

## Sunderton Meadow

SU69901620

61-0215

East Hampshire

## Habitat Survey



Hampshire Biodiversity  
Information Centre

Date of Survey:	02/08/2017
Written by:	Joel Miller
Last reviewed by:	Òçá Á^ { ]   ^ { æ
Date of review:	28/02/2024

## Survey Summary

### Sunderton Meadow 02/08/2017

#### Site Details

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**Grid Reference :** SU69901620 **File Reference :** 61-0215  
**Total Area :** 1.59 ha  
**Civil Parish :** Clanfield  
**District :** East Hampshire  
**Vice-County :** 11, South Hampshire

#### Survey Details

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**Survey Type :** Phase II  
**Survey Date :** 02/08/2017  
**Survey Time on Site :** 2.5 (hrs)  
**Data Owned By :** Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership  
**Data Recorded By :** Joel Miller, HBIC

#### Site Summary

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The site is a small field located on the residential edge of Clanfield. It is situated on a chalk bedrock and supports semi-improved rough grassland but it is isolated from other areas of chalk grassland in the landscape and is nearly enclosed by housing.

#### Site Designations

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##### Designation

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

#### Site Features

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<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
Geology	Upper Chalk
Management	Mowing
Usage	Dog Walking
Usage	Public Access

#### Priority Habitats

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##### Priority Habitats

Lowland calcareous grassland

Area

#### Notable Species

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None recorded

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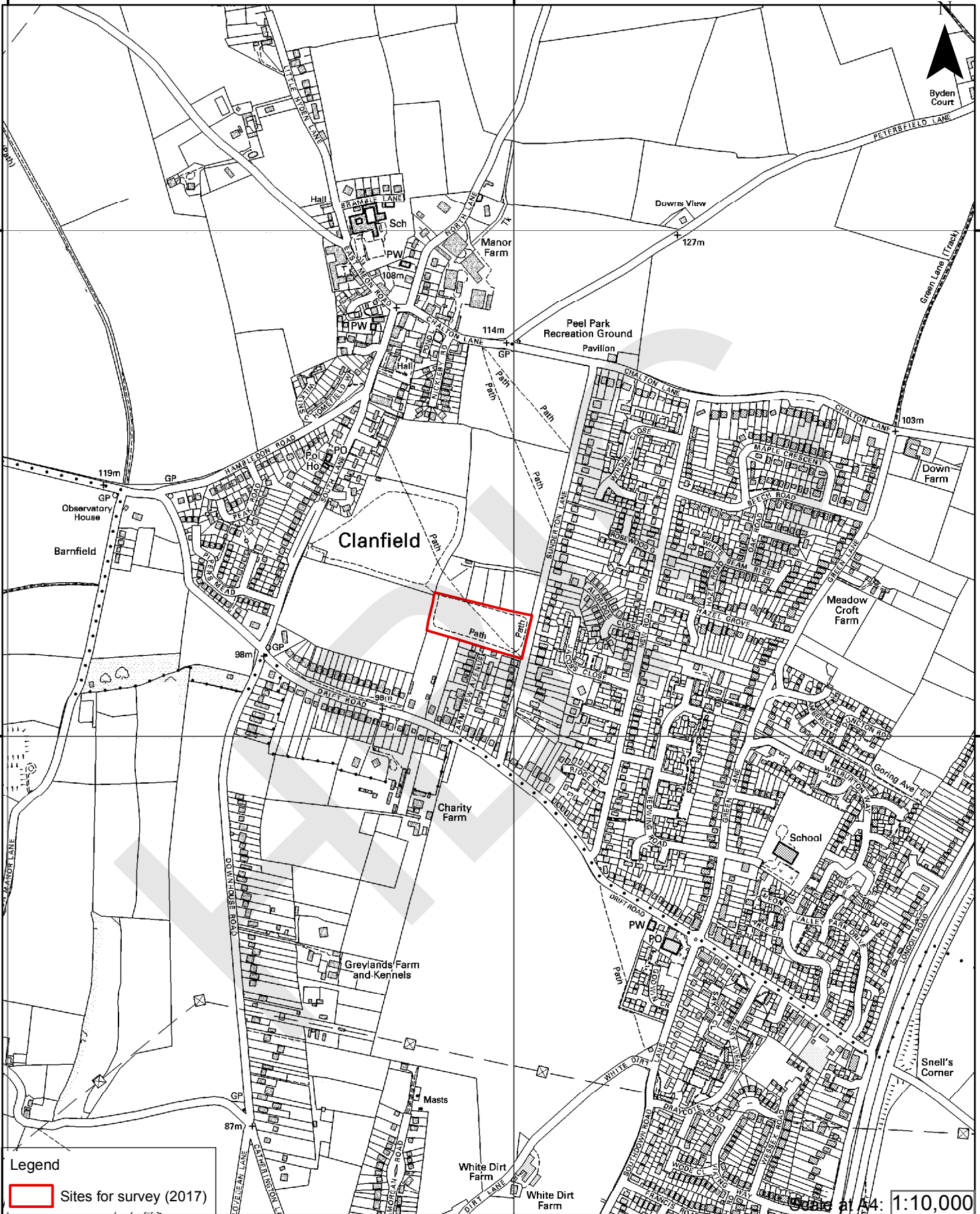
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HBIC Survey Programme 2017  
 Sunderton Meadow  
 SU69901620

Hampshire Biodiversity  
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**Sunderton Meadow SU69901620**

East Hampshire District Council

02/08/2017

Joel Miller

**Site description**

The site is a small field located on the residential edge of Clanfield. It is situated on a chalk bedrock and supports semi-improved rough grassland but it is isolated from other areas of chalk grassland in the landscape and is nearly enclosed by housing. It is managed by Clanfield Parish Council for amenity access and wildlife.

The site was most likely an arable field in the past but has developed into grassland either through disuse or re-seeding. The resulting vegetation resembles fairly mesotrophic chalk grassland habitat. This may be due to the soil depth or nutrient resource within the soil after arable use. However there are signs of calcareous grassland re-establishing. The sward is fairly rough, but does possess a good herb presence for much of its area. The calcareous grassland indicators are limited to 11 in number but the overall floristic diversity for the sward is fairly good. There is some mature scrub within the field.

To the edges of the site the grassland becomes rougher and ranker, with a corresponding drop in floral diversity and chalk grassland interest. However, there are hedgerows or thin strips of immature broad-leaved plantation along the boundaries of the site, which add to the structural and habitat diversity of the site.

Overall the site has a fair wildlife value, especially considering the paucity of the wildlife interest within the surrounding area.

**Management**

The site is actively managed. The grassland appears to be mown at least once a year with arisings removed. This management has maintained a valuable grassland habitat. It is notable that the site has not been under-managed, as such sites often are, which would lead to the site losing much of its herb presence and floral diversity. The site has also not been managed as amenity sward and consequently over mown or re-sown. Maintaining a continually short sward would lead to the site losing its structural diversity and potential over-use for amenity purposes.

The site has changed a little since the last HBIC survey in 2006. There seems to be greater herb presence and slightly greater species diversity. Calcareous grassland indicators have not increased much since the first survey in 1995 (from 9 then to 10 now), but the range of semi-improved grassland species present has gone up. The structural diversity within the sward has also increased, which should benefit invertebrates.

The edges of the site have a much rougher and more improved sward. It is appreciated that these areas provide habitat and structural variety for the site. However stinging-nettle is becoming too prominent here and the vegetation is becoming rank rather than rough, suggesting that the sward is undermanaged.

**Area description**

Area 1 – MG1a *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland, *Festuca rubra* sub-community (IHS GI0.SC2.GM4)

The grassland at the edge of the field is rather rank, tending to the MG1b (*Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland, *Urtica dioica* sub-community) in places. The vegetation is a mix of false oat-grass, cock's-foot, hogweed, stinging-nettle, field bindweed, yorkshire fog, bramble and creeping thistle.

Area 2 – MG1d *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland, *Pastinaca sativa* sub-community (IHS GC1.SC2.GM2)

The grassland is rough, but still possesses and good herb presence and species diversity. The main species in the sward are cock's-foot, red fescue, false oat-grass, ribwort plantain, clovers, red bartsia, dandelion and hogweed. There is also much creeping bent, field bindweed, rye grass, black medick, rough hawkbit, goat's-beard, yarrow, yorkshire fog and downy oat-grass. Other species present include hedge bedstraw, agrimony, oxeye daisy, yellow rattle, greater scabious, crosswort and wild basil.

*sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife*

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.

Area 3 – OV23 *Lolium perenne-Dactylis glomerata* community (IHS GI0.GM2)

These patches within the site still support a re-sown amenity sward. This is short and trampled. The main species are rye grass, annual meadow-grass, cock's-foot, white clover and greater plantain.



**Photo 1** – Showing field from western edge.



**Photo 2** – Showing field from north-eastern corner.

*sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife*

The Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Partnership includes local authorities, government agencies, wildlife charities and biological recording groups.



**Photo 3** – Showing herb-rich sward in centre of the site.

*sharing information about Hampshire's wildlife*

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AREA 1 - M41a GRASSLAND  
AREA 2 - M41d GRASSLAND  
AREA 3 - OV23 COMMUNITY

(P1) PHOTOPoint

SOME MATRICE AND INVADING SCRUB IN ②

CUT/INTACT HEDGE

OVERGROWN HEDGE WITH TREES

③ ALONG PATHS AND AT ACCESS POINTS

OVERGROWN HEDGE ESTIMATED

SARAFIN FENCE

Legend  
[Red outline] Sites for survey (2017)

Scale at A4: 1:1,750

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Sunderton Meadow  
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## Survey Details

### Sunderton Meadow 02/08/2017

#### Habitats Recorded

##### Priority Habitats

Lowland calcareous grassland

##### Area

##### National Vegetation Classifications

MG1d, Arrhenatherum elatius grassland: Pastinaca sativa subcommunity

80 %

MG1a, Arrhenatherum elatius grassland: Festuca rubra subcommunity

20 %

OV23, Lolium perenne-Dactylis glomerata community

5 %

#### Species Recorded

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Species Status</u>
* <i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	R	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	R	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	OLF	
+ <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	O	
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	OLF	
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	R	
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	R	
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	FLA	
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	R	
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	R	
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft-brome	O	
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly-bush	R	
+ <i>Centaurea nigra sens. lat. (=nigra/debeauxii)</i>	Common Knapweed	R	
~ <i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed	OLF	
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	O	
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	RLF	
~ <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Wild Basil	O	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	OLF	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	O	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	R	
~ <i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	R	NW
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	FLA	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb	R	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	R	
~^+ <i>Euphrasia officinalis agg.</i>	Euphrasia officinalis agg.	R	
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	R	
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue	R	
~^ <i>Festuca ovina</i>	Sheep's-fescue	R	
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	A	
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	R	
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	O	



<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Species Status</u>
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens	R	
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	R	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	RLA	
~+ <i>Helictotrichon pubescens</i>	Downy Oat-grass	OLA	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	F	
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog	OLF	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's-wort	R	
+ <i>Jacobaea erucifolia</i>	Hoary Ragwort	R	
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common Ragwort	R	
~+ <i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	R	NW
~^+ <i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit	F	
~+ <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy	O	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet	R	
<i>Linaria purpurea</i>	Purple Toadflax	R	
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax	R	
~ <i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy Flax	R	
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	OLA	
<i>Malus pumila</i>	Apple	R	
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	R	
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	OLF	
<i>Odontites vernus</i>	Red Bartsia	A	
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	OLF	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	A	
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain	OLF	
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	O	
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	O	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	R	
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	R	
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Wild Plum	R	
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	R	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	R	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	R	
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	R	
+ <i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	O	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	RLF	
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry	(R)	
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i>	Clustered Dock	R	
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	R	
<i>Scorzonerooides autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	R	
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	R	
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	R	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	F	
+ <i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	O	
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	F	
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	F	
~+ <i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat-grass	R	

<u>Taxon Name</u>	<u>Taxon Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Species Status</u>
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	OLA	
<i>Verbascum nigrum</i>	Dark Mullein	R	NW
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	O	
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	R	
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	R	

## Species Summary

<b>Total no. of species :</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>No. of woodland species :</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>* No. of AWVP indicators :</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>~ No. of CG indicators :</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>^ No. of LDAG indicators :</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>+ No. of LM indicators :</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>x No. of PMGRP indicators :</b>	<b>0</b>

## Notes

### Habitat Classifications :

Priority: Habitats identified as the highest priority for conservation action in the UK

NVC: A system of classifying natural habitat communities according to species associations

Phase 1: A standardised system for surveying, classifying and mapping broad wildlife habitats including urban areas

Peterken: A stand type classification that describes woodlands by tree species

### Indicators Species :

- \* Ancient Woodland Vascular Plants (AWVP) - species most strongly associated with ancient woodland and are typical components of botanically rich ancient woodland communities
- ~ Chalk grassland (CG) indicators - species characteristic of unimproved chalk downland or have a strong affinity to calcareous soil
- ^ Lowland Dry Acid Grassland Indicators (LDAG) - species characteristic of lowland dry acid grassland.
- + Lowland Meadow Indicators (LM) - species characteristic of lowland meadows.
- x Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pastures Indicators (PMGRP) - species characteristic of Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pastures.

### Species Abundance:

Frequency: D=dominant A=abundant F=frequent O=occasional R=rare L=locally

Frequencies within brackets ( ) indicate non-native occurrences

### Habitat and Species designations and statuses:

Habitat designations/categories and species legislation/statuses are correct at the time the report was generated and may not necessarily reflect those applicable either at the time of survey or later than the generated date.

### Species statuses:

NB: Records of species that are legally protected or otherwise notable within Hampshire.

NW: Species that may or may not have another/a legal designation, but are of note/interest due to one or more of the following: Hampshire Responsible, Hampshire Declining or Near Threatened.