

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	4 th Aug 2026
Report Title	WWT report into Seven Fields
Agenda Reference	16b
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Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report.
2. To note the **Rapid Grasslands Assessment of Seven Fields.** (*see Reports*)
3. To consider steps in response to the **Rapid Grasslands Assessment.**

Background

A report was recently commissioned by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) through rapid grasslands assessment (RGA) into Seven Fields, as it had been 20 years since the last report was commissioned. This assessed the condition and biodiversity of the nature reserve. The report recognises a diversity of species across the site but also identifies issues requiring attention.

Key findings

The assessment classed all seven fields as having "Unfavourable Recovering". This may appear concerning, but each field had to pass all seven attribute targets to get a "Favourable Recovering". This is largely because every field failed the 25% cover by litter, indicating problems with littering is impacting the condition of the nature reserve.

The report also suggests that recent management of the fields, particularly the timing or absence of hay cutting, may have contributed to the build-up of thatch and the spread of negative indicator species. Taking steps to solve this may improve the condition of Seven Fields.

Otherwise, the fields were favourable in biodiversity, water-logging indicators, herb, bare, and scrub coverage. The WWT conservation lead will conduct more site visits, including a Woodland Condition and hedgerow assessments, in the coming weeks.