

**Verge and Open Space Grassland Survey**

**Management Guidelines**

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| **Site Name:**  Ramore Head, Portrush | **Reference Number:**  Open Space CP2 |
| **Grid References:**  C853410  **Total area:** c. 0.5 ha | **Survey details:**  3 quadrats  C85378 41001  C85337 41060  C85352 41003  Date first surveyed: 2/8/2016 |

**Site description:**

The area in question lies on the western flank of this exposed headland. There is an extensive network of footpaths which accommodate thousands of visitors every year. Large swathes of the cliff top grassland are managed for recreational use but some parts are rocky or have thin friable soils, especially close to the cliff edge. In spring the selected area supports extensive patches of spring squill amongst the prostrate bell heather. Later in the year thrift, field gentian, devil’s bit scabious, heath spotted orchid, thyme, yarrow, bird’s foot trefoil and kidney vetch can all be found. There are patches of ranker vegetation on the deeper soils but these will improve with appropriate management. Despite the exposed aspect various species of Lepidoptera, bee and hoverfly frequent the flowers.

**Management Options:**

* **Mowing:** The whole area should be mown and the material baled and removed in August/September of each year. If cut fine enough it is likely that much of the material will be blown away.
* **Remove litter.** A litter pick should be organised by local volunteers prior to mowing.
* **Survey:** Undertakein July/early August– whole area; 3 quadrats. If possible a late Spring survey should also be undertaken.
* **Review management options every 3 years**

**Site Map**

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