

Site management, Downland management report

1. Priority Local Nature Reserves (LNR):

Name of site	Brief description	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	Consultation
Beacon Hill LNR	Important unimproved chalk grassland (European priority habitat)	Increase the limited area currently grazed with sheep to include most of the chalk grassland. Permanent perimeter fencing with accessible gates. Grazing by rotation around several compartments with temporary internal fencing.	Continue grazing whole site.	Continue grazing whole site.	Extensive consultation underway including Rottingdean Parish Council and Beacon Hill Working Group (AGM 2/10/09).
Bevendean Down LNR	Important unimproved chalk grassland (European priority habitat)	Small extension to north of existing grazed area. Grazing starts 10 November 2009.	Negotiate with existing farm tenant to increase the area currently grazed with sheep.	Continue grazing 2010/2011 area.	Regular consultation with Friends of Bevendean Down and local farmer.
Ladies Mile LNR	Important unimproved chalk grassland (European priority habitat)	Grass cut only. This is unlikely to be of lasting detriment to the conservation value of the site during this time.	Introduce sheep grazing to a small area for the first time with temporary fencing.	Double or triple the area first grazed with sheep in 2010/2011 depending on the success of 2010/2011.	Consultation due to start 2010 – wildlife group has not met for some time.

Name of site	Brief description	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	Consultation
Stanmer Park LNR	“Marquee Brow” Important unimproved chalk grassland (priority European priority habitat)	Grass cut only. This is unlikely to be of lasting detriment to the conservation value of the site during this time.	Grass cut only. This is unlikely to be of lasting detriment to the conservation value of the site during this time.	Introduce sheep grazing to “Marquee Brow” (small area of north east of main entrance at Lower Lodges) for the first time with temporary fencing.	Consultation underway - Stanmer Park stakeholders meeting 6 July 2009.
Whitehawk Race Hill LNR	Important unimproved chalk grassland (European priority habitat)	Introduce sheep grazing to a small area for the first time with temporary fencing in October 2009,	Double or triple the area first grazed with sheep in 2009/2010 depending on the success of 2009/2010.	Assess the feasibility of extensively grazing both sides of Manor Hill. To include open access with accessible gates located where appropriate and dog owners encouraged to keep dogs under close control.	Extensive consultation including ward members, local school children, public events and publicity. Friends of Whitehawk Hill no longer exists.
Wild Park LNR (includes sites known as “39 acres”, Cuckmere Way, Ditchling Crescent, Hollingbury Hill Fort)	Important unimproved chalk grassland (European priority habitat)	Triple the small area of chalk grassland first grazed with sheep winter 08/09. Permanent perimeter fencing with accessible	Assess the feasibility of extensively grazing both sides of Ditchling Road from Hollingbury golf course to the A27, including “39 acres”	Clear a further area of scrub for grazing and permanent fencing with accessible gates.	Consultation underway and Friends of Wild Park now meet regularly.

Name of site	Brief description	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	Consultation
		gates and clear a large area of scrub for grazing.	and land along west side of Ditchling Road currently mown by Cityparks, adjacent to Cuckmere Way and Ditchling Crescent. To include open access on foot across the entire area with accessible gates located where appropriate and dog owners encouraged to keep dogs under close control. Clear a further area of scrub for grazing and permanent fencing with accessible gates.		

2. Second Priority Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI):

Name of site	Brief description	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	Consultation
Green Ridge SNCI	Rough, semi-improved amenity grassland (ie of lower ecological importance than unimproved chalk grassland) and should be in the National Park.	Grass cut only. This is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site during this time.	Grass cut only. This is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site during this time.	Introduce sheep grazing to a small area for the first time with temporary fencing.	Consultation underway with Keep the Ridge Green including meeting on 28.10.08.
Sheepcote Valley SNCI	Chalk grassland on slopes in National Park and rough grassland on old amenity site	Triple the area grazed with sheep in 2008/2009 to include most of the chalk grassland slopes with temporary fencing. Grazing underway from September 2009.	Increase the area grazed by sheep to include most of the grassland with permanent fencing.	Continue grazing most of the site.	Regular consultation with ward members and Friends of Sheepcote Valley. Extensive publicity, including national newspapers in 2009.
Waterhall SNCI	Chalk grassland and meadow in the National Park	Increase sheep grazing to include all the meadow area with permanent fencing and accessible gates.	Continue grazing most of the site.	Continue grazing most of the site.	Consultation underway with Friends of Waterhall – regular meetings.

3. Other sites (grass from the following sites was cut and collected until 2007):

Name of site	Brief description	2009/2012
"19 Acres"	Part of larger Waterhall SNCI on golf course	Continue mowing only, until grazing can be introduced should resources become available and subject to consultation. This is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site during this time.
Bexhill Road Open Space	Amenity grassland of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland. Eastern end is part of Bexhill Road SNCI.	Continue mowing only, until grazing can be introduced should resources become available and subject to consultation. This will not be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site.
Braeside Open Space	Amenity grassland of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland.	Continue mowing only, until grazing can be introduced should resources become available and subject to consultation. This will not be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site.
Chattri (small area adjacent to Chattri grounds)	Part of larger Chattri Down SNCI on adjacent farm land	Continue mowing only. The grass from this site has never been collected.
Chelwood Close Flats Open Space	Amenity grass of low conservation importance (part of Wild Park LNR)	Continue mowing only for amenity value. The grass from this site has never been collected.
Clifftop	Above Brighton to Newhaven Cliffs SSSI	Continue mowing only. The grass from this site has never been collected because the wind quickly blows any grass cuttings away. Not collecting is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site. It is not considered practical to graze this site,
Devil's Dyke Road Strip	Access strip (narrow strip to	Continue mowing only, primarily for access and amenity value. This is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site.

Name of site	Brief description	2009/2012
	north part of SNCI) of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland.	
Foredown allotments	Rough grass (part of Foredown allotments SNCI) of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland.	Continue mowing only. The site is currently a meadow area with potential to be returned to allotment use. This is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site.
Happy Valley	Rough amenity grass (part of Happy Valley SNCI) of low conservation importance	Continue mowing only, until grazing can be introduced should resources become available and subject to consultation. This is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site.
Hollingbury Park reservoir surrounds	Rough amenity grass (part of Wild Park LNR) of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland.	Continue mowing only. This site is adjacent to the Southern Water reservoir site which has greater conservation importance. The grass from the reservoir surrounds has not regularly been collected. This is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site although there has been consultation with Friends of Hollingbury & Burstead Woods regarding potential improvements to the management of the site.
Roedean Golf	Rough amenity grass of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland.	Continue regular mowing only, leaving a period uncut in late summer for autumn ladies tresses flowers. This is a small site not considered practical to graze and the grass has not previously been regularly collected. This is unlikely to be of detriment to the conservation value of the site.
Roedean Way	Rough amenity grass of lower importance than unimproved chalk	Continue mowing only. This is a small site adjacent to a car park which is not considered practical to graze and the grass has not previously been collected. This will not be of detriment to the conservation value of the site.

Name of site	Brief description	2009/2012
Saddlescombe Model Aircraft Field	grassland. Rough amenity grass of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland.	Continue mowing only, primarily for model aircraft use. This will not be of detriment to the conservation value of the site.
Stanmer Woods (parts of Stanmer LNR)	Part of Stanmer LNR	Continue mowing, primarily to maintain archaeology. This is a small site not considered practical to graze and the grass has not previously been collected. This is unlikely to be of detriment to the conservation value of the site.
Tenantry Down	Part of Whitehawk Hill LNR separated from main site by roads and allotments. Rough, semi-improved grassland of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland.	Continue mowing only, until grazing can be introduced should resources become available and subject to consultation. This is unlikely to be of significant detriment to the conservation value of the site during this time.
Withdean Woods LNR	Rough grassland glade in woodland of lower importance than unimproved chalk grassland.	Continue mowing only. This is a small site not considered practical to graze and the grass has not recently been collected from this site. This is unlikely to be of detriment to the conservation value of the site.

NB Sheep grazing will continue at Benfield Hill LNR (currently managed by the South Downs Joint Committee), the sheep holding field at Stanmer and Dorothy Stringer School where sheep grazed their chalk grassland re-creation site for the first time in winter 2008/2009.

