial photography copyright The GeoInformation® Group 2014

CREDITS Print of Battle of Lewes COURTESY OF SUSSEX PAST

PHOTO Skylark BY P. WATTS COURTESY OF NATURAL ENGLAND

PHOTO 13th Century Burial Urn and Prehistoric skull

COURTESY OF WORTHING MUSEUM

OTHER PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



FUNDED BY



This project has been supported by Defra, DCLG, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England



HISTORICAL SITE OF THE BATTLE OF LEWES