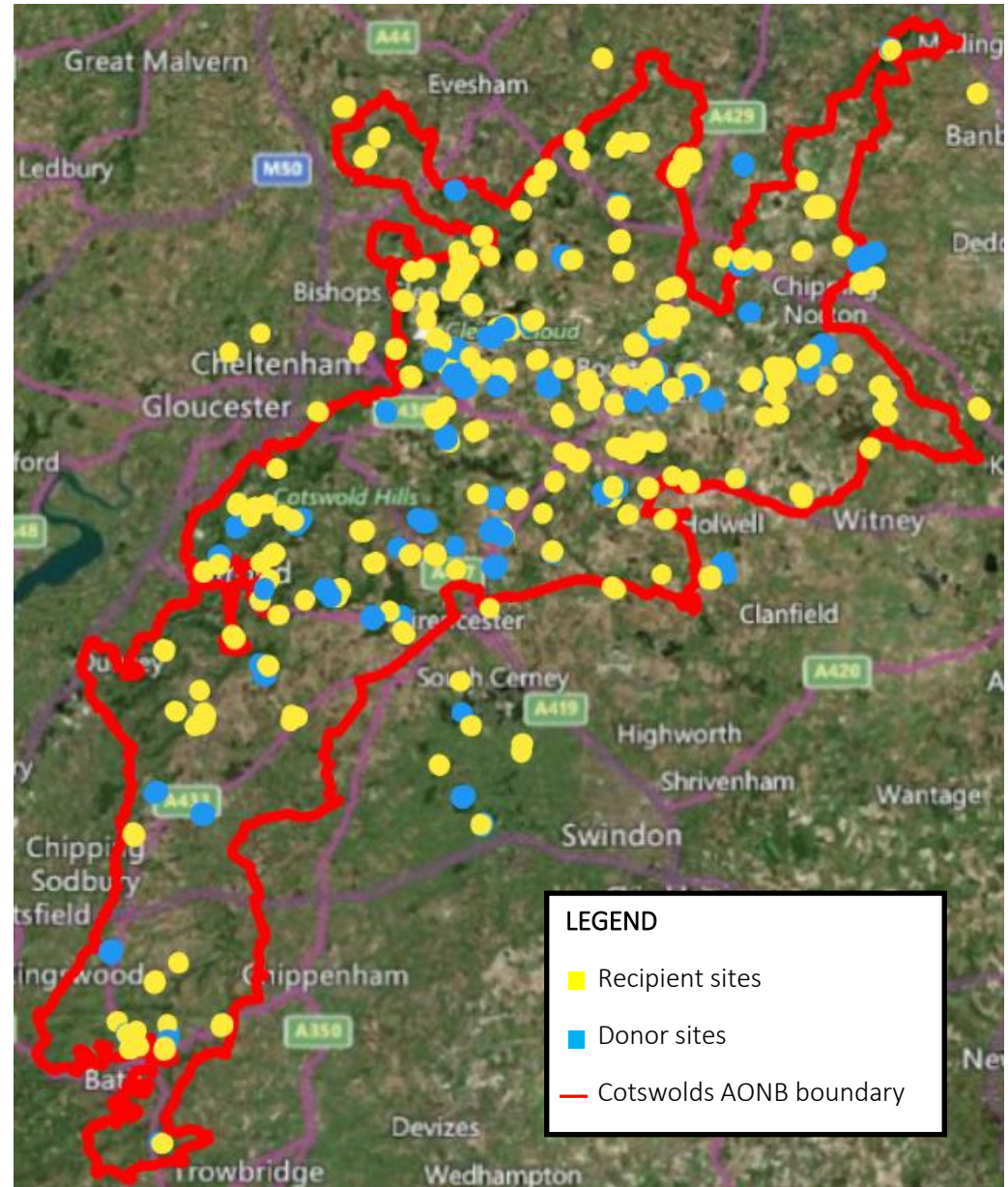




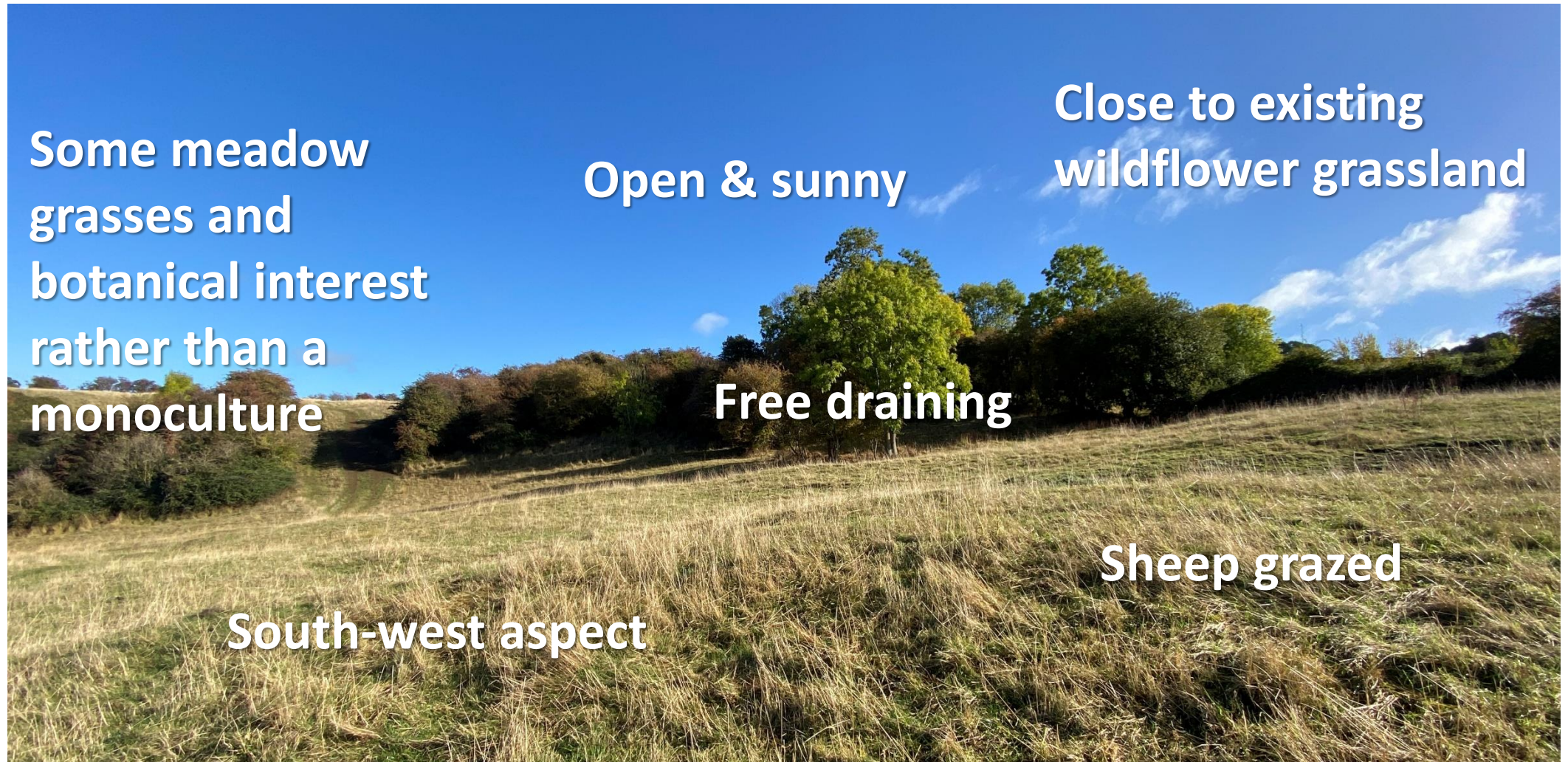
Glorious Cotswold Grasslands
Anna Field & Harvey Sherwood
21 February 2023

Glorious Cotswold Grasslands – programme background

- Originally a 3-year project grant funded by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to continue work of SOMM
- In 2022 was made permanent by CNL, now funded through a combination of partnerships, grants and sales of seed/services
- Main objective is to create and restore wildflower-rich grassland across the Cotswolds AONB – **300ha+ to date!**
- Wide variety of clients



January-March (and beyond): Identifying potential recipient sites



April-May: site visits and botanical assessments



High quality grassland sites

- Act as a donor site?
- Provide management advice
 - Shut up meadows (no grazing or cutting) from April to July
 - Annual late summer hay cut in August/September with cuttings removed
 - Aftermath graze with cattle throughout autumn/winter
- Habitat management to improve condition?



Lower quality grassland sites

- Lots of reasons – herbicides, fertilisers, topping without removing cuttings, over/under grazing
- Improving management often first step
- Consider if over-seeding with locally-sourced yellow rattle and wildflower seed is appropriate to increase wildflower diversity → bulk of our project's work



July-August: seed harvesting



July-August: seed harvesting



Over 2 tonnes of seed collected in 2022!

September-October: ground preparation & seed spreading



September-October: ground preparation & seed spreading



Restoration sites



The future of Glorious Cotswold Grasslands



- Current year budget is in surplus, better than forecast and with good reserves
- Submitted our final report to Esmee Fairbairn
- We have just hired a new member of staff to lead on our BNG work
- Expect project to expand by at least 50% in 2023 – second vehicle, harvester and trailers – already getting booked up!

Further information



Thank you

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