

OBJECTIVE	TARGET	PROGRESS	PLAN STATUS	
			2008-2010	2011-2015
A. To achieve condition of 20ha of existing lowland acid grassland above 0.25ha that are currently in unfavourable condition, to favourable or recovering, giving priority to those holding UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species & Red Data Book species.	2026	Achievement of almost 40% of this target through a combination of 'continuing to achieve favourable condition' and 'continuing restoration' at 3 sites: Kenilworth Common, Coombe Abbey and Abbey Fields (total area 7.8ha).	↑	↑
B. To expand the extent of the habitat by 11ha.	2026	No progress yet. To be a priority for action by the Local Nature Partnership Implementation Group in 2016.		

Key to status: 2010: ↑ Any improvement ↔ No change ↓ Decline 2015: ↑ Good progress ↑ Some progress ↔ No change ↓ Decline

PROPOSED ACTIONS	BY	REPORTED PROGRESS	NO.OF SITES/ ITEMS	TOTAL AREA/ LENGTH	% OF TARGET	ACTION STATUS
						↑ ↑ ↔ ↓
PL1. Ensure that any site meeting the relevant criteria is considered for designation as an SSSI.	ongoing	Natural England (NE): no more SSSIs designated.				↔
PL2. Continue to select all qualifying lowland acid grassland sites as LWSs and enter onto database.	ongoing	Local Wildlife Sites Project (LWSP) has designated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grendon Common, 1999 • Baddesley Common, 1999 • Yarningale Common - 0.5ha of acid grassland, 2014, with the preparation of a parish management plan which hopefully will include some restoration. • Coombe Abbey - 8ha of acid grassland, 2015 • Priory Fields, Solihull, 2015 	5 sites			↑
PL3. Ensure that the protection of all acid grassland is included in Local Development Frameworks, Neighbourhood Plans and any other relevant strategies, including targets for maintenance, achieving condition and expansion for each Local Authority.	ongoing	Warwickshire County Council (WCC): all Local Planning Authority core strategies have a policy to protect acid grassland, being a habitat of high nature conservation value. More detail in 2017 plans				↑

<p>PL4. Ensure that new minor or major developments result in net biodiversity gain through adherence to the mitigation hierarchy.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>WCC: all Local Planning Authorities promote biodiversity impact assessments that lead to net gains.</p>				<p>↑</p>
<p>SM1. Maintain favourable ecological condition of all 72.75ha (HBA, 2012) of existing acid grassland by ensuring the appropriate management of all sites.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>NE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clowes Wood and Rough Hill & Wirehill Woods (SSSIs): remain in good condition overall suggesting that the 0.75ha acid grassland / heathland areas are being maintained. • Coleshill Pool (SSSI): condition has degraded. • Burton Dassett Country Park: 0.63ha of acid grassland still under an HLS agreement; the area remains the same. <p>Warwickshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priory Fields, Solihull, 5.4ha of acid grassland managed by annual cutting regime with arisings removed; a range of species but is deteriorating. <p>Coventry City Council (CCC) at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coombe Abbey: 8ha of acid grassland managed by ‘lazy dogging’ to control ragwort, spear thistle & creeping thistle in sensitive areas; heathland flora starting to establish. <p>Warwick District Council (WDC) at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Fields: management of 1ha of acid grassland, cut as a meadow from 2012 to return it to short mown grass with harebells. <p>Whittleford Park: acid grassland managed by the ‘Friends’ at an old brick works; good reptile habitat with connectivity provided by a railway.</p>	<p>7 sites</p>	<p>15.78ha</p>	<p>21.7%</p>	<p>↑</p>
<p>SM2. Continue to achieve favourable condition of 6ha of existing acid grassland by 2015 and a further 14ha by 2026 by appropriate management.</p>	<p>2015-26</p>	<p>WWT at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenilworth Common: only 0.25ha is acid grassland. 	<p>1 site</p>	<p>0.25ha</p>	<p>4.0%</p>	<p>↑</p>

<p>SM3. Continue restoration of degraded acid grassland at the three SSSIs and other sites.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>NE: reports no restoration for SSSIs.</p> <p>WWT at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenilworth Common: further coppicing of the 0.25ha of acid grassland in strategic areas to open up the glade area and improve connectivity with grassland on the railway cutting. Native acid seed mix and green hay strew within the 0.25ha site has been carried out to improve species diversity. <p>CCC at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coombe Abbey, restoration of the Wrautum’s field (5.7ha) with control of ragwort, creeping & spear thistle in areas where they are starting to dominate, and shrub removal; grazing by sheep on a seasonal rotation. <p>WDC at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Fields: the 1.6ha of acid grassland reseeded in 2011 is establishing. 	<p>3 sites</p>	<p>7.55ha</p>		<p>↑</p>
<p>SM4. Expand the area of acid grassland by 3ha by 2015 and a further 8ha by 2026, including one site of at least 3ha.</p>	<p>2015-26</p>	<p>No known expansion. To be a priority for action by the Local Nature Partnership Implementation Group in 2016.</p>				<p>↔</p>
<p>SM5. Work at a landscape scale, focusing effort on identified important clusters of acid grassland to maximise benefit, ‘rewilding’ the wider countryside and restoring the range of the habitat to build resilience to climate change. Target area is the Hartshill Ridge (west end NWBC and east end NBBC).</p>	<p>2026</p>	<p>Collaboration between North Warwickshire Borough Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Habitat Biodiversity Audit (HBA) and WWT to produce a coordinated programme of work to establish a network of LWS's across the Hartshill Ridge area.</p>	<p>1 site</p>			<p>↑</p>
<p>RM1. Survey and map digitally all areas of acid grassland and heathland to establish a true baseline of data for these co-existing habitats.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>LWSP at 6 sites including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coombe Abbey: extension survey for LWS status, 2015 • Windmill Hill Community Reserve, Nuneaton: acid grassland adjoining the reserve is likely to be destroyed; heather could be established as compensation. • Hartshill Ridge: a draft boundary of areas of ecological/landscape importance has been prepared and 	<p>6 sites</p>			<p>↑</p>

		<p>mapped to assist a coordinated programme of work to establish a network of LWS's across the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarningale Common: (8.5ha) was heathland but heather gone; now so degraded that hardly any acid grassland left either; mostly semi-improved and poor semi-improved grassland. 				
RM2. Identify sites for potential expansion of acid grassland.	ongoing	HBA: this is standard practice when surveying sites for LWS status.				↑
RM3. Identify plant indicator species to establish criteria for assessing the quality of acid grassland habitat.	2015	HBA: this has been achieved.				↑
RM4. Use indicator species criteria for monitoring acid grassland condition and expansion every 5 years particularly on LWSs.	ongoing	HBA: this is standard practice when monitoring sites.				↑