

Where is the study?

The impact on biodiversity of the two sites are incomparable.

European Monitoring of Biodiversity in Agricultural Landscapes EMBAL Survey Manual 2017	2
Structure of the survey	2
Grading the areas	2
Meadow	2
EUNIS habitat types	3
Field	3
Nature value	3
Field = 1.5	3
Meadow - 5	4
List of observed meadow species that use the Shelford meadow	4
Birds	4
Raptors	4
Crows	4
Finches	5
Owls	5
Pheasants and partridges	5
Pigeons and doves	5
Pipits and wagtails	5
Swallows and martins	5
Thrushes	6
Tits	6
Warblers	6
Woodpeckers	6
Other	6
Mammals	6
Reptiles	7
Insects	7

European Monitoring of Biodiversity in Agricultural Landscapes EMBAL Survey Manual 2017

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/knowledge/pdf/embal_survey_manual.pdf

Structure of the survey

“requires good data on the state of biodiversity, both in terms of spatiotemporal coverage and quality”

“A robust process for monitoring biodiversity in agricultural landscapes would ensure systematic collection of such data and would effectively address the current gaps in this regard. Besides the evaluation and enhancement of relevant policies and programmes, such a biodiversity monitoring process would also support their development and implementation, showing positive and negative outcomes. “

Grading the areas

“Agricultural area means any area taken up by arable land, permanent grassland and permanent pasture, or permanent crops”;

“Arable land means land cultivated for crop production or areas available for crop production but lying fallow, including areas set aside [...], irrespective of whether or not that land is under greenhouses or under fixed or mobile cover”;

*“Permanent grassland and permanent pasture (together referred to as permanent grassland means **land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage naturally (self-seeded) or through cultivation (sown) and that has not been included in the crop rotation of the holding for five years or more**; it may include other species such as shrubs and/or trees which can be grazed provided that the grasses and other herbaceous forage remain predominant as well as, where Member States so decide, land which can be grazed and which forms part of established local practices where grasses and other herbaceous forage are traditionally not predominant in grazing areas”*

Grading for the Stapleford cropped field - ‘Agricultural area’

Grading for the Shelford meadow - “Permanent grassland and permanent pasture’

Meadow

LC - B

Category - Fallow/uncultivated land

Code - B11-B14

It consists of mostly agricultural land which has not been cultivated this year or the years before. It has not been prepared for sowing any crop this year. This class applies for unused grassland, clear-cut forest areas, industrial "brownfields", storage land and of course on abandoned or unused land etc. The vegetation is dominated by spontaneous vegetation and/or tall herbs or weeds

EUNIS habitat types

Field

EUNIS Code - I - Regularly or recently cultivated agricultural, horticultural and domestic habitats

EMBAL Code - A11 – A96

Relevance for EMBAL survey - Habitat type needs to be indicated since arable land is a major agricultural land cover.

Nature value

The nature value comprises the following categories and their intermediate stages:

1 very low nature value

1.5 between very low and rather low nature value

2 rather low nature value

2.5 between rather low and moderately high nature value

3 moderately high nature value

3.5 between moderately high and rather high nature value

4 rather high nature value

4.5 between rather high and very high nature value

5 very high nature value

Field = 1.5

A11-A74 Arable land

Hardly any segetal plant species occur. 1

A few segetal plants occur with a very low coverage; or a certain richness occurs only in some smaller parts of the parcels. 2

Some segetal plants are present or at least some considerable parts of the parcels (beside the edge areas) show a moderate richness of segetal plants; or segetal plants occur with many species and a high coverage but they affect the growth of the crop (e.g. Galium aparine building dense parts of the weed community). 3

A considerable number of segetal plants species are present in at least some larger parts of the field or many segetal plants occur but they probably do not affect the growth of the crop. 4

Many segetal plant species occur in more or less the whole field without considerably dominating and affecting the crop and the structure of the field. 5

Meadow - 5

C11-C23 Grassland

Mostly fertilised, intensively managed meadow or pasture without or with hardly any species which characterize species rich plant communities that are typical for this site. 1

A few characteristic flower species occur but the meadow / pasture is dominated by only a few grass species; or the species richer parts of the meadow / pasture are restricted only to minor areas of the whole parcel. 2

The meadow or pasture is characterised by some typical species of extensive land use, but other typical species are missing. Moreover, the structure of the vegetation is either too dense (due to fertiliser input) or too sparse (due to overuse e.g. by cattle or goats). 3

Many characteristic flower species occur and the vegetation is typical for an extensive land use on this site, but there are considerable parts of the parcel which are characterised by less species richness or by other signs of over- or under-use. 4

The grassland is rich in species and the plant composition of the vegetation of the whole parcel is typical for extensive land use. 5

Nature value for the Stapleford cropped field = Field (score of 1.5)

Nature value for the Shelford meadow = Meadow (score of 5)

List of observed meadow species that use the Shelford meadow

This is an incomplete study done as an exercise. In-situ recorded photographs exist of many species.

Birds	UK conservation status
Raptors	
	Green
	Green
	Green
	Amber
Crows	

	Green
	Green
	Green
	Green
Finches	
	Green
	Green
	Green
	Red
	Green
Owls	
Pheasants and partridges	
	Introduced
	Introduced
	Red
Pigeons and doves	
	Green
	Green
Pipits and wagtails	
	Green
	Red
Swallows and martins	
	Amber
	Green
	Amber

Thrushes	
	Green
	Red
	Red
	Red
Tits	
	Green
	Green
Warblers	
	Green
Woodpeckers	
	Green
	Green
	Red
Other	
	Red
	Red
	Red
	Green
	Green
	Green
	Red
	Red
	Amber
Mammals	<i>(incomplete)</i>

	?
Reptiles	<i>(incomplete)</i>
Insects	<i>(incomplete)</i>
	Common