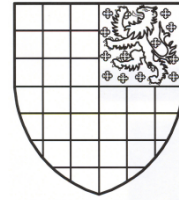


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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

**To: Cllrs Bird; Burrows; Handy; Henman; O'Keeffe; Sains and Vernon**

A Meeting of the **Landport Bottom Management Committee** will be held on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes** at **7:00pm** which you are summoned to attend.

S Brigden, Town Clerk 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## **AGENDA**

### 1. ELECTION of CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

To receive apologies from members of the working-party who are unable to attend.

### 3. MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To note declarations of any personal or prejudicial interests in matters on this agenda.

### 4. QUESTION TIME

### 5. REMIT of the COMMITTEE

To note the remit of the Committee, which is:

- a. To conserve and enhance Landport Bottom as an important feature of the local landscape
- b. To increase biodiversity by appropriate habitat management
- c. To protect and conserve the Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Registered Battlefield site, and other important historical features.
- d. To promote quiet, informal enjoyment of Landport Bottom by the general public.
- e. To involve the local community in the development and management of the site
- f. To increase the understanding and awareness of the importance of the site, amongst local people and visitors.
- g. To manage the site with the Health and Safety of the visitors, staff and volunteers as a high priority.
- h. To manage stock with the highest welfare standards.
- i. To maintain current fixed assets to high standards.

### 6. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

To consider matters within the remit of the committee

*NB this is an inaugural meeting since the Town Council acquired sole ownership of the land, and may consider any relevant matter.*

***For further information about items on this agenda please contact the Town Clerk at the above address.***

**This agenda and supporting papers can be downloaded from [www.lewes-tc.gov.uk](http://www.lewes-tc.gov.uk)**

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:** Members of the public have the right, and are welcome, to attend meetings of the Council – questions regarding items on this agenda may be heard at the start of each meeting with the Chairman's consent, and subject to time available. Questions or requests to address the Council should, whenever possible, be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk at least 24 hours in advance. **PLEASE NOTE:** As space is limited we would appreciate advanced warning if you plan to attend in a group; perhaps with neighbours, or to bring a party of student observers. We may be able to arrange for the meeting to be held in an alternative room. General questions can be raised at our offices between 9am-5pm Mons- Thurs; 9am-4pm on Fridays – our staff will be pleased to assist.

**Distribution: Cllrs Bird; Burrows; Handy; Henman; O'Keeffe; Sains and Vernon**

*Copies for information:*

All councillors; T/hall; LTC website; Lewes Library, Sx. Express, E.Argus, Sx. Police, M CaulfieldMP, LDC, ESCC, Fr'ds of Lewes

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**Agenda Item No:** 9

**Report No:** FC017/2018

**Report Title:** Landport Bottom Management Committee proposal

**Report To:** Full Council

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

**Report By:** S Brigden, Town Clerk

**Purpose of Report:** To propose formation of a standing committee to oversee future management of Landport Bottom, following the Council's acquisition of outright ownership.

**Recommendation(s):**

- 1 That Council establishes a standing committee to oversee Landport Bottom and confirms its remit.

---

**Information:**

1. Landport Bottom, previously owned jointly with Lewes District Council (LDC), is now owned outright by the Town Council following devolution of the LDC share in 2018. The land has previously been overseen by an eight-strong Joint Management Committee (JMC) - four Members from each Council - who monitored the management of the site. Day-to-day the site has been managed by the Lewes District Ranger and, following the transfer of ownership, this service continues under contract with LDC. The site has a number of aspects which make its management less straightforward than, say, an urban park or sports facility and there is a high level of interest and practical involvement from within the community. It is recommended that a standing committee be established to continue the work of the previous JMC (outlined below) in overseeing management of the site and developing the Management Plan.

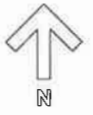
**Background:**

2. Landport Bottom, off Offham Road (A275) Lewes, is approximately 44 hectares (110 acres) of previously arable farmland that was 'set-aside' between 1988 and 1992. In 1992 the site was purchased jointly by Lewes District and Lewes Town Councils *"to safeguard it from further development and to keep it usable as a general open space"*. A joint management committee was established later that year to co-ordinate the management of the land and in 1993 the land was entered in to the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme, which had the objective to return arable land to downland pasture.
3. In accordance with that scheme the land was ploughed and seeded in autumn 1993. High levels of run off during a period of exceptional rainfall shortly thereafter caused the flooding of nearby properties and considerable damage and inconvenience from encroaching mud. Soakaways were dug but proved ineffective as flooding again occurred later that winter. Further measures were taken including silt traps and retention tanks and since then flooding has not occurred. Flooding of a similar nature was experienced in 1982/3 when the site was arable farmland and a report concluded that the best protection were if the "catchment area could be converted in to pasture land."
4. A Management Plan was commissioned from specialist consultants and has been revised since;
  - To provide a management tool for the land
  - To indicate detailed work plan/schedules
  - To identify key attributes of the land *eg* amenity use; historic designations; conservation/education resource
  - To identify and record current uses and make future proposals for the land
  - To coordinate different aspects of countryside management which are relevant; *eg* access; recreation; urban fringe management; interpretation *etc*
5. Landport Bottom is managed as a public amenity and is very popular with local people. The site includes one of only 46 registered Historic Battlefield sites (Battle of Lewes [1264]) in the country, and several scheduled ancient monuments (SAM); being Bronze Age barrows of major historic importance. Parts of the site are listed as Archaeologically Sensitive Areas. There are several Public Rights of Way running through it, giving access to and from Lewes and the Downs; and there is

open access throughout the site for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists, although horse riders are requested not to use the public footpaths. Much of the site is grassland managed by grazing but there are smaller areas of secondary woodland and scrub. A very steep tree-lined bank on the Eastern boundary abuts the A275 and tree management is of paramount importance for road-safety reasons.

6. The Lewes Old Racecourse Management Company (LORMC) owns the ‘motor-roads’ and the strip of land that runs between them that bisect the site. The Council has rights of way for staff, Members and “invitees” (which includes the general public) to use the motor roads, but not to stop on them. In the past, unauthorized use of the roads (*eg* parking) by the general public has caused disputes with the LORMC. The Council is liable for a proportion of the cost of upkeep of the motor-roads and certain other easements applicable to the land.
7. Key features of the site are:
  - “Traditional” Downland landscape and aesthetic
  - Remnant chalk grassland
  - Battlefield and tumuli
  - Rare species, such as the skylark.
  - Dew Pond
  - Open access and recreation policy
8. Threats to the special interest of the land include:
  - Use of motor vehicles of any kind, without explicit permission of the Ranger, except those on management duties.
  - Excessive trampling of sensitive habitats, *eg* some grassland areas
  - Importing of foreign material/or plant or animal species.
  - Artificial nutrient enrichment, *eg* agricultural fertilizer application, dumping of garden matter across site, or excessive fouling, or not removing cuttings from any scrub clearance carried out.
  - Excessive noise or disturbance of the more sensitive habitats (*eg* known bird nesting sites).
  - Any form of development.
  - Release of any invasive plant or animal
  - Fire; or any such activity that destroys vegetation.
  - Fly tipping
  - Digging into any static features particularly those classified as scheduled ancient monuments.
9. Overall management aims have been:
  - To conserve and enhance Landport Bottom as an important feature of the local landscape
  - To increase biodiversity by appropriate habitat management
  - To protect and conserve the SAMs, Registered Battlefield and other important historical features.
  - To promote quiet, informal enjoyment of Landport Bottom by the general public.
  - To involve the local community in the development and management of the site
  - To increase the understanding and awareness of the importance of the site, amongst local people and visitors.
  - To manage the site with the Health and Safety of the visitors, staff and volunteers as a high priority.
  - To manage stock with the highest welfare standards.
  - To maintain current fixed assets to high standards.

Plan 1.



Location Plan 1:2500



*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

<b>hunt commercial</b>	
Client:	Lewes District Council
Site:	Land at Lewes Station, Lewes, East Sussex
Type:	Land Registry Plan
Drawn:	AS
Checked:	MS
Scale:	1:2500

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# Landport Bottom, Lewes

## Site Management Plan

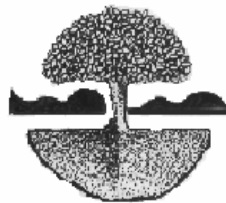
Jan 2006

Prepared for:  
Lewes District Council  
& Lewes Town Council



**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

Grass Roots



(Fully revise and rewritten January 2006, by Daniel Ross, Community Ranger, LDC)

Contents	Page No's To follow
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Description</b>	<b>4 - 5</b>
2..1General Information	4
2.1.1 Site Tenure	4
2.1.2 Site Status	4
2.1.3 Legal and other constraints	4
2.1.4 Main fixed assets	4
<b>2.2 Environmental information</b>	<b>5 - 8</b>
2.2.1 Geology & Soils	5
2.2.2. Hydrology	5
2.2.3 Landscape	5
2.2.4 Habitats	6
2.2.5 Flora & Fauna	8
<b>2.3 Cultural information</b>	<b>8 - 13</b>
2.3.1 Archaeology	8
2.3.2 History	9
2.3.3 Recreation and public access	10
2.3.4 Current Management	10
2.3.5 Interpretation, information and education	11
2.3.6 Resources	11
2.3.7 Research, Survey and monitoring	11
<b>3. Site Assessment- evaluation</b>	<b>13 - 17</b>
3.1 Criteria based assessment	13 - 15
3.2 Identification and confirmation of important features	15
3.3 Operations likely to damage special interest of the site	15
3.4 Main factors influencing management of the site	16

<b>4. Overall Management Aims</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>5.1 Management Objectives and rationale</b>	<b>19 - 23</b>
<b>6. Compartmental Prescriptions and action plan</b>	<b>24 - 40</b>
<b>7. Appendices:</b>	<b>41 - 60</b>
7.1 References	41
7.2 Site Management Contacts	42
7.3 Location Map	43
7.4 Compartmental map	44
7.5 Scheduled Monument Map	45
7.6 Entry in the Schedule of Monuments SM 24579	46 - 47
7.7 1997 Car Park Proposals	48
7.8 Public Rights of Way Network	49
7.9 ESA Maps	50
7.10 Sussex Geology Map	51
7.11 ESA Management Plan	52 - 53
7.12 Species List – Higher Plants	54 - 60



## **1. Introduction**

This Management Plan updates the draft plan produced by the Grass Roots company, on behalf of the Landport Bottom Management Committee in 2003. It is designed to be a working document that covers all aspects of countryside management. It will define the management of Landport Bottom for the next five years and, where appropriate make recommendations for the future. Various other texts, which contain more detailed information about specific aspects of the site, are listed in the appendix.

### **Summary Site Description**

Landport Bottom, owned jointly by Lewes District Council (LDC) and Lewes Town Council (LTC), lies northwest of Lewes within the Sussex Downs AONB. It is managed as a public amenity through a small management committee. It is very popular with local people, and is of significant archaeological interest. It is the site of the Battle of Lewes 1264 and as such is a Registered Battlefield. It also contains an important Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).

Much of the site is has been reverted from arable to grassland and is managed by grazing. The site also includes smaller areas of secondary woodland, scrub and chalk grassland. There are several Public Rights of Way running through it, giving access to and from Lewes and the Downs; and there is open access throughout the site.

## 2. Description

### 2.1 General Information

Name: Landport Bottom

Location: TQ 397110 East Sussex

Area: 44 hectares

2.1.1 Landowner: Lewes District Council & Lewes Town Council. Jointly owned and managed through a management committee

Local Planning Authority: Lewes District Council

#### 2.1.2 Site Status:

- Most of the site lies within the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Countryside Agency & Sussex Downs Conservation Board)
- There is a Scheduled Ancient Monument on the site (English Heritage)
- The site is a Registered Battlefield (English Heritage).
- It is part of the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area (Defra)
- The southern tip of the site is part of the Lewes Old Racecourse SNCI (Site of Nature Conservation Interest).

#### 2.1.3 Legal and other constraints

- Currently there are no bylaws in place for the site, although these have been drafted.
- Lewes District Local Plan refers to the site under the following policies:
  - Specific policy LW9 is about protection of the Battlefield at Landport Bottom.
  - Under general district wide policies, through ST9&10 for habitat protection, ST5&6 & RE5 for access issues and public rights of way, H9 for protection of Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
- There are several Rights of Way including Bridal Ways crossing the site (see appendix for maps).
- Part of the site is now registered as Open Access Land under the 2000 Crow Act ( Countryside & Rights of Way Act).
- The Motor Road running through the middle of the site, is privately owned, by the Lewes Old Racecourse Management Committee. Parking is strictly prohibited along the course of the road.

#### 2.1.4 Main fixed assets:

- No major fixed assets, but several pieces of site furniture itemized below:
  - Dog bin near to Tumuli main entrance
  - Bench located next to Dew Pond
  - Interpretation boards – located by the Dew Pond, main entrance near to the Tumuli, and at the entrance near to the Prison site.
  - 2 agricultural drinking troughs connected to mains water.

## 2.2 Environmental information

### 2.2.1 Geology and Soils

The underlying geology of the site is Upper and Middle Chalk that are undivided in this area.

Landport Bottom lies on the dip slope of the South Downs where the soils are characteristically thicker than those of the escarpment and most of the site has been subject to agricultural enrichment. The vegetation that they support is typically neutral in character and species-poor. There are some low banks along the edge of the track in compartments 1 and 2 with thinner soils that support fragments of chalk grassland.

### 2.2.2 Hydrology:

The steep slopes channel rain water down towards the Nevile estate, which caused significant problems during the reversion process from arable to grazing land during the late 1990's. However, since the turf has become established these problems are unlikely to recur.

The underlying chalk within this area traditionally provide a well drained substrate, and associated flora has developed.

According to the Met office, the climate of this area can be described as moderate and temperate, with a fairly modest rainfall, and a high proportion of sunshine compared to other areas of Britain (met office web site, 2005).

### 2.2.3 Landscape

The Landscape Assessment of the Sussex Downs (7) classifies the site as 'open east chalk uplands'

Open East Chalk Uplands – some key characteristics (7)

- Homogeneous elevated landscape with an open character: typical rounded chalk landforms very clearly revealed and landmarks visible over long distances
- Extensive urban development along southern margins of the dip-slope is highly visible and forms a harsh urban edge
- Proximity to urban areas leads to a high degree of public access

The landscape of Landport Bottom is very typical of the Open East Chalk Uplands with large open grassland fields butted up against the urban edge of Lewes, with the Neville estate and the A275 forming the eastern boundary. To the west are the gallops of the former Lewes racecourse together with a complex of buildings on the site of the old racecourse. To the north lie more improved grassland fields and a disused chalk pit. A metalled road bisects the site. This is privately owned, by the Lewes Old Racecourse Management Committee.

Compartment 1,2 &3 are large open gently sloping grassland fields and are all enclosed by stock fencing. Compartment 1 has aspects of southeast and northeast.

A bridleway track that runs through it has low banks that support scattered scrub and in places remnants of chalk grassland vegetation.

Compartment 2 has a slight northeasterly aspect and is bisected by a public bridleway. The bridleway has a belt of scrub adjacent to it and banks that support fragments of chalk grassland.

Compartment 3 forms a stark contrast with the linear edge of the Neville estate. The ground is undulating and has a predominately southeasterly aspect. A 5-10m strip separates this compartment from the estate and allotments. It has an informal footpath that runs through it which is cut three times per year part of the leisure management outdoor contract (LMO) managed by Lewes District Council. At the backs of their gardens some residents have dumped garden rubbish or have 'gardened' the strip and even planted trees. Modest encroachments (i.e. not 'hard' landscaping) that existed as at 1995 have been licensed, subsequently any further encroachments have been resisted. Much of the strip vegetation is rank with coarse grasses, nettles and brambles and there are patches of scrub forming in places. There is a dewpond, known as 'Jill's Pond' on the eastern boundary of the compartment that was restored in autumn 2000, with further work in 2003.

Compartment 4 was (until 2003) a relatively small rectangular field with a tall sward of rank vegetation consisting mainly of coarse grasses and ruderals such as nettles. However, following work to install fencing around this area, it is now part of compartment 1, and as such is grazed as part of compartment 1. It is now developing into a shorter, less ruderal sward, with paths of scrub. This compartment contains a SAM that consists of a group of three round barrows. The barrows are in reasonable condition, and have considerably improved following erection of stock fencing in 2003, and subsequent grazing to remove excessive vegetation scrub growth. In the middle of the field is a bonfire site that is used by two bonfire societies during the annual fireworks celebrations. The bonfire site was very close to the platform barrow but has been moved so that there is no danger of the fire damaging the monument. Stock fencing surrounds this field, preventing vehicle access and keeping the sheep in. An agricultural drinking trough is located near to the woodland edge, connect to mains water supply.

Compartment 5 is an east-facing bank that supports secondary woodland and is dominated by even-aged growth of Ash and Sycamore. There is some scrub along the woodland edge, but most of it is mature; so that the boundary forms harsh linear edge with the open grassland of compartment 1. On the southern corner of the compartment there is an area of tall thick vegetation that is dominated by coarse grasses and nettles and is being invaded by Ash trees.

#### 2.2.4 Habitats

##### Compartment 1

This is a fairly uniform, grass dominated field with a variety of herbs present. Creeping Bent, Rough Meadow-grass and Crested Dog's-tail are dominant. There are areas that are grazed by rabbits, resulting in a tighter sward with bare patches. On the track that runs through the compartment there is a row of scattered bushes, mainly Hawthorn. The trackside banks support remnant chalk grassland plants such as Common Rock-rose, Kidney Vetch and Fairy Flax. Around the entrance gate is bare ground with plants such a Scentless Mayweed, Scarlet Pimpernel, Sun Spurge and Field Speedwell.

## Compartment 2

This field is divided into three distinctive areas, two grass fields and a band of dense scrub. The two grass field areas are separated by a bridleway track, the band of scrub being on the southern edge of the track. These will be treated separately.

### Compartment 2a

This is a fairly rank, semi-improved, grass dominated field. It has been heavily rabbit grazed, which has resulted in a low, tight sward with much disturbed, bare ground. This has led to an abundance of thistles and Ragwort.

### Compartment 2b

This field is completely different in appearance and composition than the previous area in that the vegetation was much taller, more grass dominated and more uniform in structure. There is little or no rabbit activity here, resulting in a closed sward with little opportunity for ruderals to thrive. The sward is dominated by Red Fescue, Common Couch and Rough Meadow-grass with abundant clumps of Timothy and Cock's-foot. Wild Carrot is particularly abundant, with frequent Black Knapweed, Hogweed and Ribwort Plantain. A variety of other herbs are present in smaller quantities. The bank separating the field from the bridleway supports a remnant chalk grassland sward that includes such plants as Lady's Bedstraw, Dropwort and Squinancywort.

### Compartment 2c

This area consists of a band of scrub, running roughly east/west, on the south side of the bridleway and almost bisecting Field 2. The scrub is very dense and is dominated by Hawthorn and Blackthorn with abundant Gorse and is overgrown with Brambles and Old Man's-beard. The ground vegetation to the south, although coarse, is fairly diverse and supports remnant chalk grassland species such as Fairy Flax, Dropwort and Lady's Bedstraw. The vegetation on the north side is coarser and is dominated by tall grasses and Common Nettle. There is a thinner band of scrub, of the same species composition, on the north side of the bridleway that covers a quarter of the length of compartment 2 at the eastern end.

## Compartment 3

Despite its large size the vegetation present in compartment 3 is very uniform. It is dominated by grasses, in particular Red Fescue, Rough Meadow-grass and Crested Dog's-tail with abundant Ryegrass, Soft-brome, Cock's-foot and Yorkshire Fog. In the north-west corner of the field Ryegrass becomes particularly dominant, possibly due to soil compaction. White Clover is the only dominant herb species, Creeping Thistles being abundant throughout the field. Although this field does support a fairly large species list, very few of the plants are very abundant. There are several areas of local enrichment, shown up by darker green patches on the bank. Here the species composition is the same but the grasses are more luxuriant in growth and dominate the herbs to a greater extent. The north-east corner of the field is also more lush and less diverse in nature.

There is a dewpond on the western boundary of this field. The bare ground created by its construction supports ruderals such as Charlock and Nettles. Adjacent to this pond is a small patch of scrub. The disturbed ground around the gate at the north-west corner of the field supports ruderal species such as Knotgrass, Field Pansy, Common Poppy, Scentless Mayweed, Common Field-speedwell and Annual Meadow-grass.

#### Compartment 4

This field has grazed since 2003, but the sward is still fairly tall, but becoming less rank. It is dominated by coarse grasses and herbs, such as Common Couch, Creeping Bent, Rough Meadow-grass, False Oat-grass, Nettles and Cow Parsley. Towards the eastern end of the field the Nettles, Cow Parsley and Hedge Bindweed become totally dominant. The vegetation on the tumuli, themselves, is particularly coarse being dominated strongly by False Oat-grass, Nettles and Hogweed. Prior to 2003, scrub clearance occurred regularly from the tops of some of these monuments, but grazing has considerably improved the sward height for viewing purposes.

#### Compartment 5

This is a relatively thin strip of quite mature woodland that extends beyond the site boundary. It is dominated by Ash trees, although Sycamore is frequent and other trees such as Field Maple and Turkey Oak also occur. The under-storey is dominated by mature Hawthorn with frequent Elders. There is also much Ash regeneration throughout the woodland. The ground flora is poor due to heavy shading from the canopy. There is much bare ground with Ivy being the dominant ground cover plant. Ground-ivy is also abundant. A footpath runs through the wood just inside the western edge. Here, in the more open patches, Nettles, Alexanders, Cow Parsley, Hogweed, Rough Meadow-grass and Brambles dominate the vegetation.

#### 2.2.5 Flora and Fauna.

The flora overall is not remarkable, mainly due to the former arable use of the site, and given the relatively new seed bank, dominated by grasses such as Red Fescue and Rough Meadow-grass. There are remnant patches of chalk grassland, which contain some interesting plants, such as Ladies Bedstraw and Dropwort. The fauna is un-surveyed and therefore it is not possible to produce a reliable summery. During summer, a number of Skylarks can be heard, but their nests are currently not mapped. Around the perimeter of the site, particularly near to the allotments and the chalk pit, many reptiles have been reported by members of the public including adders and slow worms. It is recommended that a Biodiversity Records Office search is undertaken for this area, to assess historical records.

### **2.3 Cultural information**

#### 2.3.1 Archaeology

In compartment 4 there is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) that has statutory protection from English Heritage. It consists of a platform barrow and two bowl barrows forming a linear barrow group. The platform barrow is approximately 20m in diameter, slightly raised and surrounded by a ditch. According to the Monument Schedule (see appendix): "The platform barrow survives particularly well and is the best example of its kind in East Sussex." The two bowl barrows are slightly raised, but the ditches around them have been infilled. The larger of the two is about 20m in diameter and the smaller about 13m. They both show signs of partial excavation and scrub had been regularly cleared prior to 2003 from the smaller one. In Summer 2003, the site was stock fenced, to allow grazing of the Tumuli, which necessitated English Heritage Consent (obtained 2003). Platform barrows are funerary monuments dating back to the late Bronze Age. They are the rarest type of round

barrow (with fewer than 50 recorded nationally) and are normally considered to be of national importance.

Landport Bottom and some of the surrounding downland is the site of a Registered Battlefield, the Battle of Lewes 1264, and is one of only 43 in the country. The Battlefield Register (English Heritage, 1995) states: "apart from the expansion of Lewes towards Offham Hill, the landscape of the battlefield is essentially unchanged from the open grassland of 1264." The Register, which is published by English Heritage, is designed to give guidance to those conserving the sites but it does not carry any statutory controls. There are no obvious signs that the site was once a battlefield, however recently developed interpretation boards will be installed in early 2006, to provide basic information of the site and its management.

Parts of the site are listed as Archaeologically Sensitive Areas within the Lewes District Local Plan. There are a number of other monuments, mainly tumuli, which are not listed, that have been damaged as a result of former agricultural operations.

### 2.3.2 History

Archaeological evidence suggests that the site is rich in ancient cultural associations. More recently sheep grazing would have shaped the landscape at Landport Bottom and the surrounding area; testimony to this is a dewpond that has recently been restored.

Lewes Racecourse once had a large impact on the area. The first recorded meeting was held in 1751 and in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries it was an important center for horseracing. The 'motor-roads' that bisect the site were used for the racecourse traffic. The racecourse was closed in 1964 and the site of the grandstand has been developed in to housing, although parts of the track remain as training gallops.

More recently most of the site (compartments 1, 2 and 3) was arable farmland and was 'set-aside' between 1988 and 1993. In 1992 the site was acquired jointly by Lewes District Council and Lewes Town Council "to safeguard it from further development and to keep it usable as a general open space". A management committee was established later that year to co-ordinate the management of the land and in 1993 the land was entered in to Tier 3 of the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) scheme: the objective being to return arable land to downland pasture.

In accordance with the ESA scheme the land was ploughed and reseeded in autumn 1993. High levels of run off during periods of exceptional rainfall caused the flooding of four nearby properties. Soakaways were dug but proved ineffective as flooding again occurred later that winter. Further measures were taken including silt traps and retention tanks and since then flooding has not occurred. Flooding of a similar nature to this was experienced in 1982/3 when the site was arable farmland and a report concluded that the best protection were if the "catchments area could be converted in to pasture land."

### 2.3.3 Recreation and Public Access

There is open access throughout the site for pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists although horseriders are requested not to use the public footpaths. There are a number of Public Rights of Way that run through the site to Lewes and the Downs. There is currently no provision for disabled access. Part of the site is mapped under the CRoW act which gives right of access across those areas included on the maps. This comes into force in September 2004.

Kissing gates and hunt gates provide access on to the site for users and field gates provide vehicular access for management works. Some of the hunt gates are in need of maintenance as they are not self-closing. Some of them also have weights hung from them making them close very quickly, which is potentially dangerously for horses.

The Lewes Old Racecourse Management Company (LORMC) owns the 'motor-roads' and the strip of land that runs between them that bisect the site. LDC has rights of way for staff, members and invitees to use the motor roads, but not to stop on them. In the past unauthorized use of the roads by the general public has caused disputes with the LORMC. LDC pay for a proportion of the upkeep of the motor-roads.

Many site users are local and arrive on foot. There are bus services that operate along the A275 and stop near to the site but it is not known what proportion of users arrive to the site by public transport. Those arriving by car tend to either park on the Nevill Estate or on the verge of the A275. Sometimes there is also unauthorized parking on the motor-roads.

In the past there have been sporadic problems with motor bikes using the site. Other typical urban fringe problems include occasional fly-tipping and abandonment of stolen vehicles at the main entrance to the site (with A275) and traveler encroachment.

### 2.3.4 Current Management

All of the site, with the exception of the woodland in compartment 5, is grazed under the ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) scheme, which is administered by Defra. This provides a grant income to the site, which helps to pay for fencing and grazing costs. Currently Plumpton College provide the grazing for an annual management fee.

A hay cut was taken in summer 2001 as the site was not grazed for a long period, due to Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions. Plumpton College are the grazers and are responsible for determining the grazing regime, but are responsive to the changing priorities, and will accommodate reasonable suggestions by the Management Committee.

All public rights of way that run through the site are maintained by the South Downs Joint Committee (formally the South Downs Conservation Board), as part of their general maintenance program for rights of way within the AONB. Other informal paths and access points are maintained on an ad-hoc basis.



A Management committee, that consists of four Lewes Town Council (LTC) and four LDC members meets quarterly, which includes an annual site visit led by the Community Ranger.

There are some allotments within the landholding of Landport Bottom, but they are not considered specifically within the context of the management plan; except that all opportunities should be sought where possible for landscape and wildlife enhancements. The allotments are owned and managed separately to rest of site by LTC.

### 2.3.5 Interpretation, Information and education.

Until 2006, the only form of static interpretation on the site was an interpretation board at the dewpond.

Two new interpretation boards describing the landscape and management of the area were installed in 2006, and are now maintained by the Community Ranger. A guided tour of the Battlefield is held by the County Archaeologist was held annually, until 2004 when the Archaeologist concerned left the area.

There are signs on all gates with hinged panels that display information about sheep grazing. There are also signs on the public footpath adjacent to the gallops asking horse riders to keep off of the footpath. There are various signs at the entrance to the motor roads containing information about restrictions on their use. The site is not signed from the road. The way marking of Public Rights of Way at the A275 entrance is not clear.

A Visitor Survey has not been carried out on the site. No educational activities with school groups etc are currently held on site.

### 2.3.6 Resources

LDC employ a full-time Community Ranger whose time is divided between the Lewes Railway Land LNR, Castle Hill Newhaven LNR, Landport Bottom and several other sites. At Landport Bottom, most of the Rangers' time on the site is spent checking and repairing fences and gates. There are two Community Wardens that deal with anti social behavior and litter related issues, but they cover all of Lewes District.

There is an informal arrangement with the SDCB who can give advice on all aspects of countryside management and can give direct practical support. They can also provide assistance with their Voluntary Ranger Service.

There is a £4000 annual budget for the site and out of this Plumpton College are paid £2000 for providing grazing. ESA income is currently just over £13,000 per year.

### 2.3.7 Research, Survey and Monitoring.

There is currently no formal survey or monitoring taking place in the Landport Bottom area, concerning flora or fauna. However, there are known to be several important habitats and species present that would necessitate a more systematic approach to the monitoring process. These include the RSPB red list classified Skylarks, who nest on the ground during summer time. The Community Ranger, aware of the

presence of these important species, has orchestrated a management regime within the grazing regime, that aims to prevent unnecessary mortality to the ground nesting birds, by delaying mechanized topping of long grass (as practiced by Plumpton college as part of the grazing management), until late July each summer. However this is far from adequate in terms of monitoring, and greater professional or voluntary support is needed in this area.

Other monitoring systems that need to be put in place, include reviewing management of the site through regular updating of the management plan.

### 3. Site Evaluation

3.1 The purpose of this section of the management plan is to provide an overview and assessment of the nature conservation value of this site. As well as nature conservation, the cultural use of the site will also be assessed within this section. This evaluation will use the Ratcliffe (1977) (and others) criteria as a basis for systematic assessment and try to evaluate this site in the local, national and international context.

**Size:** The site consist of 44 hectares of downland pasture (and a small area of secondary woodland), which is split into three distinct fields. The site is bisected by a tracked road. The road, and the fences restrict the open nature of the site, but do however allow the site to be accessed and effectively grazed. The area is therefore of significant size overall size, which is in general of more conservation value than of a smaller site. The fragmented nature of the fields does not diminish from the landscape scale of the site. The motor road acts as both a barrier to fauna wishing to cross it, but also introduces a linear habitat of a scrub type hedgerow. The true value of this site is in its proximity to other downland, which offers the possibility of cross fertilization and migration of species more typical of the downland habitat.

**Diversity.** As little baseline surveying apart from flora has been undertaken it is difficult to accurately assess the diversity of species present here. However, what is known from the flora surveys, is that this area was subject to intense arable agriculture until 15 years ago, which has altered the traditional structure of the chalk grassland habitat. This not only significantly reduces the floral diversity, but all the associated species, including insects, birds and mammals. Since the reversion under the ESA scheme, the site is recovering well, as indicated by the increased presence of habitat indication species such as the Skylark. Further survey and monitoring is essential to govern future management regimes here. Floral diversity remains fairly low, but with a proximity to traditional chalk grassland, seed spread of native plants will happen in time, if current management is maintained.

**Naturalness:** This site is a man made landscape, with a semi natural appearance. The downland pasture, although now “traditional” in its aesthetic, is the product of careful management through grazing, fencing, and recreational activities. Although the site now looks more “natural” than it would have done under arable production, it is still a largely artificial landscape. However, this is the landscape that would have greeted the warring factions in the Battle of Lewes (1264), and therefore as a semi natural and historically culturally significant place, the naturalness of the area is considered aesthetically pleasing within the urban fringe townscape. The presence of the Neville housing estate gives warning to the proximity of the urban development, and certainly breaks the view across the downs.

**Rarity:** Again, in the absence of reliable baseline data, it is difficult to comment to much about the rarity of fauna found here. However, the chalk grassland habitat, is a nationally rare habitat, having seen a 70% reduction (due to arable agricultural spread and urban sprawl), in the last 50 years (EN 2006). The reversion from arable to pasture will not create a chalk grassland pasture in the short term, but given sensitive management, the future could gradually restore this habitat. Some of the species found here are certainly rare, non more so than the Skylark, believed to be making a comeback in this area, but nationally subject to a 54%

decline between 1961 & 91 (UK BAP, 2006). Monitoring of this species is in urgent need in this area.

From a cultural perspective, the site is a registered battlefield and contains significant tumuli (SAMS), which as of national importance due to their rarity.

**Fragility:** Landport Bottom exemplifies both the destructive and constructive management techniques that can affect a landscape. In its arable days, the site was significantly ecologically damaged and was subject to very low ecological values. Combined with the building of the Neville estate between the wars, the conservation of wildlife seemed far from the minds of the site managers. However today, and for the past 15 years, the site has been reverted to pasture, which has started to benefit the wildlife of the area. The site is still fragile, and heavily reliant on the labour intensive grazing regimes. However it is also well used by local people, for informal recreation. The trampling by feet and horses, does keep the turf short in places, but also can disturb wildlife (especially the dogs), partially ground nesting birds. On the other hand, use of the site by local people does generate a sense of local ownership and pride in the area, and is considered a key part of this management plan.

**Typicalness:** This site is typical of many other arable revert downland sites, in that it lacks significant diversity, but is beginning to be colonized by typical downland species. The landscape is still the archetypal shape and land use of the traditional pasture, and as such can be considered to be typical of the region.

**Recorded History:** The cultural history of this area is fairly well documented through transcripts and archaeological investigations. The battle of Lewes is considered to be nationally important, and as such is registered with English Heritage. The Tumuli are also well documented, with aerial photography, and archeological evidence relating to the burial of people ceremonially during the bronze age. Present day history is less well documented, and that is particularly true for ecological change over time. Little is known about this historic bird populations for example, or the review of species composition of the chalk grassland following the reseeded in the 1990's. This is a key area for improvement, as set out by this plan.

**Position in ecological unit:** Landport Bottom is part of the Sussex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, part of the chalk grassland downland that stretches from Eastbourne to Winchester. It is managed as part of the AONB specifically because it is part of a wider landscape scale unit of significant conservation and landscape interest. This implies that there are linkages between the landscapes which could imply that it is a continuous landscape. Although this is only partially true, the wider implications are that Landport Bottom is part of a much wider, and therefore much more valuable landscape unit. This would facilitate migration and spread of flora and fauna throughout this region.

Other significant protected land within the vicinity include the Clayton to Offham SSSI, which represents significant chalk grassland interest, and includes one of the Offham chalk Pits. It also contains the Ashcombe Bottom area which has some classified Ancient Woodland.

The adjacent Lewes Old Racecourse SNCI is of particular interest, as it is currently unmanaged, and contains good remnant chalk grassland flora.

Potential for future development of housing adjacent to the Landport Bottom area, will pose a threat to the ecological viability of the site, although there is protection in the Local Plan for Landport Bottom itself (policy LW9).

**Cultural value:** This site is very well used by local people for informal recreation such as dog walking and horse riding. It is very near to the urban landscape and can be easily accessed from several directions. The existence of the Battlefield and Tumuli increase the cultural historical value, and give the town of Lewes a significant part in national history. Combined with the high quality of the views and general aesthetics of the area, this is an important cultural asset.

### **Potential for future development:**

#### **Habitat development:**

**Grassland:** Continued grazing in a structured way largely depends on the continued support of both the current grazer, i.e. Plumpton College, and the financial support from the ESA scheme. Provided this is maintained, then the future of the grassland is healthy, as the grazing program will produce the desired sward height and management regime.

**Woodland:** This area has yet to active management, and is on a steep hill side. It is possible to predict a more suitable use for the woodland, for example by initiating coppicing and glade creation, however this is dependant of other management priorities being achieved.

**Dew pond:** Having resorted this pond on two occasions in the past 6 years, it is predicted that this pond will become a significant focal point for the site, being located at the highest point. Fencing installed to prevent unnecessary disturbance has dramatically increased the flora within the pond and pond banks. Provided management is maintained, this could be an important educational focus for visiting school groups, as well as an important habitat in its own right. However the isolated nature of the pond, will prevent the less mobile species from colonizing the pond, and limits the chance of genetic viability of some of the flora and fauna associated with the pond.

### **3.2 Identification and confirmation of important features**

- “Traditional” downland landscape and the aesthetic
- Remnant chalk grassland
- Battlefield and tumuli
- Rare species, such as the skylark.
- Dew Pond
- Open access and recreation policy

### **3.3 Operations likely to damage the special interest of the site**

- Use of motor vehicles of any kind, including motorbikes, without explicit permission of the Ranger, except those on management duties.
- Excessive trampling of sensitive habitats, e.g. some grassland areas
- Importing of foreign material/or plant or animal species.
- Artificial nutrient enrichment, e.g. agricultural fertilizer application, dumping of garden matter across site, or excessive fouling, or not removing cuttings from any scrub clearance carried out.
- Excessive noise or disturbance of the more sensitive habitats (for example areas of known bird nesting sites).

- Any form of development. (see District Local Plan)
- Release of any invasive plant or animal
- Fire, or any such activity that destroys vegetation.
- Fly tipping
- Digging into any static features particularly those classified as scheduled ancient monuments.

### **3.4 Main factors influencing management of the site**

#### **Ecological:**

Conservation management will aim to maximize the biodiversity with the available resources, by prioritizing conservation management targets. The continuation of the grazing regime, with regular reviews will be necessary to control grass height, scrub development etc. There will also be the need to balance the conflicting needs of wildlife, people and management regimes.

#### **Cultural:**

##### **Access & Recreation:**

Public rights of way, informal open access, horse riding, mountain biking, illegal motorbike usage.

##### **Education:**

Promotion of the site to local people and associated education and interpretation programs.

##### **Management partnerships:**

The following bodies are involved in the site management: LDC LTC LBMC, Defra, Plumpton, as well as the local community.

##### **Financial and other resources:**

The grant from the ESA currently totals an annual income of £13000, with the addition of a revenue budget of £4000 from LDC and LTC. This is managed by the Community Ranger. Much of this is spent on fencing, grazing and tree works, with smaller sums for interpretation and education.

##### **Expertise:**

Staff, volunteers, informal contacts with professional bodies.

##### **Animal welfare:**

Plumpton college are responsible for the grazing and animal welfare. They will be required to monitor the animals health, but also provide conditions for their safe grazing. This included provision of drinking water, which will need to be arranged for all the compartments, in collaboration with the Community Ranger.

Issues of Ragwort control will also be important here, particularly with reference to the adjoining horse grazing to the north and west of the site.

##### **Land use of strategic importance within the vicinity of the reserve / adjacent land use:**

This site is part of the AONB, and situated near to a SSSI, SNCI and several Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Most of the land near by is grazed, some by horses, but mostly sheep.

#### **4. Overall Management Aims:**

1. To conserve and enhance Landport Bottom as an important feature of the local landscape
2. To increase biodiversity by appropriate habitat management
3. To protect and conserve the SAM, Registered Battlefield and other important historical features.
4. To promote quiet, informal enjoyment of Landport Bottom by the general public.
5. To involve the local community in the development and management of the site
6. To increase the understanding and awareness of the importance of the site, amongst local people and other visitors.
7. To manage the site with the Health and Safety of the visitors, staff and volunteers as a high priority.
8. To manage stock with the highest welfare standards.
9. To maintain current fixed assets to high standards.



## 5.1 Management Objectives and rationale:

### Landscape Conservation

#### *1. To conserve and enhance Landport Bottom as an important feature of the local landscape*

- The open grassland of Landport Bottom is of prime landscape importance. A good grazing regime is widely recognized as the best form of grassland management and is the key to its long-term conservation. Compartments 1, 2, 3 & 4 are currently grazed through the ESA scheme. See appendix for Defra's management advice on the grazing arrangements.

There are areas of grassland adjacent to the site, which are currently unmanaged. They contribute to the open landscape and also contain important features such as SAMs and remnant chalk grassland. Where possible opportunities should be sought (South Downs Joint Committee) to bring them in to joint management with the site, to prevent their deterioration and to create a more homogeneous landscape.

The woodland edge of compartment 5 should be managed by coppicing to give an irregular patchy edge of scrub and grassland. The scrub in compartment 2 should be conserved by coppicing, so that it does not revert to secondary woodland and so that it does not encroach on adjacent chalk grassland fragments.

A unified management policy needs to be adopted for the strip of land that runs between compartment 3 and the housing estate. The policy should be developed in close consultation with local residents. A Landscape Assessment of the Urban Fringe around Lewes is being produced by the SDCB: proposals from this should be given full consideration.

### Habitat/Wildlife Conservation

#### *2. To increase biodiversity by appropriate habitat management*

A communication from the ESA Project Officer in 1998 states that "the sward is well established but so far little colonization of downland plants. Would be encouraged by relatively hard grazing." Management of existing chalk grassland fragments and surrounding vegetation by strimming may aid migration of desirable species. Where Ragwort and thistles become a problem they should be spot-treated/weed-wiped in accordance with ESA rules.

There are two classifications of land within the ESA criteria, described as Tier 1 Permanent grassland on chalk, and tier 3A Arable reversion to chalk grassland. The basic aim of the ESA scheme on Landport Bottom, is described as "reestablishing the traditional characteristic of chalk grassland and its associated wildlife"

There are several key objectives from the ESA grazing regime:

- Grazing through the year to form a 2-5cm sward height for all but the edges of the fields which should be longer (10-15cm)

- Topping must avoid bird nesting season (Defra classify this as April to July, but as there are Skylarks present, this should be extended to early August).
- No supplementary feeding on ESA land

The stock fencing has been regularly repaired throughout the past few years, and whole sections replaced. Some areas remain in fairly poor condition but will last several years with running repairs, and will need to be replaced eventually. When it is replaced stock fencing plus two strands of either barbed wire or high tensile plain wire should be used to prevent livestock escaping and to allow for the possibility of cattle grazing.

The dewpond was re-profiled in autumn 2003, to remove steep sided profile which were not ideal for wildlife colonization. Vegetation was also imported from a Dew Pond at Keymer, on the South Downs (less than 10 miles away), with support from English Nature. In addition, a post and rail chestnut fence was installed to prevent access to the pond during the colonization phase. This will hopefully give the pond long term ecological stability.

Coppicing of the woodland edge (compartment 5) would benefit the landscape and improve the habitat by creating mosaic of scrub, grassland and woodland. A 10-15 meter strip should be coppiced on a 15–20 year cycle, with a small area being coppiced every year or every other year. The woodland would also benefit from the removal of Sycamore, which casts dense shade and tends to dominate native species.

Consult English Heritage for any fencing or other works affecting the SAM. The scrub in compartment 2 should also be put on a regular coppice cycle to conserve its habitat value and prevent it from encroaching on the adjacent chalk grassland. It should be coppiced on a 15-20 year cycle with a small area being coppiced every 2-3 years.

## **Archaeological Conservation**

*3. To protect and conserve the SAM, Registered Battlefield and other important historical features.*

In order to conserve the SAM it was thought beneficial to introduce grazing to this compartment, through the ESA scheme. This was therefore undertaken in 2003. The rank vegetation and scrub was cleared before grazing commenced. Full consultation was given to English Heritage, the County Archaeologist, and the EH Field Monument Warden was taken on several site visits.

Scheduled Monument Consent for the clearance work was not be required provided the following code of working practice were adhered to:

- scrub, weeds etc must be cut off at ground level, without uprooting and the stumps treated as necessary;
- care must be taken to avoid any damage to the barrows by vehicle tracking;
- any burning of arising from the clearance work must take place outside the area of the barrows;
- there must be follow up cutting back of re-growth

Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained for the fencing works from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport during 2003, and an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the siting of the fence posts by the County Archaeologist.

Management of the battlefield involves maintenance of the open feel of the landscape, whilst consulting with English Heritage on issues that could affect its visual appearance and integrity of the site. Efforts should be made to raise the profile and understanding of the Battlefield and its importance in history, through guided walks, interpretation and other events.

## **Recreation and Public Access**

### *4. To promote quiet, informal enjoyment of Landport Bottom by the general public*

Probably the most contentious issue is unauthorized parking on the motor-roads. A small car park at the entrance to the site would alleviate this and, given the sites archaeological and recreational significance, would seem to be appropriate. Proposals (see 8.5) for a car park were given the following support by the SDCB Planning Officer in 1997:

“The SDCB would wish to support the principal of a small car park on this site to promote public access to the important open space of Landport Bottom which is also a Registered Historic Battlefield, for which public access and interpretation is an important advantage. The SDCB considers that this type of development is appropriately located here on the urban fringe and will have little intrusive impact on the rural environment.”

In 1997 proposals for the car park were postponed and a Planning Application was never filed. The legal status is uncertain as the level of use resultant from the preferred plan would require access from the motor-roads, which would in turn require consent from the LORMC; who opposed the original plans. A much smaller car park might not suffer from such constraints. Considering the possible benefits further investigation in to the feasibility of providing car parking facilities should be investigated.

There are occasional disputes between site users such as horse riders and walkers, but generally open access policy works well and should be maintained. Public Rights of Way are managed as part of the SDCB maintenance programme and are surveyed annually by SDCB volunteers. All gates etc that are on informal paths need to be maintained on regular basis. Way marking at the entrance to the site needs to be made clearer.

The site links in to the rights of way network on the downs; and with its proximity to housing and reasonable public transport links it is potentially a good starting point for walking and riding, providing a ‘gateway’ to the wider countryside. This facility could be further developed with walks/rides that tie in with the public transport network.

The site has a range of typical urban fringe problems. Dog-fouling is a localized problem at the site entrances, despite the provision of dog bins. There are also occasional incidences of livestock being killed by dogs. Fly-tipping occurs from time to time and garden rubbish is regularly dumped from adjoining properties on

the nearby housing estate. Motorbikes cause occasional problems and in practice their illicit use is difficult to discourage. Some of these problems could be reduced by developing closer links with the local community and raising awareness with the use of appropriate information and interpretation.

## **Community Involvement**

### *5. To involve the local community in the development and management of the site*

The LDC Ranger is currently making contacts and trying to get local schools interested in the site. Closer links with the local community need to be developed and the inclusion of local community representatives on the Management Committee should be considered. Community co-operation can also be helpful in dealing with reporting of incidents such as motorbikes, livestock welfare, fly-tipping etc.

Local conservation groups such as SDVRS and BTCV affiliated groups could be encouraged to help out with practical management of the site

Local residents groups and other local interest groups should be given the chance to take part in consultation process of this management plan.

## **Public Awareness**

### *6. To increase the understanding and awareness of the importance of the site, by it's visitors.*

“Being so close to the town, the site has a great potential for public access and amenity and interpretation. However, before any site interpretation is undertaken, certain issues need to be addressed:

How to give recognition of the battlefield status on site and create a sense of place without adding clutter in the open landscape.

The possible creation of a monument or interpretation feature to mark the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Lewes which will occur in 2014

The importance of raising the profile of management issues with the local residents – so that locals will understand and support specific management decisions.

The impact of fencing cutting across the landscape in relation to the identified open character of this landscape type and the original qualities of the battlefield site.

The absence of car parking, given the sites’ “national significance” (10) In principle, there could be provision for a small number of cars in a car park on the land adjacent to the A275, which might take the form of a scaled-down version of proposals first prepared in 1997 for a larger number of vehicles

There is support from both the County Archaeologist and the SDCB for provision of interpretation. A carefully co-ordinated Interpretive Plan is needed to guide interpretation for the area. The plan should be based on three key elements:

A Visitor Survey needs to undertaken to assess requirements of visitors and to gauge understanding and perception of site.

An Interpretive Inventory needs to be drawn up that details all possible interpretive opportunities

A Visitor Welcome Audit should be undertaken to assess whether or not visitors find a welcoming environment and feel at ease in their surroundings.

### **Health and Safety:**

*7. To manage the site with the health and safety of the visitors, staff and volunteers as a high priority*

In line with Lewes District Council policy, a full annual risk assessment should be carried out by the Community Ranger, in order to assess and address risks that could affect users of the site. This process, combined with activity based risk assessments, for activities by contractors, volunteers, special events etc should ensure that suitable precaution and rectification of potential risks. Special attention should be paid to areas of concern, such as the fencing bordering the Chalk pit, or the Dew Pond for example.

### **Animal Welfare:**

*8. To manage stock with the highest welfare standards.*

In order to maintain a suitable conditions for the sheep to graze, adequate shepherding and husbandry should be maintained. This includes vigilance to problems, including health and welfare problems, as well as making sure basic necessities are in place, such as adequate water supply.

These responsibilities lie with the grazers of the site, who at the time of writing were Plumpton College. There will be a partnership approach needed between the grazer and the clients (LDC / LTC) developed through the Community Ranger. Changes in grazing regimes and other agricultural items, such as water supply, or provision of topping equipment, will need to be organized through close liaison, in consultation with this management plan.

*9. Manage all fixed assets to high standards.*

It is really important to maintain all site furniture, as these are easy targets for complaints if they fall into disrepair. Their upkeep will give the whole site a “cared for” feel, and help to maintain good relations with the general public.

### **Resource Implications**

The implementation of this management plan, will need to follow a budget plan, which will be outlined within the detailed prescription section. See below.

## 6. Compartmental management prescriptions

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
<b>Habitat management</b>							
1,2,3,&4	Whole grassland areas	1. Maintain Landscape – by keeping “wide open grassland / downland feel” to habitat compartments.	Grazing the whole site with sheep, to achieve a 2-5cm average sward length, with slightly longer margins. Follow guidelines from Defra outlined below in appendix to produce grazing regime. Allow flexibility to be able to monitor progress in meeting optimum sward length. Respond to seasonal variations.	Spring, summer and Autumn, and to a lesser extent parts of winter.	Plumpton College current grazers	High	£2000 per annum for management fees
5 and edge of 1	Woodland edge	1&2 landscape and biodiversity – maintain subtle boundary	Coppice colonizing ash trees that are starting to colonize this area, to create a	Winter 2007	Contractors	Low	£380 per day of work

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
		between habitat boundaries	graded rather than brutal woodland edge. Cuttings to be left in log piles within the woodland, in big lengths, so that they are difficult to burn.				
5	Woodland	2,4,5. Conservation, community involvement, Health & Safety	Carry out woodland management in order to maximize the wildlife potential of the woodland. In most cases this will involve a predominantly non intervention policy, due to resources prioritization. However, following suitable habitat survey it may be concluded that some areas are suitable for coppicing, in order to diversify the woodland structure and habitat quality. Other management will include regular	Management:  Habitat Survey = summer Coppicing = winter  Woodland Risk Assessment annually (summer), or after storm conditions.	Coppicing = volunteers  Tree risk assessment = arboriculturalist  Habitat survey = Community Ranger	Medium	Various

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			risk assessment of the trees by suitably qualified arboriculturalist. (especially along the public highway – the A275)				
3	Dew pond	2. biodiversity – maintain the dew pond as a wildlife sanctuary	Following restoration, monitor vegetation colonization and manage according to conditions. If vegetation becomes too thick, careful remove approximately two thirds in November. Monitor fauna and flora.	April to august annually.	Volunteers	Medium	Officer time
2, 4	Scrub encroachment	2. Biodiversity – manage chalk grassland to prevent loss of diversity	With suitable grazing, scrub can be controlled to a certain extent, but additional clearance will be needed to help remove more mature scrub. Scrub should be removed where remnant chalk	Winter	Volunteers, but also Ranger with use of brush cutter. In addition Plumpton College to carry out late summer and if necessary winter top of particular	High	Officer time



Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			<p>grassland is in evidence, particularly along the bridleway in comp. 2. This could be coppiced on a 2-3 year cycle, with the edges on a much longer rotation, of approximately 15years.</p> <p>On the tumuli, in spite of grazing, scrub will still develop, especially bramble, hawthorn and ash. Remove and treat tree saplings on this area, and clear bramble. No tractors or ride on movers to be used on the tumuli.</p>		problematic areas.		
1,2	Remnant chalk grassland	2 Biodiversity – promote the formation and expansion of the chalk grassland remnant areas.	In addition to selective scrub clearance and grazing in this area, attention should be given to close strimming and	On going winter work	Volunteers working with Ranger	High	Officer time

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			removal of cuttings to particularly important chalk grassland communities. This could include the areas next to the bridleway in comp 2.				
1,2,3,4.	Control weeds	2. Biodiversity: Prevent spread of invasive and ingenious weeds	Removal of Ragwort in particular is essential in this area, given the grazing by livestock, and proximity to horse grazing (fields and old racing gallops to the north and west of site). See Ragwort control plan in the appendix of this document. Other plants to control include thistles, Alexander's (especially on the tumuli, compartment 4).	As and when required. Ragwort flowers in July / august, and so should be prevented from flowering and spreading. Control by topping must not take place during bird breeding season.	Contractors and Plumpton college	High	£ variable dependant on severity.

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
<b>Survey and monitoring</b>							
all	Survey wildlife and keep records	2. To add to knowledge of site, and contribute to site management actions	Undertake targeted ecological surveying, with the aim of establishing baseline data about the presence or absence, abundance and status of various wildlife categories on this site. This could include birds (especially Skylarks and nest sites), reptiles and amphibians, woodland surveys, mammals, and flora (especially on remnant chalk grassland areas. Establish experimental survey sites to monitor the	Design a programme of surveying in time from summer 2006. Monitor annually.	Specialist consultants, volunteers etc, through consultation with local wildlife charities, and professional bodies (e.g. RSPB, English Nature etc).	High	To be determined

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			grassland species make up, in order to monitor grazing success in terms of the general aims of the ESA project				
<b>Archaeological Conservation</b>							
3&4	Conserve Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)	3. Archaeological conservation	Protect and enhance tumuli: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graze with sheep, so as to maintain visual appearance of tumuli, and prevent weeds from colonizing barrows.</li> <li>• Spot treat woody plants such as Hawthorne, and other invasive plants – but keep within</li> </ul>	Graze as per rest of site, throughout the year as appropriate to the weather and growth conditions. Spot treat as problems arise	Grazing Plumpton college  Spot treatment, Community Ranger / Contractors.  Community Ranger to make sure County Archaeologist and English Heritage consulted on any works affecting the tumuli.	High	To be determined

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			Plumpton College organic standards and LDC EMAS pesticide guidelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain dialogue with English Heritage as to appropriate management</li> <li>• Prevent any heavy machinery from accessing the tumuli.</li> <li>• Promote understanding through interpretation.</li> </ul>				
3	Conserve Battle of Lewes site	1&3 – Landscape and archaeology conservation	Maintain current grazing regime, and prevent significant scrub encroachment, that could alter the	Continue grazing management and targeted scrub removal	Ranger & Plumpton College	High	As grazing costs (see above)

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			visual integrity of the site. (see also Interpretation section below)	regime (as above).			
<b>General Maintenance</b>							
1-4	Maintain fencing	9. General maintenance	Monitor, maintain and repair stock fencing throughout the site. Where fencing is old, aim to replace entire sections, rather than small sections. No barbed wire to be used within the fencing. Fencing around dew pond (post and rail) to be maintained as well. Be aware that malicious cutting of fencing has been a regular problem in certain areas of the site. Also check, repair and replace gates as	On going – monthly fence & gate inspections and ad hoc repairs.	Ranger and community wardens to carry out inspections on a monthly basis. Contractors to undertake repairs.	High	Variable according to amount of repairs.

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			appropriate. Assess long term replacement programme.				
1,3 and in time 2	Inspect water troughs	9. General maintenance	Maintain in good working order, and make sure always adequate supply for the livestock	Weekly inspections in Summer, and monthly in winter	Ranger & Plumpton college, possibly community wardens	Medium	Staff time and possible repairs. On going cost for supply of water.
All	Maintain fixed assets	9. General Maintenance	Maintain all other fixed assets, such as dog bins, benches, and signage	Monthly inspections and carry out necessary repairs	Community Ranger	Medium	Staff time, and any necessary materials.
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>							
All site	Risk Assessments	7. Maintain high health and safety standards	Carry out annual site risk assessments and conduct activity risk assessments according to the activity to be undertaken. These will include anything that could affect visitors, be they members of the	Annual risk assessment  Ad Hoc activity risk assessment	Community Ranger	High	Staff time, and any necessary work resulting from the risk assessment will need to be paid for.

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			public, volunteers or others.				
<b>Recreation and access</b>							
all	Maintain open access for recreation, whilst balancing the needs of wildlife	4. Manage recreation and public access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain public rights of way and bridal ways</li> <li>• Maintain open access areas, by appropriate signage</li> <li>• have clear signage (on interpretation boards perhaps) about keeping dogs under control during stock grazing</li> <li>• Signage to inform horse riders to</li> </ul>	Regular cutting regime of footpaths and bridal ways, to include checks on the gates, latches etc.	Official rights of way are managed by the SDJC, but inspections should be undertaken and problems reported to the SDJC by the Ranger / Community Wardens.  Signage to be produced and maintained by the Community Ranger.  Path that runs between the Neville estate	Medium	<p>Rights of way maintenance will be covered by the SDJC budget.</p> <p>Signage costs will be incurred to this site budget, but it is unclear at this stage what these costs will be.</p>



Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			beware of pedestrians		and the eastern boundary of compartment 3 to be mown three times per year by the LDC grounds maintenance team, Wyevale landscapes.		
1 & 3	Car Parking	4. Access and recreation management	Long term need to establish reliable car parking facilities at this site, to facilitate greater public access. This could be undertaken by consideration of the car parking plan devised in 1997, however this would need to be sensitively designed, so as not to impinge of the landscape setting and also the archaeological constraints.	Long term plan	Landport Bottom Management Committee	Low	Significant, and to be determined subsequent to design and specification being agreed.
all	Byelaws	2, 3 & 4 Protect the site from	Prepare byelaws for consideration by the	ASAP	LDC legal team	Medium	Officer time only.

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
		inappropriate use.	Management Committee to bring the site in line with all other open spaces, parks and nature reserves within the Lewes District				
1	Dogs & Litter	4 & 9 To keep the site clean and tidy.	Signage to be installed on the main interpretation boards, giving instructions to pick up after your dog.  Regular litter picks to be undertaken on the site entrance, and around key access points	Signage to be installed spring 2006.  Litter picks to be undertaken monthly.	Signage to be designed by the Community Ranger with the LDC design team. Litter to be picked by the Community Ranger and Wyevale grounds maintenance.	Medium	Officer time and LDC LMO (Leisure Management Outdoor) contract implications concerning any contractual litter picking arrangement.
<b>Community Involvement</b>							
All	Work parties	5. Community Involvement	Hold regular work parties on the site, to carry out practical habitat management works. Use local volunteer groups, and advertise locally	All year, but guided by the work program in this plan. For example, scrub clearance should be	Ranger to organize through existing networks, such as the South Downs Volunteer Rangers,	Medium	Volunteer costs, possibly in terms of refreshments, costs of materials etc.

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			or on site in order to keep community informed and give chance to get involved.	undertaken in winter, Ragwort Pulling in summer.	Brighton Conservation Volunteers, and other local groups.		
All	Community consultation	5. As above	Consult the local community, for example those living on the Neville Estate, or near to the Prison, about activities taking place on the site. This should either be through press release, on site signage, or in certain circumstances letter drops.	Ad hoc, associated with key events.	Community Ranger	Low	Unknown
At locations of interpretation boards (TBC).	Updatable signage	5. as above	The new interpretation boards to be installed spring 2006, will have an updatable panel for installing information. This could include details of activities, events and wildlife sightings.	Spring 2006 and update bimonthly.	Community Ranger	Medium	Officer time

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
	Events (see below)	5. as above					
<b>Education and Interpretation.</b>							
Whole site, but to concentrate on open areas suitable for events, and habitats targeted by the activities concerned.	Education and open day events	6. Raising understanding and awareness of the site.	To hold regular activities and events aimed at exploring the ecology, and history of this site, and explaining their importance and significance. Guided walks, pond dipping activities in the dew pond, bug hunts in the woodland, are some examples. Link in to the nearest school, which is Wallands, and design a programme of site activities for the children.	Summer 2006 and annually.	Community Ranger & volunteers, as well as school teachers and other community groups.	Medium	Costs associated with staff involved, including possible workshop costs. May be a way of gaining donations towards to running of the site, particularly for guided walks.
TBC	Install interpretation	As above	Interpretation to be installed giving an illustrated overview of the importance of the	Summer 2006	Community Ranger to assist LDC design unit with the designs.	High	Interpretation board one off cost for signage

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
			<p>site and a guide to current management. There will also be an updateable panel for regular information. Crucially it will provide contact information for the public to report issues or discuss management with the Community Ranger.</p>		<p>Signage furniture to be produced by local company.</p>		<p>furniture is around £1800. There will be printing costs for the art work (around £50), and staff time associated with design and production of the boards.</p>
LDC Web site	Maintain web site about this site	As above	<p>Basic information about the site, including the interpretation information, directions to the site etc, will be maintained on the LDC web site. There will also be details of activities and events on the site.</p>	On going	Community Ranger	Low	Staff time

Compartment and Location	Description	Objective	How to meet objective	When to do	By whom	Priority	Estimated cost implications
<b>Management Review and monitoring</b>							
Whole Plan	Management Review	Maintain relevance of this plan	Undertake regular review of this plan, including all the management actions, in order to keep up to date with evolving issues, and altering management priorities and techniques.	Every 5 years, and ad hoc on going	Landport Bottom Management Committee	Medium	Staff time.

## 7. Appendices

### 7.1 References

1. Geological Survey of Britain – Sheet 319 (Lewes) – British Geological Survey (1979)
2. Entry in the Schedule of Monuments SM 25479 – English Heritage (1995)
3. Proposed Register of Historic Battlefields – English Heritage (1994)
4. Battlefields Register – Lewes 1264 – English Heritage (1995)
5. Lewes District Local Plan – Lewes District Council (1996)
6. A Management Strategy for the Sussex Downs AONB – SDCB (1996)
7. A Landscape Assessment of the Sussex Downs AONB – SDCB (1996)
8. South Downs ESA, Guidelines for Farmers – MAFF (1997)
9. Chalk Grassland Habitat Action Plan for Sussex – Sussex Biodiversity Partnership (2000)
10. Assessment of Information and Interpretation at Landport Bottom – SDCB (unpublished 1995)
11. The Visitor Welcome Initiative – Countryside Commission (1995)
12. Lewes Remembers Racing and Race Days – University of the Third Age (1994)
13. Standing Fresh Waters Habitat Action Plan – Sussex Biodiversity Partnership (2001)
14. New Flora of the British Isles – C. Stace (Cambridge University Press 1991)
15. Ratcliffe, D. (1977) A nature conservation review (Cambridge).
16. Sutherland & Hill (2000) Managing habitats for conservation (Oxford)

Web sites:

UK Bab <http://www.ukbap.org.uk/UKPlans.aspx?ID=80>

English Nature: [www.english-nature.org.uk](http://www.english-nature.org.uk)

Defra: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

## 7.2 Site Management Contacts

Andy Frost Lewes District Council – Parks Manager	01273 484398
Dan Ross Lewes District Council – Community Ranger	01273 484408
Steve Brigden Lewes Town Council – Town Clerk	01273 471469
Mark Hayward Sussex Downs Conservation Board – Senior Ranger	01273 625242
Andrew Woodcock East Sussex County Council – County Archaeologist	01273 481608
Des Lambert Plumpton College – Farm Manager	01273 890438
Vivian Coad English Heritage – Field Monument Warden	01580 860450
James Le Page DEFRA – ESA Project Officer	01483 404285



7.3 Landport Bottom Location Map



Not to Scale

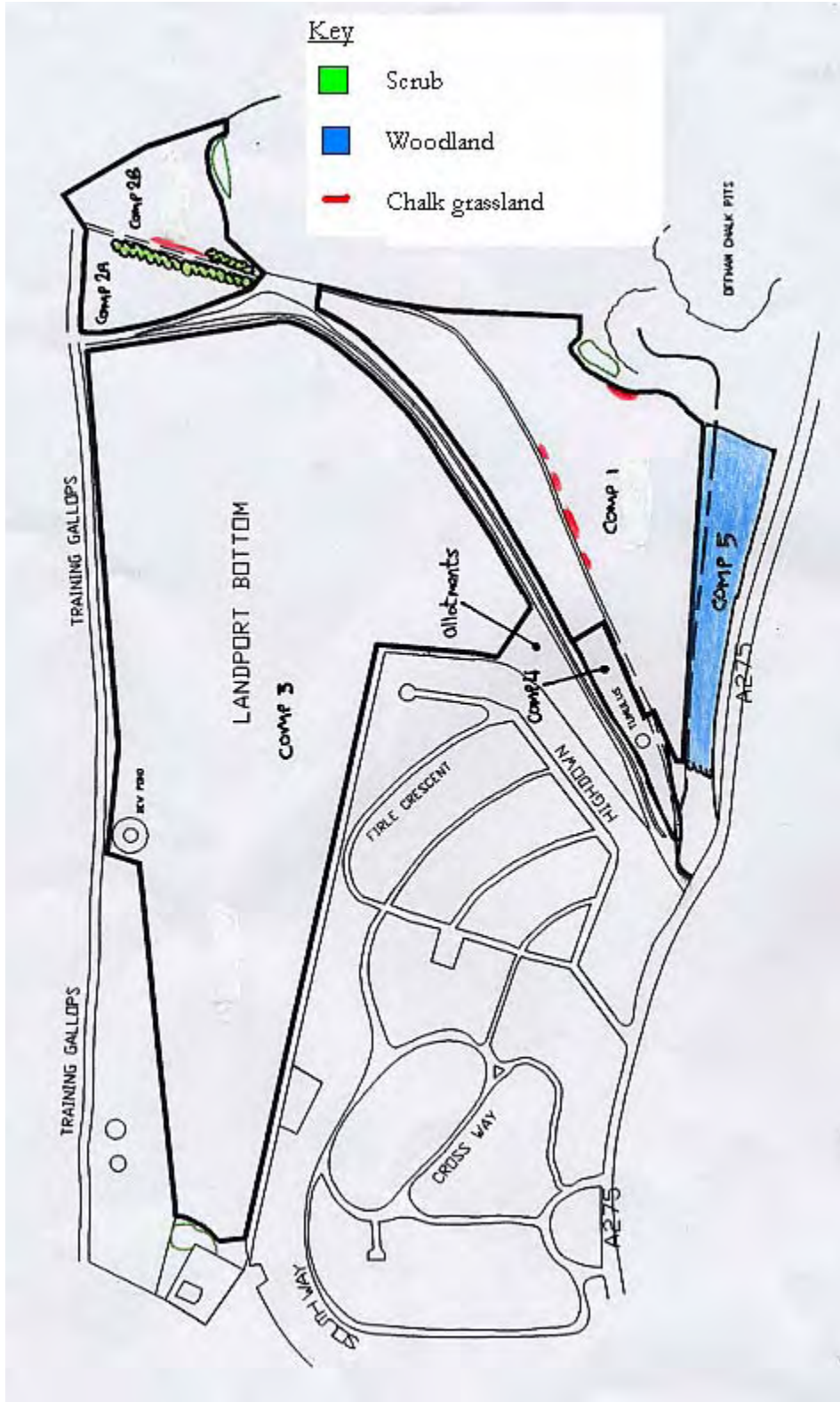
Landport Bottom and Surrounding Area,  
Lewes.



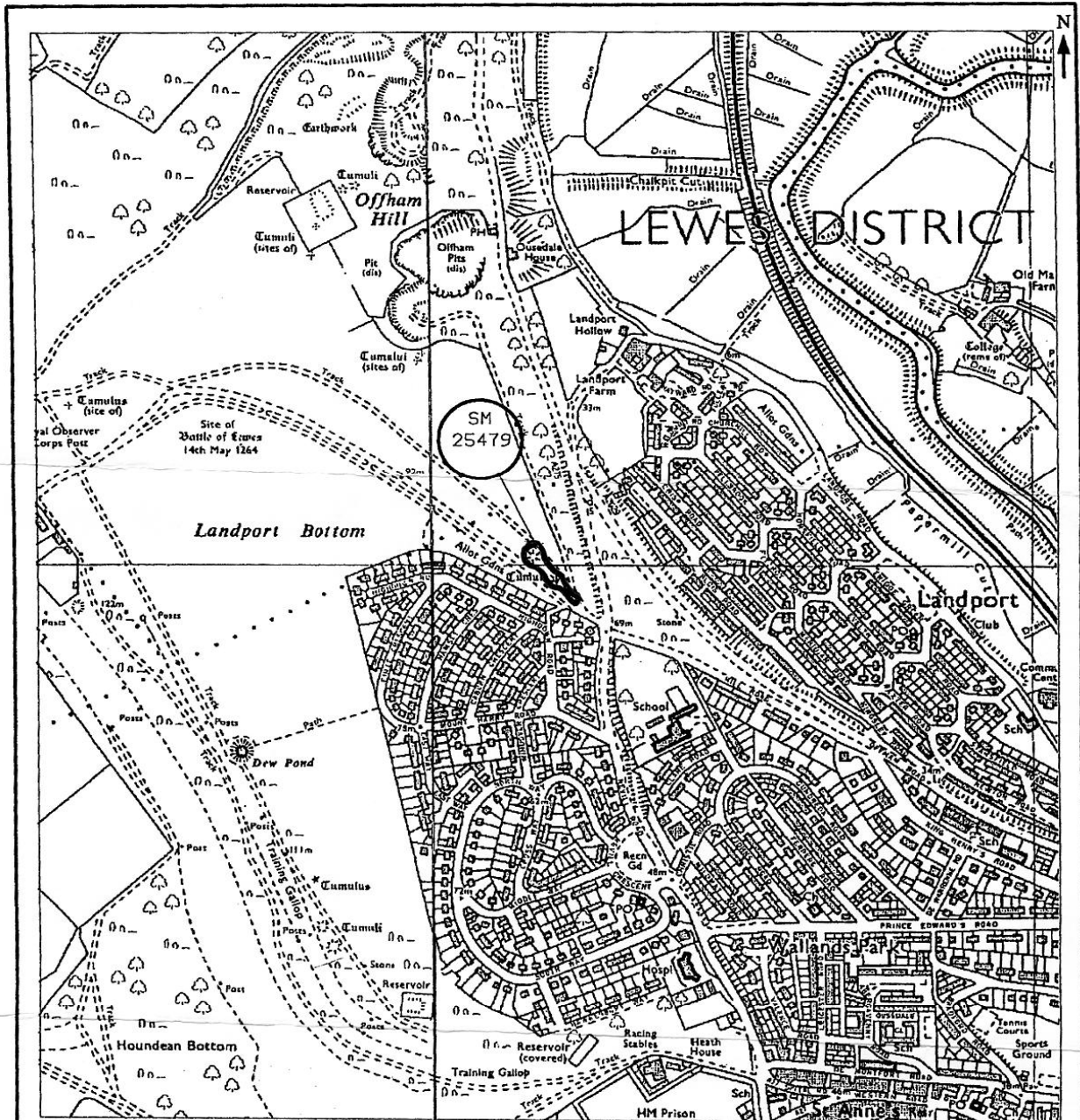
Produced from Ordnance Survey with the  
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### 7.4 Landport Bottom Site Map



# Scheduled Monument



©Crown copyright reserved

For identification purposes only

**Site Name:** A platform barrow and two bowl barrows forming a linear barrow group 700m SSE of Offham Hill

**County:** Sussex, East

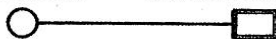
**District:** Lewes

**Parish:** Lewes

**Notes:**

For exclusions - see text record

**Key:** Monument No.      Location/extent of site



**Scale:** 1:10000

**Derived from:** 1:10000

**Centred on NGR:** TQ40191098

**Extract from OS sheet:** TQ41SW

**Date:** 15.11.94

**Monument No:** SM25479

**English Heritage**

Fortress House 23 Savile Row London W1X 1AB Telephone 071-973 3000 Fax 071-973 3001

## 7.5 Entry in the Schedule of Monuments SM 25479

FILE REFERENCE: AA 51981/1

### SCHEDULE ENTRY COPY

ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS COMPILED AND MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 AS AMENDED.

MONUMENT: A platform barrow and two bowl barrows forming a linear barrow group SSE of Offham Hill

PARISH: LEWES

COUNTY: EAST SUSSEX

DISTRICT: LEWES

NATIONAL MONUMENT NO: 25479

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE(S): TQ40191098

### DESCRIPTION OF THE MONUMENT

The monument includes three round barrows which form a north west-south east aligned, linear barrow group situated on a spur of the Sussex Downs. To the north west is a platform barrow which has a slightly raised, circular, central area 20m in diameter. This platform is enclosed by a ditch 6m wide and 0.8m deep, from which material used to construct the barrow was excavated. This has been partially damaged by the construction of a modern track on its north eastern edge. A low bank which encircles the ditch survives as an earthwork 1m wide and 0.4m high on the south eastern side of the barrow.

Around 30m to the south east is a bowl barrow which has a circular mound 19.5m in diameter and 0.75m high, which has been partially disturbed on its north eastern side by the adjacent track. A large trench dug into the centre of the mound indicates partial excavation some time in the past. Surrounding the mound is a ditch which has become infilled over the years, but which survives as a buried feature c.2m wide.

A further bowl barrow is situated c.30m to the south east. This has a mound measuring up to 13.2m in diameter, also with a slight central hollow indicating partial excavation. Adjacent tracks have partially disturbed the barrow to the south west and north east. The mound, however, survives to a height of 0.75m, and is surrounded by an infilled ditch c.2m wide.

The metalled surfaces of the modern tracks which cross the monument on its south western and north eastern sides are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath them is included.

### ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Platform barrows, funerary monuments dating to the Bronze Age (2000-700 BC), are the rarest of the recognised types of round barrow, with fewer than 50 examples recorded nationally. They occur widely across southern England with a marked concentration in East and West Sussex and can occur either in barrow cemeteries (closely-spaced groups of barrows) or singly. They were constructed as low, flat-topped mounds of earth surrounded by a shallow ditch, occasionally crossed by an entrance causeway. None of the known examples stands higher than 1m above ground level, and most are considerably lower than this. Due to their comparative visual insignificance when compared to the larger types of round barrow, few were explored by 19th century antiquarians. As a result, few platform barrows are disturbed by excavation and,

(Continued ..)

SIGNED BY: I Newton

On behalf of the Secretary of State for National Heritage.

## ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE (Continued)

consequently, they remain a poorly understood class of monument. Their importance lies in their potential for illustrating the diversity of beliefs and burial practices in the Bronze Age and, due to their extreme rarity and considerable fragility, all identified platform barrows would normally be considered to be of national importance.

Bowl barrows, the most numerous form of round barrow, are funerary monuments dating from the Late Neolithic period to the Late Bronze Age, with most examples belonging to the period 2400-1500 BC. They were constructed as earthen or rubble mounds, sometimes ditched, which covered single or multiple burials. They occur either in isolation or grouped as cemeteries and often acted as a focus for contemporary 'flat' burials and for burials in later periods. There are over 10,000 surviving bowl barrows recorded nationally (many more have already been destroyed), occurring across most of lowland Britain. Often occupying prominent locations, they are a major historic element in the modern landscape and their considerable variation of form and longevity as a monument type provide important information about the diversity of beliefs and social organisation amongst early prehistoric communities. They are particularly representative of their period and a substantial proportion of surviving examples are considered worthy of protection. Despite some minor scrub encroachment and past disturbance caused by the construction of the adjacent tracks and excavation, the linear round barrow group west of Nevill Road survives comparatively well. The platform barrow survives in particularly good condition and is the best example of this type of barrow in East Sussex. The monument will contain archaeological remains and environmental evidence relating to the precise function of the barrows and the landscape in which they were constructed. Its association with a Neolithic causewayed enclosure and a further group of broadly contemporary round barrows c.700m to the north east, provides evidence for the importance of this area of downland for ceremonial and funerary practices during the Late Neolithic period and the Bronze Age.

MAP EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract outlined in black and highlighted in red.

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SCHEDULING HISTORY

Monument included in the Schedule on 6th March 1963 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Sussex 231

NAME: Two round barrows and a disc barrow N of Highdown Road, Lewes

Scheduling amended on 1st April 1974 to:

COUNTY/NUMBER: East Sussex 231

NAME: Two round barrows and a disc barrow N of Highdown Road, Lewes

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The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 25479

NAME: A platform barrow and two bowl barrows forming a linear barrow group SSE of Offham Hill

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 25th January 1995

SIGNED BY: I Newton

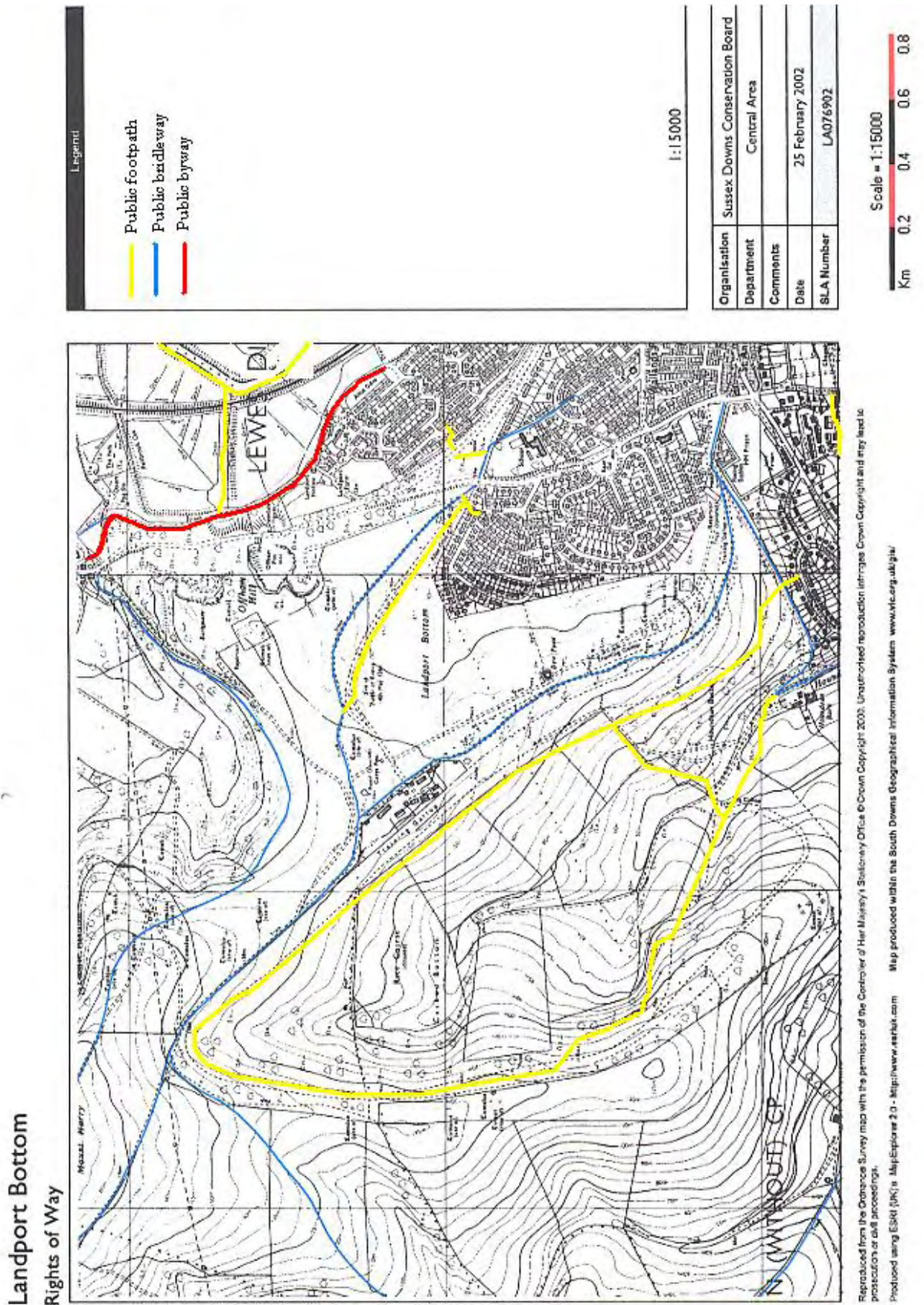
On behalf of the Secretary of State for National Heritage.







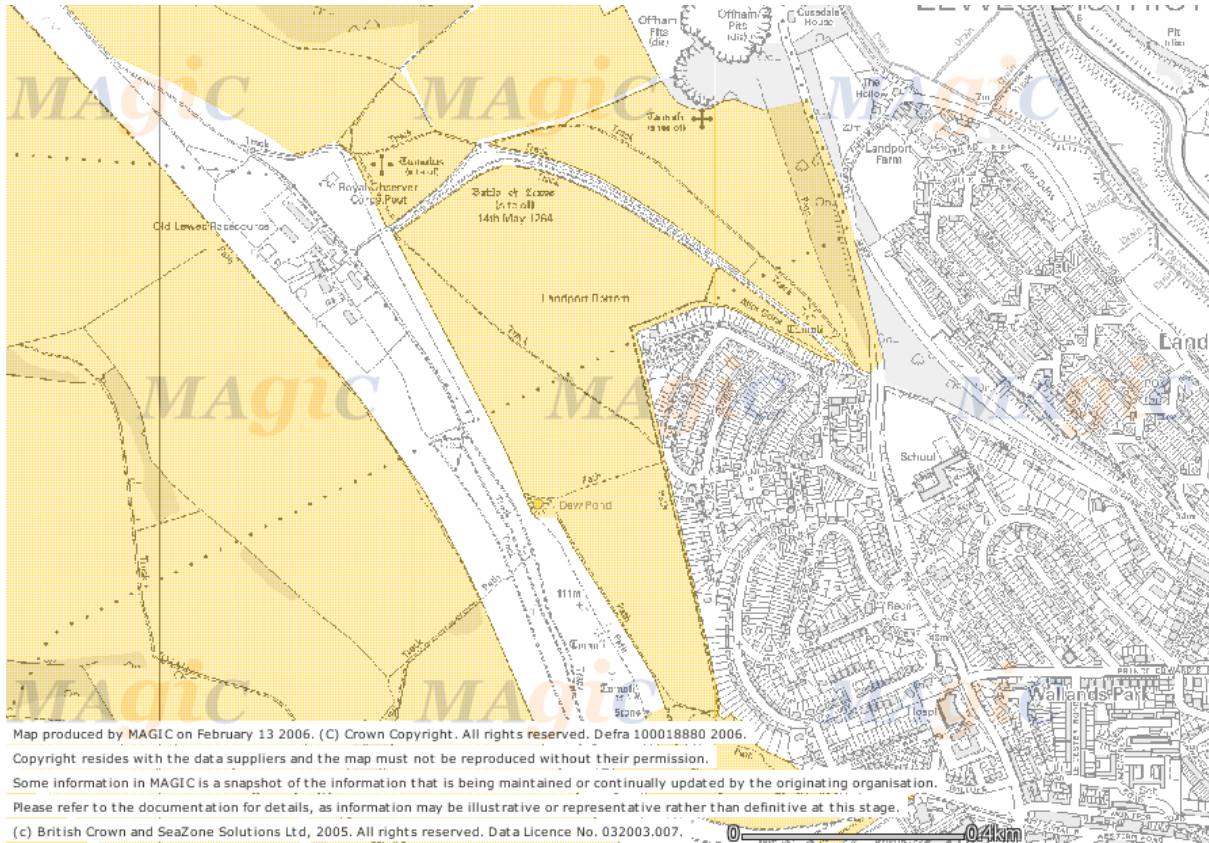
## 7.8 Public Rights of Way Network





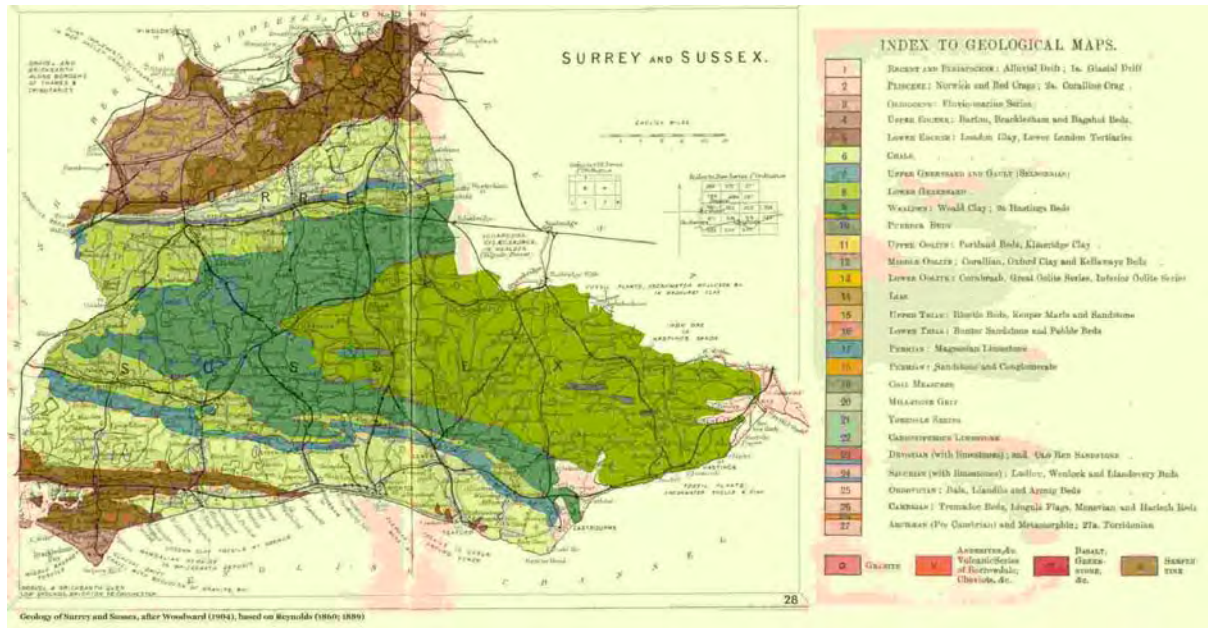
## 7.9 ESA Maps

Land entered in to Tier 3 (Option 1 – Arable reversion to chalk downland) of South Downs ESA scheme is highlighted in beige. NB: Compartment 4 (the Tumuli and SAM) was added into Tier 1 (Permanent grassland on chalk) of the ESA scheme in 2003, not shown on this plan.





## 7.10 Geology Map for Sussex.



(Source:

[http://www.openaccess.gov.uk/wps/portal/!ut/p/\\_s.7\\_0\\_A/7\\_0\\_GS/.cmd/acd/.ar/sa.m ap/.pm/-/c/6\\_3\\_1EU/ce/7\\_3\\_312/p/5\\_3\\_2H9/d/8#7\\_3\\_312\)](http://www.openaccess.gov.uk/wps/portal/!ut/p/_s.7_0_A/7_0_GS/.cmd/acd/.ar/sa.m ap/.pm/-/c/6_3_1EU/ce/7_3_312/p/5_3_2H9/d/8#7_3_312)

## 7.11 ESA Management Plan (Defra)

It is important that this document is read in conjunction with the *South Downs ESA Guidelines for Farmers* booklet and the site specific agreement map.

Agreement Holder:

Mr Frost  
Lewes District Council  
Lewes House  
32 High Street  
Lewes  
E Sussex, BN7 2LX  
Lewes District Council

Holding No: 41/104/0105

Tiers of agreement:

Tier 1, Permanent Grassland on the Chalk  
Tier 3A, Arable Reversion to Chalk Grassland

Site designations:

Site of the Battle of Lewes in 1246. Bowl barrows SM25479.

27/02/2003

Start: May 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 End: April 30<sup>th</sup> 2013

2008

Plan prepared by: James LePage, DEFRA Guildford

### **Introduction**

The objectives for ESA Tier 1, Permanent Grassland on the Chalk, are to achieve appropriate grazing management of the chalk grassland habitat (UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitat), maintain its conservation status and prevent scrub encroachment. The best grassland sites can support up to 50 plants per square metre, together with a range of insects that are totally dependent on such areas. Tier 3A, Arable Reversion to Chalk Grassland, aims to re-establish the traditional characteristics of chalk grassland and its associated wildlife. It should provide a habitat for ground nesting birds and invertebrates, and have the potential for chalk grassland species to re-colonise over time. Features of archaeological importance are protected from damage by ploughing or scrub.

### **Site description and management plan:**

This agreement originally began in 1993, when Lewes District Council applied to revert around 83 ha of land to Tier 3A, Arable Reversion to Chalk Grassland. The grassland covers the site of the Battle of Lewes in 1246, a registered battlefield site, and is also adjacent to a number of ancient monuments and a dew pond (restored with ESA grant in 2000). It is very popular with local people for recreation but the sward has also diversified well in places, with unimproved grassland herbs colonising since being restored to grass. The largest field makes a dramatic sweep of downland upon which visitors may more easily visualise the scene of battle.

This land is now renewed for another ten years, with the addition of a small area of land in Tier 1, Permanent Grassland on the Chalk, which contains three scheduled barrows (a platform barrow and two bowl barrows). It is hoped that the addition of the barrow sites will

lead to better fencing and scrub clearance of this area, allowing it to be grazed and the appearance of the barrows enhanced. As the barrows are close to the urban fringe of Lewes the area has suffered tipping and the sites of bonfires in the recent past. ESA funded improvements will hopefully end that and lead to greater respect for the area. The whole area is grazed by stock from Plumpton Agricultural College.

### **Aims and Objectives of this management plan:**

The aim of this Plan is to provide advice on the appropriate management of the site to ensure that its environmental interest is enhanced. The specific objectives are to:

- Conserve the historic landscape and open downland character of the area.
- Maintain the arable reversion (Tier 3A) grassland so that the sward continues to be colonised
- by unimproved and chalk grassland species, enhancing its botanical value.
- Enhance the land in Tier 1 by re-introducing grazing and removing low scrub and brambles.
- Prevent threats to all grassland areas and archaeological features, principally invasion by
- weeds, damage by burrowing animals and fly tipping on the urban fringe.

### **Management Actions agreed:**

- Graze all grassland areas extensively through the year with sheep (and/or cattle) to produce a sward 2-5 cm high on average. A proportion of the sward, especially around the edges should have longer vegetation typically 1Q-15cms tall.
- You may graze more lightly in spring (allowing wildflowers to seed), but by the end of the year the majority of the years' growth should be removed by grazing in order to prevent the build-up of thatch.
- Any cutting or topping should avoid the bird nesting season between early April and July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Control injurious weeds through a combination of hand pulling, topping, spot-treatment and weed wiping.
- Avoid supplementary feeding on ESA land. If essential, feed sites must be agreed with the Project Officer in advance and must always avoid archaeological features.
- Any scrub control or fencing work\* on, or near, scheduled archaeological features must be discussed with English Heritage and consented in advance.
- Encourage greater local respect for the historic features in the new Tier 1 land by making the area look cared for and managed. Remove any tipping that occurs as soon as possible.

All other prescriptions relevant to Tiers 1 and 3A should be followed. These are set out in the 'Guidelines for Farmers' booklet.

(\*)This work can be grant-aided under an ESA Conservation Plan, but written approval from DEFRA must be obtained before any expenditure is committed or any of the work undertaken.

Signed by Agreement Holder: Signed on behalf of Defra.

## 7.12 Species List – Higher Plants

The fieldwork was carried out on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2001. The methodology used was to divide the survey site into individual fields, compartments or distinct areas of vegetation that could be easily described. Each of these was then thoroughly 'walked' in order to describe the vegetation present and draw up as extensive a species list as was possible without resorting to the use of quadrates, which it was felt was unnecessary in the context of this project.

Each species was given a score using the DAFOR system in order to give an idea of its abundance within each area surveyed. The rating stands for Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional and Rare.

### Compartment 1

*Acer pseudoplatanus* - Sycamore R  
*Achillea millefolium* - Yarrow O  
*Agrostis stolonifera* - Creeping Bent D  
*Anisantha sterilis* - Barren Brome O  
*Bellis perennis* - Daisy O  
*Bromus hordeaceus* - Soft-brome F  
*Centaurea nigra* - Black Knapweed R  
*Cerastium fontanum* - Common Mouse-ear O  
*Cirsium arvense* - Creeping Thistle A  
*Cirsium vulgare* - Spear Thistle O  
*Cornus sanguinea* - Dog-wood R  
*Crataegus monogyna* - Common Hawthorn LD  
*Crepis vesicaria* - Beaked Hawk's-beard O  
*Cynosurus cristatus* - Crested Dog's-tail D  
*Dactylis glomerata* - Cock's-foot A  
*Daucus carota* - Wild Carrot O  
*Elytrigia repens* - Common Couch O  
*Festuca rubra* - Red Fescue A  
*Galium verum* - Lady's Bedstraw R  
*Geranium dissectum* - Cut-leaved Crane's-bill O  
*Geranium molle* - Dove's-foot Crane's-bill R  
*Helianthemum nummularium* - Common Rock-rose R  
*Heracleum sphondylium* - Hogweed F  
*Holcus lanatus* - Yorkshire Fog F  
*Hypochaeris radicata* - Common Cat's-ear O  
*Inula conyzae* - Ploughman's-spikenard R  
*Lathyrus pratensis* - Meadow Vetchling R  
*Linaria vulgaris* - Common Toadflax R  
*Linum catharticum* - Fairy Flax R  
*Lotus corniculatus* - Common Bird's-foot-trefoil R  
*Malus sp.* - Apple sp. R  
*Medicago lupulina* - Black Medick R  
*Mentha arvensis* - Corn Mint R  
*Odontites verna* - Red Bartsia O  
*Ononis repens* - Common Restharrow O  
*Picris echioides* - Bristly Ox-tongue R  
*Plantago major* - Greater Plantain R  
*Poa trivialis* - Rough Meadow-grass D

Prunella vulgaris - Selfheal O  
Ranunculus repens - Creeping Buttercup O  
Rubus fruticosus agg. - Brambles O  
Rumex acetosella - Sheep's Sorrel O  
Senecio erucifolius - Hoary Ragwort F  
Senecio jacobaea - Common Ragwort O  
Sherardia arvensis - Field Madder R  
Sonchus asper - Prickly Sow-thistle R  
Tragopogon pratensis - Goat's-beard R  
Trifolium dubium - Lesser Trefoil O  
Trifolium pratense - Red Clover O  
Trifolium repens - White Clover LD  
Ulex europaeus - Gorse  
Vicia sativa - Common Vetch R

## Compartment 2a

Achillea millefolium - Yarrow O  
Agrostis stolonifera - Creeping Bent D  
Bellis perennis - Daisy O  
Blackstonia perfoliata - Yellow-wort R  
Bromus hordeaceus - Soft-brome O  
Centarium erythraea - Common Centaury R  
Cerastium fontanum - Common Mouse-ear O  
Cirsium arvense - Creeping Thistle A  
Cirsium vulgare - Spear Thistle F  
Crepis vesicaria - Beaked Hawk's-beard R  
Cynosurus cristatus - Crested Dog's-tail A  
Dactylis glomerata - Cock's-foot O  
Daucus carota - Wild Carrot F  
Elytrigia repens - Common Couch O  
Epilobium tetragonum - Square-stalked Willowherb R  
Festuca rubra - Red Fescue A  
Fragaria vesca - Wild Strawberry R  
Geranium dissectum - Cut-leaved Crane's-bill R  
Geranium molle - Dove's-foot Crane's-bill R  
Heracleum sphondylium - Hogweed F  
Holcus lanatus - Yorkshire Fog O  
Linaria vulgaris - Common Toadflax R  
Lolium perenne - Perennial Rye-grass R  
Mentha arvensis - Corn Mint R  
Odontites verna - Red Bartsia O  
Phleum bertolonii - Smaller Cat's-tail O  
Plantago lanceolata - Ribwort Plantain F  
Poa trivialis - Rough Meadow-grass D  
Ranunculus acris - Meadow Buttercup O  
Ranunculus bulbosus - Bulbous Buttercup O  
Ranunculus repens - Creeping Buttercup R  
Rosa canina - Dog-rose R  
Rubus fruticosus agg. - Brambles O  
Rumex acetosella - Sheep's Sorrel O  
Rumex crispus - Curled Dock R

Senecio erucifolius - Hoary Ragwort R  
Senecio jacobaea - Common Ragwort A  
Silene latifolia - White Campion R  
Taraxacum officinale agg. - Dandelion O  
Tragopogon pratensis - Goat's-beard R  
Trifolium dubium - Lesser Trefoil R  
Trifolium pratense - Red Clover F  
Trifolium repens - White Clover O  
Veronica arvensis - Wall Speedwell O  
Veronica chamaedrys - Germander Speedwell R  
Vicia sativa - Common Vetch O

## Compartment 2b

Agrimonia eupatoria - Agrimony R  
Agrostis stolonifera - Creeping Bent A  
Anisantha sterilis - Barren Brome LA  
Arrhenatherum elatius - False Oat-grass O  
Asperula cynanchica - Squinancywort R  
Bellis perennis - Daisy R  
Brachypodium sylvaticum - False Brome R  
Bromus hordeaceus - Soft-brome A  
Centaurea nigra - Black Knapweed F  
Cerastium fontanum - Common Mouse-ear R  
Cirsium arvense - Creeping Thistle F  
Crepis vesicaria - Beaked Hawk's-beard O  
Cynosurus cristatus - Crested Dog's-tail F  
Dactylis glomerata - Cock's-foot A  
Daucus carota - Wild Carrot  
Elytrigia repens - Common Couch D  
Festuca rubra - Red Fescue D  
Filipendula vulgaris - Dropwort R  
Galium verum - Lady's Bedstraw R  
Geranium dissectum - Cut-leaved Crane's-bill R  
Heracleum sphondylium - Hogweed F  
Holcus lanatus - Yorkshire Fog F  
Hypericum perforatum - Perforate St John's-wort R  
Leontodon hipidus - Rough Hawkbit R  
Linaria vulgaris - Common Toadflax O  
Lotus corniculatus - Common Bird's-foot-trefoil O  
Phleum pratense - Timothy A  
Plantago lanceolata - Ribwort Plantain  
Poa trivialis - Rough Meadow-grass D  
Potentilla anserina - Silverweed R  
Ranunculus acris - Meadow Buttercup O  
Ranunculus bulbosus - Bulbous Buttercup O  
Ranunculus repens - Creeping Buttercup O  
Rumex acetosella - Sheep's Sorrel O  
Senecio erucifolius - Hoary Ragwort O  
Senecio jacobaea - Common Ragwort O  
Taraxacum officinale agg. - Dandelion O  
Trifolium dubium - Lesser Trefoil O

Trifolium pratense - Red Clover  
Vicia sativa - Common Vetch O

### Compartment 2c

Acer pseudoplatanus - Sycamore R  
Achillea millefolium - Yarrow O  
Agrimonia eupatoria - Agrimony O  
Agrostis stolonifera - Creeping Bent A  
Arrhenatherum elatius - False Oat-grass O  
Brachypodium sylvaticum - False Brome O  
Bromopsis erecta - Upright Brome R  
Bryonia dioica - White Bryony O  
Carex flacca - Glaucous Sedge R  
Centaurea nigra - Black Knapweed F  
Centaurea scabiosa - Greater Knapweed R  
Clematis vitalba - Old Man's-beard F  
Cornus sanguinea - Dogwood R  
Crataegus monogyna - Common Hawthorn D  
Dactylis glomerata - Cock's-foot O  
Daucus carota - Wild Carrot F  
Eupatorium cannabinum - Hemp-agrimony R  
Festuca rubra - Red Fescue D  
Filipendula vulgaris - Dropwort R  
Galium aparine - Cleavers O  
Galium verum - Lady's Bedstraw O  
Geum urbanum - Wood Avens R  
Glechoma hederacea - Ground-ivy A  
Hypericum perforatum - Perforate St John's-wort O  
Leontodon hispidus - Rough Hawkbit O  
Linum catharticum - Fairy Flax R  
Lotus corniculatus - Common Bird's-foot-trefoil F  
Malus sp. - Apple species R  
Poa trivialis - Rough meadow-grass D  
Prunus spinosa - Blackthorn D  
Quercus robur - Pedunculate Oak R  
Rubus fruticosus agg. - Brambles A  
Rumex acetosella - Sheep's Sorrel  
Sanguisorba minor - Salad Burnet F  
Silene vulgaris - Bladder Champion O  
Tamus communis - Black Bryony R  
Ulex europaeus - Gorse A  
Urtica dioica - Common Nettle A  
Vicia cracca - Tufted Vetch O  
Viola riviniana - Common Dog-violet R

### Compartment 3

Achillea millefolium - Yarrow O  
Agrimonia eupatoria - Agrimony R  
Agrostis stolonifera - Creeping Bent F

*Alopecurus myosuroides* - Black-grass R  
*Anisantha sterilis* - Barren Brome R  
*Arrhenatherum elatius* - False Oat-grass F  
*Bellis perennis* - Daisy F  
*Bromus hordeaceus* - Soft-brome A  
*Centaurea nigra* - Black Knapweed R  
*Cerastium fontanum* - Common Mouse-ear F  
*Cirsium arvense* - Creeping Thistle A  
*Cirsium vulgare* - Spear Thistle F  
*Convolvulus arvensis* - Field Bindweed O  
*Crataegus monogyna* - Common Hawthorn R  
*Crepis vesicaria* - Beaked Hawk's-beard F  
*Cynosurus cristatus* - Crested Dog's-tail D  
*Dactylis glomerata* - Cock's-foot F  
*Daucus carota* - Wild Carrot F  
*Elytrigia repens* - Common Couch O  
*Epilobium tetragonum* - Square-stalked Willowherb R  
*Festuca rubra* - Red Fescue D  
*Geranium dissectum* - Cut-leaved Crane's-bill O  
*Geranium molle* - Dove's-foot Crane's-bill O  
*Heracleum sphondylium* - Hogweed F  
*Holcus lanatus* - Yorkshire Fog F  
*Hypericum perforatum* - Perforate St John's-wort R  
*Hypochaeris radicata* - Cat's-ear F  
*Inula conyzae* - Ploughman's-spikenard R  
*Lathyrus nissolia* - Grass Vetchling R  
*Leontodon hispidus* - Rough Hawkbit R  
*Leucanthemum vulgare* - Oxeye Daisy R  
*Linum catharticum* - Fairy Flax R  
*Lolium perenne* - Perennial Rye-grass LD  
*Lotus corniculatus* - Common Bird's-foot-trefoil O  
*Odontites verna* - Red Bartsia O  
*Papaver rhoeas* - Common Poppy R  
*Phleum pratense* - Timothy O  
*Pilosella officinarum* - Mouse-ear-hawkweed R  
*Plantago lanceolata* - Ribwort Plantain O  
*Poa annua* - Annual Meadow-grass R  
*Poa trivialis* - Rough Meadow-grass A  
*Polygonum aviculare* - Knotgrass R  
*Prunus spinosa* - Blackthorn R  
*Ranunculus repens* - Creeping Buttercup O  
*Ranunculus bulbosus* - Bulbous Buttercup F  
*Rumex acetosella* - Sheep's Sorrel R  
*Senecio erucifolius* - Hoary Ragwort O  
*Senecio jacobaea* - Common Ragwort O  
*Silene latifolia* - White Champion R  
*Silene vulgaris* - Bladder Champion R  
*Sinapis arvensis* - Charlock R  
*Taraxacum officinale* - Dandelion O  
*Trifolium dubium* - Lesser Trefoil A  
*Trifolium repens* - White Clover D  
*Trifolium pratense* - Red Clover O  
*Tripleurospermum inodorum* - Scentless Mayweed R



*Urtica dioica* - Common Nettle R  
*Veronica persica* - Common Field-speedwell R  
*Vicia hirsuta* - Hairy Tare R  
*Vicia sativa* - Common Vetch O  
*Viola arvensis* - Field Pansy R

#### Compartment 4

*Agrimonia eupatoria* - Agrimony O  
*Agrostis stolonifera* - Creeping Bent D  
*Anisanthus sterilis* - Barren Brome F  
*Anthriscus sylvestris* - Cow Parsley D  
*Arrhenatherum elatius* - False Oat-grass D  
*Bromopsis erecta* - Upright Brome O  
*Bromus hordeaceus* - Soft-brome A  
*Buddleja davidii* - Butterfly-bush R  
*Calystegia sepium* - Hedge Bindweed LD  
*Centaurea nigra* - Black Knapweed O  
*Centaurea scabiosa* - Greater Knapweed O  
*Centranthus ruber* - Red Valerian R  
*Chamerion angustifolium* - Rosebay Willowherb R  
*Cirsium arvense* - Creeping Thistle F  
*Cynosurus cristatus* - Crested Dog's-tail F  
*Dactylis glomerata* - Cock's-foot A  
*Elytrigia repens* - Common Couch D  
*Festuca rubra* - Red Fescue A  
*Galium aparine* - Cleavers F  
*Galium verum* - Lady's Bedstraw R  
*Heracleum sphondylium* - Hogweed A  
*Hordeum murinum* - Wall Barley R  
*Hypochaeris radicata* - Cat's-ear O  
*Lolium perenne* - Perennial Rye-grass LA  
*Melilotus officinalis* - Ribbed Melilot R  
*Myrrhis odorata* - Sweet Cicely R (probably garden escape)  
*Phleum pratense* - Timothy F  
*Plantago lanceolata* - Ribwort Plantain O  
*Poa trivialis* - Rough Meadow-grass D  
*Rubus fruticosus* agg. - Brambles F  
*Rumex crispus* - Curled Dock O  
*Rumex obtusifolius* - Broad-leaved Dock O  
*Senecio erucifolius* - Hoary Ragwort F  
*Silene latifolia* - White Champion R  
*Smyrniolum olusatrum* - Alexanders O  
*Taraxacum officinale* agg. - Dandelion F  
*Urtica dioica* - Common Nettle D  
*Vicia sativa* - Common Vetch O

#### Compartment 5

*Acer campestre* - Field Maple R  
*Acer pseudoplatanus* - Sycamore F  
*Alliaria petiolata* - Garlic Mustard O

Angelica sylvestris - Wild Angelica R  
Anthriscus sylvestris - Cow Parsley LD  
Arum maculatum - Lords-and-Ladies O  
Betula pendula - Silver Birch R  
Brachypodium sylvaticum - False Brome F  
Circaea lutetiana - Enchanter's Nightshade R  
Cornus sanguinea - Dogwood O  
Crataegus monogyna - Common Hawthorn D  
Fraxinus exelsior - Ash D  
Galium aparine - Cleavers F  
Geum urbanum - Wood Avens O  
Glechoma hederacea - Ground-ivy A  
Hedera helix - Ivy D  
Heracleum sphondylium - Hogweed LD  
Ilex aquifolium - Holly R  
Ligustrum vulgare - Wild Privet O  
Malus sp. - Apple species R  
Poa trivialis - Rough Meadow-grass LD  
Prunus avium - Wild Cherry R  
Quercus cerris - Turkey Oak LA  
Rubus fruticosus agg. - Brambles F  
Smyrniolus olusatrum - Alexanders LA  
Taxus baccata - Yew R  
Urtica dioica - Common Nettle A  
Viburnum lantana - Wayfaringtree R  
Viola odorata - Sweet Violet O