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7<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020

Dear Sir,

**Advice on the content of Framework Management Plan for St Edwards Prep School Meadow Local Wildlife Site under planning application 20/00683/OUT.**

This advice is limited to the Framework Management plan only and should not be taken as an endorsement of the planning application itself by GWT.

**Comments on section 2 - Structure for Management Plan:**

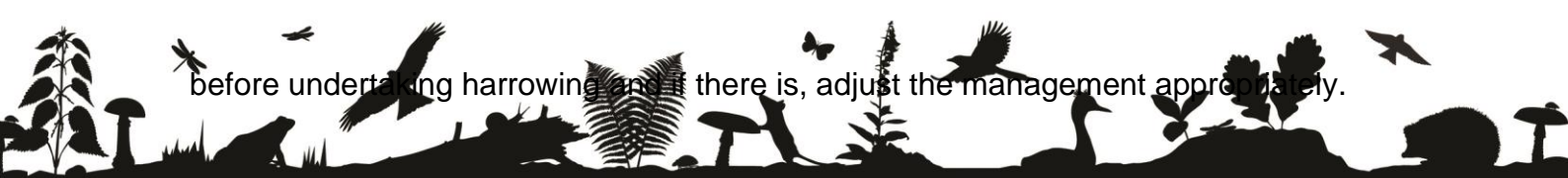
As an outline, the headings cover the range of management issues present at the site.

**Comments on Section 3 - Considerations for inclusion in grassland restoration prescriptions:**

3.1 Agree soil nutrient testing is required, assessment of phosphorous level is particularly important for grassland restoration.

3.2 Timing of grass cuts should consider the life cycles of resident invertebrate species (e.g. timing of caterpillar food plant) to avoid wiping out site population. If necessary, leave some areas uncut for invertebrates to complete their lifecycle. Harrowing can be detrimental to grassland fungi, particularly waxcaps that are associated with a moss layer. Be clear that there is not grassland fungal interest

before undertaking harrowing and if there is, adjust the management appropriately.





3.4 It is preferable to retain what is already on site. If the residual seed bank is not sufficient, seed sourced from a local meadow would be preferable to seed from a commercial supplier to maintain local genetic integrity.

3.6 As in 3.2 invertebrate life cycles need to be considered. Some areas of uncut grass may be required, though food plants need to be present in uncut areas. Details should be given on method of weed suppression.

3.7 Climate change is driving changes in flowering dates. For long term management, the timing of hay cut may need to move to align with climate driven changes to flowering dates.

Kind regards



Dr Juliet Hynes

Nature Recovery Network Coordinator

