

# Complete action plan

## HAP Grassland

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### ***Vision statement***

This grouped habitat action plan includes: lowland calcareous grassland; lowland dry acid grassland; lowland meadows; purple moor grass and rush pastures; and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and neutral grasslands. Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership's vision is to see the full range of grassland habitats capable of supporting rich and diverse wildlife maintained, existing sites conserved and managed sympathetically for wildlife and where appropriate sites restored and or expanded.

### ***Summary statement***

These habitats all contribute to the rich landscape and habitat diversity within the county and support some of our most important and declining species. Although much of Wales' species rich grassland has been lost due to agricultural intensification including drainage, ploughing, re-seeding and application of chemicals, there are still pockets of semi-natural and semi-improved grasslands remaining and areas which have been brought back into favourable management in Pembrokeshire.

The species rich sites are not restricted to grasslands cut for hay, but also include neutral grasslands and unimproved permanent pastures where livestock grazing is the main land use. These remaining neutral grasslands are very important for species such as grassland fungi when managed appropriately. Semi-natural and semi-improved grasslands are important for invertebrates including those reliant on animal dung and bats which feed on the many insects. Grazing levels are crucial for maintaining the diversity of sites; they can be damaged by over grazing or under grazed which results in encroachment by coarser grasses, bracken, bramble or scrub.

Most intensively managed grassland is cut early in the summer for silage and is therefore unsuitable for ground nesting birds such as skylarks because eggs and chicks of these birds will be destroyed by the early cutting of the crop. Traditional hay management takes a later cut allowing plants to set seed and chicks to fledge.

Wet marshy grassland which is commonly referred to as ' rhos' pasture in Wales, it is particularly important for invertebrates such as the marsh fritillary butterfly. Rhos pasture usually forms complex habitat mosaics which comprise wet heaths and fens in Pembrokeshire.

There are various methods for managing grassland sites, as highlighted above. Management of an area should be steered by the historical regimes

undertaken at the site in order to maximise the biodiversity potential; i.e. permanent pasture sites should not be cut for hay and hay meadows should not be left uncut as permanent pasture. In some instances for example on some coastal and floodplain grazing marsh historically there has not been any management, therefore they are best maintained by leaving them ungrazed.

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## Plan targets

### **Code**      **Target**

Grass1ME Maintain the current extent of semi-natural grassland habitats within Pembrokeshire. (Target represents no net loss of BAP habitat)

**Goal:** For Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh: Maintaining extent 797 Hectares by 01/02/3011

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Calcareous Grassland: Maintaining extent 17 Hectares by 01/02/3011

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Dry Acid Grassland: Maintaining extent 656 Hectares by 01/02/3011

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Meadows: Maintaining extent 399 Hectares by 01/02/3011

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures: Maintaining extent 2922 Hectares by 01/02/3011

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

### **Code**      **Target**

Grass2AC Maintain at least current condition of semi natural grassland habitats within Pembrokeshire. Achieve favourable or recovering condition of semi natural grassland habitats within Pembrokeshire.

**Goal:** For Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh: Achieving condition 359 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Calcareous Grassland: Achieving condition 11 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Dry Acid Grassland: Achieving condition 272 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Meadows: Achieving condition 235 Hectares by

01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 40 Hectares

**Goal:** For Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures: Achieving condition 1422 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 400 Hectares

**Code Target**

Grass3RE Restore priority habitat grassland from semi-improved or neglected grassland which no longer meets the priority habitat definition within Pembrokeshire.

**Goal:** For Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh: Restoration 90 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Calcareous Grassland: Restoration 0 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Dry Acid Grassland: Restoration 1 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Lowland Meadows: Restoration 469 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Goal:** For Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures: Restoration 40 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Code Target**

Grass4EXlcg 1ha Re-establish grassland of wildlife value from improved grassland or arable (where appropriate). 1 ha 75% of re-established habitat to be adjacent to Lowland Calcareous Grassland or other semi-natural habitat.

**Goal:** For Lowland Calcareous Grassland: Expansion 1 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 0 Hectares

**Code Target**

Grass4EXlm Re-establish grassland of wildlife value from improved grassland or arable (where appropriate). 75% of re-established habitat to be adjacent to Lowland Meadows or other semi-natural habitat 11ha. 50% of re-established area to contribute to resultant habitat patches of 2 ha or more of Lowland Meadow 8ha.

**Goal:** For Lowland Meadows: Expansion 11 Hectares by 01/02/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 4.5 Hectares

<b>Code</b>	<b>Target</b>
Grass4EXpmgrp	<p>Re-establish grassland of wildlife value from improved grassland or arable (where appropriate). 4 ha. 75% (3ha) of re-established habitat to be adjacent to PMGRP or other semi-natural habitat. 50% (2ha) of re-established area to contribute to resultant habitat patches of 2 ha or more of PMGRP.</p> <p><b>Goal:</b> For Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures: Expansion 4 Hectares by 01/02/2015 <b>Total achieved so far:</b> 0 Hectares</p>

<b>Code</b>	<b>Target</b>
GrassSpp1ME	Maintain range and/or population of key grassland species.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Target</b>
GrassSpp2EX	Expand range and/or population of key grassland species.

## Plan actions

<b>Code</b>	<b>Action</b>
Grass02MeAc01	<p>Maintain extent and achieve favourable condition of grassland habitats through grazing management, cutting regimes and infrastructure provision.</p> <p><b>Status:</b> Underway (on schedule) <b>Dates:</b> 01/01/2008 - Ongoing <b>Organisation(s)</b></p> <p>Lead     Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority role:</p> <p>Support Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership role:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Pembrokeshire County Council Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales</p> <p><b>Location(s)</b></p> <p>Dowrog Common (SSSI/ASSI) Garn Turne Rocks Nature Reserve (Local location - The Wildlife Trust of South &amp; West Wales (LBAP)) Pembrokeshire (County) St Davids Airfield (Local location - Cymru D / S Wales - Pembrokeshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP))</p>

St. David's Airfield Heaths (SSSI/ASSI)

**Goal:** For Lowland Dry Acid Grassland in Garn Turne Rocks Nature Reserve (SM980273): Achieving condition 3.63 Hectares by 31/12/2026

**Total achieved so far:** 3.63 achieved, 0 underway, assessed 20/04/2009

**Goal:** For Lowland Meadows in St Davids Airfield: Achieving condition 40 Hectares by 01/12/2020

**Total achieved so far:** 40 achieved, 0 underway, assessed 17/02/2010

**Goal:** For Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures in Dowrog Common (SSSI/ASSI): Achieving condition 20 Hectares by 31/12/2010

**Total achieved so far:** 20 achieved, 0 underway, assessed 01/09/2008

**Goal:** For Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures in Pembrokeshire: Achieving condition 400 Hectares by 01/01/2015

**Total achieved so far:** 400 achieved, 0 underway, assessed 17/02/2010

**Most recent progress reports by each reporting organisation:**

**Reporting organisation:** Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

**Contact name:** Mike Howe (Conservation Team Leader)

**Report period:** 05/02/2010 - 05/02/2010

**Progress:**

This action is supported by work carried out by the Pembrokeshire machinery ring.

**Reporting organisation:** Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership

**Contact name:** Bethan Cox (Biodiversity Implementation Officer)

**Report period:** 05/02/2010 - 05/02/2010

**Progress:**

Work is taking place on raising awareness of the damage ivermectin has on the favourable condition of pasture land, when advice is given by partnership organisation to landowners / land managers.

**Reporting organisation:** Pembrokeshire County Council

**Contact name:** Trevor Theobald (Conservation Officer)

**Report period:** 30/07/2009 - 05/02/2010

**Progress:**

Working with grounds maintenance teams to ensure churchyards and cemeteries are managed for grassland fungi, where appropriate.

**Code**                      **Action**  
Grass02MeAc02    Ensure positive management of semi-natural grassland habitats through the provision of management agreement payments.

**Status:** Underway (on schedule)

**Dates:** 01/01/2003 - Ongoing

**Organisation(s)**

Lead      Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority  
role:

Support National Trust  
role:

Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership

**Location(s)**

Pembrokeshire (County)

**Most recent progress reports by each reporting organisation:**

**Reporting organisation:** Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership

**Contact name:** Bethan Cox (Biodiversity Implementation Officer)

**Report period:** 01/01/2003 - 05/02/2010

**Progress:**

Management schemes run by Pembrokeshire Biodiversity partners include PCNPA conservation scheme, MoD agreements, CCW section 39 agreements and SSSI agreements, South Hook Section 106 agreement, NT Southwood, Tir Gofal / Glas Tir.

**Code**                      **Action**  
Grass02MeAc03    Identify opportunities for addressing nutrient enrichment issues arising from management of adjacent farmland.

**Status:** Not started (for this period)

**Dates:** 01/01/2003 - Ongoing

**Organisation(s)**

Lead Environment Agency  
role:

**Location(s)**

Pembrokeshire (County)

**Code**

**Action**

Grass03RE01Ex Identify suitable sites where semi-natural grassland can be restored / re-created

**Status:** Not started (for this period)

**Dates:** 01/01/2003 - Ongoing

**Organisation(s)**

Lead Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership  
role:

**Location(s)**

Pembrokeshire (County)

**Code**

**Action**

Grass03RE02 Restore grassland habitats to favourable condition through appropriate scrub clearance work, fencing, cutting and grazing. (NB. Scrub clearance is generally only appropriate if it is young scrub e.g. bramble / blackthorn; impinging on BAP habitat; and the clearance work is followed up by management. Actions linked to the management of mature scrub are listed in the grouped woodland habitat action plan).

**Status:** Underway (on schedule)

**Dates:** 01/01/2008 - Ongoing

**Organisation(s)**

Lead Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority  
role:

**Location(s)**

Church yards (Local location - Cymru D / S Wales -  
Pembrokeshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP))  
Pembrokeshire (County)

**Goal:** For Lowland Meadows in Church yards: Restoration 10  
Site(s) by 01/01/2015

**Most recent progress reports by each reporting  
organisation:**

**Reporting organisation:** Pembrokeshire Coast National Park  
Authority

**Contact name:** Mike Howe (Conservation Team Leader)

**Report period:** 01/01/2008 - 11/08/2009

**Progress:**

3 church yards managed as wildflower meadows by PCNPA conservation team; Sandy Haven, Stackpole, Llanstadwell.

**Code**            **Action**

Grass03RE03 Ensure the use of appropriate local seed mixes and techniques in grassland re-creation schemes.

**Status:** Underway (on schedule)

**Dates:** 01/01/2003 - Ongoing

**Organisation(s)**

Lead Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership  
role:

**Location(s)**

Pembrokeshire (County)

**Code**            **Action**

Grass04EX01 Create new areas of semi-natural grassland through grassland habitat creation schemes on appropriate sites.

**Status:** Underway (on schedule)

**Dates:** 01/01/2005 - Ongoing

**Organisation(s)**

Lead Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership  
role:

**Location(s)**

Church yards (Local location - Cymru D / S Wales - Pembrokeshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP))  
East Williamston Jubilee Gardens (Local location - Cymru D / S Wales - Pembrokeshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP))  
Nant y Coy, Wolfscastle (Local location - Cymru D / S Wales - Pembrokeshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP))  
Pembrokeshire (County)

**Goal:** For Lowland Meadows in Nant y Coy, Wolfscastle: Expansion 3.5 Hectares by 01/01/2005  
**Total achieved so far:** 3.5 achieved, 0 underway, assessed 01/07/2009

**Goal:** For Lowland Meadows in East Williamston Jubilee Gardens (SN096051): Expansion 1 Hectares by 01/01/2007  
**Total achieved so far:** 1 achieved, 0 underway, assessed 07/07/2009

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