

Appendix 1: Example KWS Assessment Sheet

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE KEY WILDLIFE SITE ASSESSMENT SHEET

[note: fictional example!]

<b>Site name:</b>	Sheepfield Common
<b>Location</b> (grid reference):	SOxxxxxx
<b>Area (ha):</b>	28ha
<b>Date of last survey:</b>	7/6/2015
	(if not within 5 years, flag automatically for priority survey)
<b>Surveyor(s):</b>	Linda Moore

### Description and survey findings

#### Site Overview

An interesting site that supports a high diversity of typical limestone grassland species and most closely resembles the NVC category CG3: Upright Brome (*Bromus erectus*) grassland. This is a high priority grassland type as identified in the KWS Handbook (Table H5c). It varies considerably in character across the site with localised dominance of certain species and differences in sward height. Boundary hedges are well-established and show some evidence of ancient woodland groundflora.

**PRIORITY HABITAT(S):** Lowland calcareous grassland, Hedgerows

**PRIORITY SPECIES:** Musk orchid (NERC list, UK Priority Species)

#### Other Significant taxa

##### *Vascular Plants*

Grassland – 21 species from Table H5c (see KWS Handbook Part 2, Section 2.5: Habitats)

<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Aira caryophyllea</i>	Silvery hair-grass
<i>Aira praecox</i>	Early hair-grass
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch
<i>Astragalus danicus</i>	Purple milkvetch
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow wort
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking grass
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Clustered bellflower
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Carex caryophyllea</i>	Spring sedge
<i>Carex spicata</i>	Spiked sedge
<i>Clinopodium acinos</i>	Basil-thyme
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw
<i>Helictotrichon pratense</i>	Meadow oat-grass
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy flax
<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet-saxifrage
<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk milkwort
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Salad burnet
Hedgerow:	
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	Herb Paris

### Reasons for recommendation as a KWS

#### Habitat present

Relevant threshold:	Sheepfield Common:	Meets criteria?
H3.1 – Lengths of native hedgerow which satisfy the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 definition of an “important hedgerow” according to species composition (see below) will not qualify in their own right, but should be included in KWS boundaries where they are adjacent to qualifying sites;	Several short lengths of species-rich hedgerow; does not meet the minimum criteria for designation on its own.	No, but should be included if the site as a whole is selected.
H5.1 – All grasslands larger than 0.5 ha which are identified as one or more of the NVC types in Table H5a and which support 15 or more species from Table H5c	28ha of semi-natural limestone grassland Type CG3 (which is on Table H5a), + 21 species from Table H5c	Yes

Relevant KWS Criteria	Relevant minimum requirements	Assessment
<p><b>1c) Size</b></p> <p>the site supports a high proportion of the total area of an important habitat or the total numbers of an important species in the county and/or national or international context.</p>	<p>2% of all known counted Musk orchid spikes in the county are found on this site</p>	<p>Borderline</p>
<p><b>3b) Naturalness and Typicalness</b></p> <p>the site is an excellent representative of a habitat or species population that forms a distinctive element of Gloucestershire's biodiversity</p>	<p>Limestone grassland is characteristic of this part of Gloucestershire, and this example actually fits SSSI criteria re. species composition and structure.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>7a) Connectivity with the landscape</b></p> <p>the site forms part of an important, larger ecological unit which would be reduced in value as a whole if the site was damaged or destroyed</p>	<p>Adjacent to Cotswold Commons &amp; Beechwoods SSSI, linking it with another SSSI woodland</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p><b>8a) Value for appreciation of nature</b></p> <p>Three or more of the following factors apply:</p> <p>The site is adjacent to, or overlooked by, a residential area – no</p> <p>There are well-used footpaths/cycleways/bridleways providing access to the site (official or permissive) – yes</p> <p>The site and features of interest are accessible to people who are physically disabled – no</p> <p>There is space to park at, or within easy walking distance of, the site – yes</p> <p>There is a local 'friends' type group – yes</p> <p>The site is used by community groups – no</p>	<p>Crossed by the Cotswold Way and part of a popular walking route with parking nearby. Not used by community groups, but there is a "Friends of Sheepfield Common" group. Some distance from a residential area and not readily accessible for those with a disability, but with good parking nearby.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Fits Criterion 8a) as three factors do apply to this site.</p>
<p><b>9 Value for learning</b></p>	<p>Site of fixed quadrats in long-term University study, but doesn't fit the criteria for selection purely on the grounds of value for learning.</p>	<p>No</p>

<b>Management observations</b>	
Currently grazed, although many parts of the site have a thatch of undergrazed coarse grasses. Diversity and abundance of species of interest is likely to benefit from increased grazing pressure at appropriate times. Hedges don't link up much and could be improved as a component of the site.	
<b>To be completed by Site Selection Panel:</b>	
<b>Does the site qualify for LWS selection?</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>
<b>Comments</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

[In this fictional example, the site fits several criteria and would clearly be selected].