

A Management Guidance Statement

1. SITE DETAILS

1.1 Site reference and name

Site name: Seven Star Green

Site code: Co55

1.2 Ownership

Name of owner and their contact details: Eight Ash Green Parish Council

1.3 Site location / map

- Local authority: Colchester Borough Council
- Grid reference: TL 939258
- Site area (if known): 0.8Ha
- Location map:

1.4 A site description: Co55 Seven Star Green (0.8 ha) TL 939258

This green comprises species-rich acidic grassland and a small pond with surrounding scrub. Amongst grasses such as Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) is the diminutive early-flowering herb Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*). Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) flourishes in the damp areas near the pond, which also supports a small amount of Tufted Hair Grass (*Deschampsia caespitose*), whilst the main grassland has a rich and diverse species assemblage including Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*), Black Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), Common Bird'-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Zigzag Clover (*Trifolium medium*). Four Essex Red Data List species are found in this site: Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Heath-grass (*Danthonia decumbens*), Velvet Bent (*Agrostis canina*) and Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*). Species-rich, ancient, unimproved turf of this type is now extremely rare in Essex.

Selection criteria: HCr10, SCr15

Priority Habitats: Lowland Meadows (UK); Lowland Grassland (Essex)

Date of selection: 1991

Date of last revision: December 2008

•1.4 Survey date and Author of Statement

20/7/2010 Lisa Gerrard

2. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

•2.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVES:

Maintain the species richness of this unimproved grassland by timing the annual cuttings to allow the plants to set seed and not be crowded out by rougher, competitive species.

Position in the Landscape

The green is bounded by a road to the West and North, and to the East by a damp ditch. Arable fields, farmsteads and residential homes and gardens are nearby.

Equality and Communication

Pedestrians have permissive access across the site.

The important features and management guidance are summarised in the following table

Feature of interest & why important	Current status	Management Guidance	Record of work
Old, unimproved grassland - a scarce resource both nationally and county wide.	The green is in good condition, although some rougher grasses are present.	Cut twice a year. May and September are optimum times, but the second cut can be done as early as late July if necessary. Remove all cuttings from the site Monitor for scrub encroachment and remove as necessary.	ongoing

Species recorded on the day of the survey and recorded by citation

English name	Latin name
Trees	
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Aspen	<i>Betula tremula</i>
Shrubs	
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Ground flora	
Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
Heath Bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>
Common Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Sneezewort	<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>
Holcus lanatus	<i>Yorkshire Fog</i>
Common Bent-grass	<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>
Lesser Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria graminea</i>
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg</i>
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Stinging Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Red Campion	<i>Silene</i>
Marsh Thistle	<i>Cirsium</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea mille</i>
Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Yorkshire Fog	
Invertebrates	
Gatekeeper butterfly	

Meadow Brown	
Large White	
Speckled Wood	
Reptiles	
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>
Mammals	
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>

Birds	
Wood pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Long tail tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Collard dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Great tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Wren	<i>Troglodytidae troglodytidae</i>
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Greater spotted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica Pica</i>
Carrion crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>