

24th February 2025



Cotswold Wildlife Surveys

Simply Planning
FAO Alex Smith
8/9 Stephen Mews
Gresse Street
London
W1T 1AF

Dear Alex,

Land off Southampton Road, Alderbury – species composition of existing grassland – PL/2024/09976

Further to the comments from Natural England about the potential for the site to be classed as Lowland Meadow, please find my response.

The only species I recorded are all listed in the report, so there are no additional species to report.

I've had a look at the identifying features of Lowland Meadow, and have the following observations:

Lowland meadows are species rich on free-draining neutral soil. At this site the species composition I recorded would not be classed as species rich, but not species poor either, and parts of the grassland are wet, so not free-draining.

I only recorded a relatively small variety of wildflower species, although it should be noted that the site had recently been cut, so it is possible that other species could be present. Nevertheless, parts of the field margins were uncut, so I think a good representation of the species present were evident.

I would have expected a greater botanical diversity for a lowland meadow, in particular more indicator species. Indeed, only one indicator species was present; Birdsfoot Trefoil, as according to the Farm Environment Plan Manual for Higher Level Stewardship, Meadow Cranesbill is not an indicator species of lowland meadows. Birdsfoot Trefoil is a widespread species and present in many types of grassland.

Yours sincerely,



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Ecologist