

NYMNP

14/09/2023

Stoupe Brow Cottage Farm,

Ravenscar,

Scarborough,

YO13 0NQ

14/09/23

Westfield Farm, Station Lane, Cloughton, YO13 0AD.

NYM/2023/0493

Dear Mrs Saunders,

Thank you for your letter dated 29th August. As requested, I employed the services of 'Wold Ecology Limited' and enclose their report for the site of the proposed arena at Westfield Farm.

I intend to plant some fruit trees in the field anyway to create an orchard and I will add more than 0.12ha wildflower meadow they suggest offsetting any 'net gain' which will 'enhance biodiversity' at the farm.

I hope this is satisfactory and that my application for planning permission to build the arena is successful. An arena is much preferable to poaching by horses ridden on grass, looks much nicer and is much safer. Please approve my application.

I await your reply,

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Sylvia Terry



Westfield Farm Habitat Condition Assessment.
Pre Development Biodiversity Scores
 Modified Grassland

This habitat dominates the entire Application Site and comprises improved grasslands with a medium sward length. This habitat has previously been grazed by livestock but more recently has been cut for silage and hay. The field has a slight south-west facing aspect and is free draining with no waterlogging. Soils are eutrophic and nitrogen rich due to previous grazing influence, and potentially more recent fertilisation and are botanically impoverished as is typical of such improved grasslands.

Species composition includes creeping buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, broad-leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, cocksfoot *Dactylus glomerata*, meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, dandelion *Taraxacum officinale*, common mouse-ear *Cerastium fontanum*, chickweed *Stellaria media*, cats-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, timothy *Phleum pratense*, stinging nettle *Urtica dioica* and annual sow thistle *Sonchus oleraceus*.

Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Criteria		Condition Achieved (Y/N)
1	There must be 6-8 species per m2. If a grassland has 9 or more species per m2 it should be classified as a medium distinctiveness grassland habitat NB - this criterion is essential for achieving moderate condition.	No
2	Sward height is varied (at least 20% of the sward is less than 7 cm and at least 20% is more than 7 cm) creating microclimates which provide opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals to live and breed.	No
3	Some scattered scrub (including bramble) may be present, but scrub accounts for less than 20% of total grassland area. Note - patches of shrubs with continuous (more than 90%) cover should be classified as the relevant scrub habitat type.	No
4	Physical damage is evident in less than 5% of total grassland area. Examples of physical damage include excessive poaching, damage from machinery use or storage, erosion caused by high levels of access, or any other damaging management activities.	Yes
5	Cover of bare ground is between 1% and 10%, including localised areas (for example, a concentration of rabbit warrens).	No
6	Cover of bracken less than 20%.	Yes
7	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981).	Yes
Essential criterion 1 achieved (Y/N)		No
Number of criteria passed		3
Condition Assessment Result (out of 7 criteria)	Condition Assessment Score	Score Achieved ×/✓
Passes 6 or 7 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Good (3)	
Passes 4 or 5 criteria including passing essential criterion A	Moderate (2)	
Passes 3 or fewer criteria; OR Passes 4 - 6 criteria (excluding criterion A)	Poor (1)	Yes

New Grassland creation

Wildflower seed will be of British native origin. A good supplier state where their seeds are sourced. For a list of suppliers of British native flora see the Flora Locale website: www.floralocale.org.

- The ground will be prepared following industry best practice.
- Meadows will be cut annually during September and all arisings removed.

Ground preparation for sowing

- In late summer/early autumn cut the grass to create as short as sward as possible aiming for a height of between 3cm and 5cm. Remove the cuttings.
- Create bare ground by harrowing or raking the area immediately after removing the cuttings aiming for a coverage of 40-50% bare ground.
- Sowing will be undertaken in late summer or early autumn. Spring sowing is possible, but many species will not germinate in the first year and there is a greater risk of failure due to drought.
- Broadcast the seeds by hand, use a hand-held seed broadcaster, a push along seed broadcaster or a broadcaster on the back of an ATV. Do not cover seeds after sowing as most wildflower seeds cannot germinate if they are buried. In dry weather conditions, lightly rolling after sowing can improve the success rate by ensuring the seeds are in contact with the soil however this will not be carried out under wet conditions.
- After sowing, the sward will be kept short until November by mowing to allow light to penetrate and assist germination.

The grassland planting scheme for this site will encourage bumblebees and insects through species choice and will comprise:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Birds-foot trefoil | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> |
| • Lady's bedstraw | <i>Galium verum</i> |
| • Yarrow | <i>Achillea millefolium</i> |
| • Common knapweed | <i>Centaurea nigra</i> |
| • Oxeye daisy | <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> |
| • Ribwort plantain | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> |
| • Cowslip | <i>Primula veris</i> |
| • Selfheal | <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> |
| • Meadow buttercup | <i>Ranunculus acris</i> |
| • Yellow rattle | <i>Rhinanthus minor</i> |
| • Meadow cranesbill | <i>Geranium pratense</i> |
| • Devils-bit scabious | <i>Succisa pratensis</i> |
| • Wild carrot | <i>Daucis carota</i> |
| • Red clover | <i>Trifolium pratens</i> |
| • Rough hawkbit | <i>Leontodon hispidus</i> |
| • Field scabious | <i>Knautia arvensis</i> |
| • Common cats' ear | <i>Hypochoeris radicata</i> |
| • Daisy | <i>Bellis perennis</i> |
| • Goat's-beard | <i>Tragopogon pratensis agg.</i> |
| • Ribwort plantain | <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> |
| • Autumn hawkbit | <i>Leontodon autumnalis</i> |
| • Black medick | <i>Medicago lupulina</i> |
| • Salad burnet | <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> |

The use of yellow rattle is highly recommended to increase the success rate. Yellow rattle is a parasitic plant which feeds off grasses reducing their vigour and creating open areas within the sward which other wildflowers are then able to take advantage of. Yellow rattle is an annual plant which must be sown while still fresh directly into the prepared sward from late summer to autumn.

Wildflower meadow management

Meadow management in the first year after creation

- The following spring (late March early April), meadows will be cut, and vegetation removed to allow light to reach the seeds and young plants and to keep the grass growth in check.
- Cut the meadow again after July 15th and remove the cuttings.

Meadow Management

- Once the wildflowers have established, cut the meadow annually during September, leave cuttings for 7 days and remove the cuttings from the grassland to maintain reduced nutrient levels.
- Cutting paths into meadow areas through the growing season also provides diversity of structure and increases the variety of habitats for invertebrates.