

Tunbridge Wells Common (*key areas)

Site	Grid Ref	Habitat Type	Description	Notable Sp	Management Notes
TW 1	TQ5769 3916	Neutral Grassland	Neutral grassland just north of the cricket pitch. Not a huge diversity of flora but there are a nice mix of grasses and a few wildflowers including clover, sorrel, bird's foot trefoil and hawkweed. It has a south facing aspect and on a sunny day there were abundant invertebrates on the site.	Yorkshire fog grass was dominant. Cats ear and mouse ear (good nectar source for rare bees from TW 2)	Cut annually after seeds set (late summer) leaving patches unmown to provide structural diversity (rotationally and randomly to mimic grazing). Can do an additional cut in Spring to reduce fertility if desired. Arisings must be removed asap (ideally within a week). Maintain patches of bare ground.
TW 2*	TQ5783 3913	Acid Grassland	Lowland dry acid grassland (semi-improved in sections). This area has patches of good floristic diversity and fine grasses (particular where the ground is more hollowed and the soil is thin). Bare ground patches and sand good for invertebrates. This area has good potential to be enhanced. Large anthills present. Lots of invertebrates present. Fairly self-sustaining with footfall, thin soil and rabbit grazing. Patches of bramble and encroachment in southern section.	Heath bedstraw abundant Bird's foot <i>Ornithopus</i> Cat's ear and mouse-ear Bramble sp – possibly Dewberry <i>Panurgus banksianus</i> (sand pit) and <i>P. calcuratus</i>	Cut and clear late summer (anthills are a challenge and strimming may be best around these) Cut on rotation to create structural diversity (always remove arisings). Maintain patches of bare ground. Manage the encroaching bramble (keeping some and any unusual sp as it is good for invertebrates)
TW 3*	TQ5795 3913	Lowland Heathland	Dry acid grassland/lowland heathland Managed heathland section with mature heather abundant but being considerably encroached upon by bramble, willowherb and birch and oak seedlings. Only original heather (continuous presence) and as such is a key area for ongoing	Heather Bramble, birch, willowherb and oak seedlings frequent Specialist lowland heathland bees	Ideal goal to maintain and heathland but scrub control is a considerable challenge. Rotational cut and clear (mimic grazing), ideally brushcutter, hand tools and manual pulling around the heather. Only 25% of the heather should be cut at one time. Clear bramble and bracken by hand. Treatment of

			management.		bracken with herbicide may be required. This could be a fenced off section for grazing which would be the best form of management if viable. Mow the grassland near the grove (shaded section).
TW 4	TQ5796 3908	Lowland Heathland	Lowland heathland patch with mature heather that is outcompeted by scrub. This is a small patch that can be managed and maintained as a transitional edge habitat which contributes to the structural diversity of the area. But further encroachment into the grassland should be prevented.	Heather, birch, gorse, bramble, bracken, willowherb.	Divide the patch into compartments and cut/coppice on rotation to maintain a mosaic of structure.
TW 5*	TQ5793 3903	Lowland Heathland/ Acid grassland	Newly cleared lowland heathland with young heather and gorse, and patches of bare ground but also young bracken, bramble and birch saplings appearing.	Heather, gorse, bird's foot trefoil, dwarf thistle	Work towards a varied structure as the vegetation develops including keeping patches of bare ground. Mimic grazing and brushcut 3-4 inches above ground to protect young heather. Rotational cutting. Spray bracken if it becomes too abundant (no more than 5% bracken cover desirable).
TW 6	TQ5812 3900	Wood pasture	Wood pasture, semi-improved dry acid grassland. Areas of this grassland are floristically poor with dominant grasses but there are patches of improved acidic grassland diversity showing potential for enhancement.	Heath bedstraw, trailing st johns wort, creeping buttercup (sign of soil fertility), green alkanet along paths, gorse, veteran apple tree	Cut and clear at the end of summer in rotational sections to encourage greater structural diversity. Possible cut the more floristically poor sections in Spring (and clear) as well as a late summer cut. Maintain the transitional habitats (woodland edges with gradual grass, scrub, trees transition). Maintain presence of fallen and standing deadwood. Selective thinning to increase light access. Pollarding following professional advice.

TW 7	TQ5754 3914	Wood pasture	Wood pasture, semi-improved acid grassland Limited in floristic diversity – grasses, bracken, bramble, willowherb present. A section nearest the road has been recently cleared of vegetation and it was discovered that the rock is close to the surface.	Bracken, bramble, willowherb, birch	As above but possibly spray bracken if it becomes dominant. Section nearest the road (and by path junction) – scrape off topsoil (use to create bund roadside) – encourage acid grassland, thinning of trees may be required.
TW 8	TQ5759 3878	Woodland	Path/Woodland ride (part of the old racetrack). Quite 2 dimensional with coarse grass, bracken and bramble, lots of yew and holly. Potential for more structural and floral diversity. Glade at the path crossroads.	Hawthorn, rowan, yew, bracken, bramble, coarse grasses.	Woodland edge and ride management – 3 to 4 tier ride edges. Coppicing and cut some of the holly. All cut on rotation with scallops. Rotational cut and clear of glade.
TW 9*	TQ5759 3878	Acid Grassland	Semi-circular area of south facing acid grassland – northern section has greater floristic diversity including bare patches of ground and heather. Excellent invertebrate and reptile habitat potential. Birch around the edge will encroach (as well as bracken).	Rowan, beech and oak standards (frequent rowan saplings), heather, gorse, bracken, tormentil, labyrinth spiders	Maintain as acid grassland and encourage greater structural diversity. Rotational cutting (and clear), maintaining bare patches where possible. Manage edge habitats and control bracken and birch. Could enlarge the site, clearing more trees around the edge. Possible grazing site.
TW 10	TQ5753 3876	Acid Grassland	Acid grassland reasonably sheltered with south facing aspect. Assemblage of mostly grasses, bracken, bramble and birch. Some willowherb in the southern section.	Good assemblage of grasses (including some finer species such as fescues).	Rotational cut and clear and create more structural diversity at the edges as it transitions into woodland. Manage bracken and bramble.
TW 11	TQ5759 3870	Neutral Grassland	Lower lying neutral grassland close to the pond displaying a good array of flora and habitat value for invertebrates and amphibians.	Thistle, willowherb, bracken, bird's foot trefoil, sorrel, clovers, vetches	Cut and clear annually (leaving some longer sections) and provide some deadwood habitat.
TW 12*	TQ5746 3860	Woodland	Secondary broadleaf woodland and reported site of coralroot bittercress though none was seen during the survey (possibly due to lateness in season). However, the area shows good woodland flora diversity (inc bluebell). The path/woodland ride here	Yew, bluebell, honeysuckle, cherry laurel, mosses, gorse, hawkweeds, odonata,	Carry out survey every Spring to locate and record coralroot bittercress but maintain the area as is (damp and shady). Cut and poison cherry laurel. 3 tier ride management (excluding coralroot bittercress area)

			shows great potential for biodiversity especially the south facing side and path junctions (which act as glades). Excellent floristic diversity at TQ5777 3867 on south facing edge.		Maintain woodland rides and enhance open areas with rotational cut/coppice and scallops (especially south facing)
TW 13	TQ5785 3873	Acid/neutral Grassland	Semi-improved grassland on west side of car park. Not currently displaying a great deal of diversity but has potential. Lots of invertebrates present. Cherry laurel present in the woodland edge.	Mostly coarse grass with occasional finer grass, sorrel, and ranunculus. Small amount of stitchwort. Bracken.	Rotational cut and clear leaving longer patches towards the woodland and scrub (potentially do a spring cut as well to reduce the fertility). Control bracken if it starts spreading.
TW 14	TQ5813 3912	Acid/neutral Grassland	Semi-improved grassland on corners between roads at Fir Tree Rd/Major Yorks Rd junction. South facing sides showing good assemblage of grasses and flowers (though one corner has recently been cut).	Knapweeds, tormentil, hawkweeds, thistles, selfheal, birds foot trefoil.	Cut and clear end of summer. Monitor creeping thistle as it may become too dominant. Maintain transitional structure towards woodland edge.
TW 15*	TQ5813 3912	Acid/heathy Grassland	Acid grassland (recently cleared and sown with own heather seed) with standards and newly planted trees, south facing slope, scrubby edges. Bracken and bramble and birch showing signs of encroachment.	Heather, mosses, gorse, vetches, foxglove (x1) meadow brown butterflies, blackcap	Rotational and piecemeal cut and clear, managing scrub and bracken (treating if necessary). Manage woodland edge structure with rotational cutting and coppicing. Monitor the heather. Possible grazing site.
TW 16	TQ5799 3923	Neutral Grassland	Neutral grassland, fairly 2 dimensional in structure and limited floristic diversity. However it is a sheltered south facing spot and meadow browns were present. Woodland flora present around the edges and also Himalayan balsam (which looked withered in patches – from spraying?).	Docks, coarse grasses, bramble, Himalayan balsam, brassica sp, enchanters nightshade	Control Himalayan balsam, cut and clear on rotation the grassland (possibly early spring cut to reduce fertility). Manage edges and scrub on rotational piecemeal basis.
TW 17	TQ5791 3933	Acid/neutral Grassland	Neutral grassland by Mount Edgecumbe Rocks. Sheltered and south facing with more diversity to the centre of the site. Old	Knapweed, ranunculus, coarse grasses, sorrel, clover, thistles, bracken.	Enhance structure and diversity with rotational cutting and clearing (and woodland edge management on east

			hawthorn tree and oak standards which would make for a good shelter island with longer vegetation below them. Good assemblage of invertebrates present.	More finer grasses towards the centre	boundary). Possible spring cut sections for fertility reduction.
TW 18	TQ5800 3939	Neutral Grassland	South facing semi-improved neutral grassland bank along the northern boundary of the cricket pitch. Not a great deal of diversity but has got potential for enhancement.	Cock's foot and other coarse grasses, sorrel, clovers, thistles, ranunculus, and occasional finer grasses such as fescue	Rotational cut and clear late summer and possible spring cut to reduce fertility. Possibly add yellow rattle. Woodland edge management along eastern boundary.
TW 19	TQ5814 3943	Neutral Grassland	Semi-improved neutral grassland between London Road and Inner London Road. Grass kept short except around base of trees (extending out) for amenity. Yellow rattle sown in the longer patches of grass. Longer patches quite shaded by the trees but the whole site shows good floristic diversity potential. One limp ragwort – looked like it had been poisoned.	Knapweeds, stitchwort, daisies, hawkbit, mouse-ear, yarrow, sorrel, eyebright, doves foot cranesbill, yellow rattle	Rotational cut and clear. If possible extend longer areas but otherwise maintain.
TW 20	TQ5829 3908	Neutral Grassland	East facing semi-improved grassland bank opposite Vale Road. Limited diversity but what there is is good. Woodland edge.	Ragwort, ranunculus, coarse grasses, sorrel, clovers, thistles, bramble	Cut and clear with transitional structure to woods.
TW 21	TQ5783 3932	Acid/neutral Grassland	Semi-improved grassland on southern side of Mt Ephraim (road). Area previously had raised ants nests but was flattened during a previous cut. Fertility is a bit high but has potential for enhancement.	Cat's ear, yellow meadow ant	Rotational cut and clear, remove small trees that will increase shade and scrub over time.

Rusthall Common (*key areas)

Site	Grid Ref	Habitat Type	Description	Notable Sp	Management Notes
R 1	TQ5642 3943	Neutral Grassland	Semi-improved neutral grassland behind the cricket hut (western boundary of cricket ground). Currently mown short like amenity grassland but potentially management is returning to the Commons. Areas of floristic diversity particularly toward the edges and in the scrubby section by the hut. Seeds are there but they are not given a chance by the close mowing regime. Dominant species are also present to be monitored if management changes.	Clovers, plantains, vetches, cinquefoil, geraniums, ranunculus, coarse grasses, ragwort	Rotational cut and clear, leaving areas of longer growth towards the edges – potentially good spring meadow. Potential site for new pond.
R 2	TQ5627 3954	Woodland/ Acid grassland	Woodland glade in old marl pit by ponds. Damp grassland (not free draining). Scrub encroachment and dominant species present (ie willowherb and horsetail) Yellow meadow ant hills	Fern, bracken, rosebay willowherb, bramble, horsetail, cock's foot grass	Rotational cut and clear, maintain structural mix, coppice edges on rotation (scallop south facing edges), and annual monitor (and management) of dominant species such as willowherb and horsetail.
R 3	TQ5620 3960	Neutral/Acid Grassland	Neutral/acid grassland mosaic by Common View (including amenity grassland & bonfire site). Good assemblage of grasses and patches of promising floristic diversity. Dominant species are present and there are patches of scrub in and around the site. The bonfire ground is displaying an interesting mix of wildflowers where the soil fertility has been reduced. Plenty of invertebrates present.	Thistles, daisies, plantains, nettle, meadow cranesbill, spurry, mayweed, fat hen, hogweed, crosswort, and a garden escapee - spirea	Rotational (piecemeal) cut and clear (scrape some patches?) Monitor flora Edge management – rotational cutting, maintain diversity of structure.
R 4	TQ5632 3961	Neutral grassland	Improved grassland patches at road junction (Coach/Sunnyside) and woodland edge (Sunny/Lower Green junction). Potential good mosaic of habitats with room for	Sorrel, selfheal, daisies, bramble, oak and ash seedlings.	Rotational cut and clear with extra enhancement options such as spring cuts, scrapes and maybe seed sowing.

			improvement.		
R 5	TQ5656 3963	Woodland edge	North facing woodland edge by bus stop. Neutral grassland transitioning up to woodland with currently good structural diversity.	Ranunculus, plantains, clovers, hogweed, selfheal, fern, bramble and nettles	Maintain transitional structure and diversity with rotational cut and clear, keep on top of bracken if it spreads, and remove cherry laurel.
R 6a	TQ5662 3949	Acid Grassland	Semi-improved acid grassland in woodland glade by pond. Uneven and disturbed ground.	Coarse grasses, bracken, bramble, mosses, Rosebay willowherb	Maintain as woodland glade with structural diversity through rotational cut/coppice and clear.
R 6b*	TQ5657 3952	Acid/neutral Grassland	Neutral and acidic grassland on a hillock with valuable mosaic of scrub and grassland that is ideal for birds, invertebrates and reptiles.	Foxglove, medick, hawkweeds, clover, fine grasses, thistles, ragwort, bracken, bramble. Cherry and yew trees. Cherry laurel.	Rotational cut and clear, scallop south facing edges and slopes, control the bracken if it becomes dominant, and remove and treat cherry laurel. Maintain bare ground patches (on south facing slopes especially).
R 7	TQ5676 3940	Acid Grassland	“The Bumps” – semi-improved acid grassland (part amenity) with limited floristic/structural diversity but showing potential and hosting patches of greater diversity, especially the south side.	Mouse-ear hawkweed, plantain, hawkbit, heath bedstraw, tormentil, stitchwort, good grass assemblage,	Rotational cut and clear (leaving unmown sections each time) Edge management for structural diversity
R 8	TQ5674 3933	Neutral Grassland	Neutral grassland along the verges of the road into St Philips Church.	Yellow loosestrife (on northern verge only), ranunculus, hogweed, sorrel, rank grasses, thistle, cleavers, bramble, wood cranesbill, bracken, cow parsley, ivy, Lime, sycamore and ash trees.	Maintain. The southern verge is very shaded but could be opened up in areas to allow a bit more light to the ground but probably fine to leave as is.
R 9*	TQ5667 3929	Neutral Grassland	Lowland meadow with excellent floristic assemblage and valuable habitat for invertebrates (including specialist bees) and wildlife in general.	Knapweed, ranunculus, plantains, clover, common spotted orchid, moss, oak saplings	Maintain – rotational cut and clear Monitor flora and invertebrate species