

Survey of soils on Inkberrow Millennium Green – 10/06/06

12 soil samples, 6 from each field, were collected to be representative of the soils of the site. They were all taken from a depth of 6-10cm to be typical of the growing conditions for the grass. Their locations are given in the table below and marked on a map. 3, 4, 8, and 11 are from the good quality MG5 grassland. Samples 2, 5, 7 and 10 from slopes where we might hope to improve the grassland to good MG5 - possibly also 9. Sample 1 is from the coarse grassland area above the moat, 6 is from the flat amenity area near the picnic tables and sample 12 from the flat area in the fruit trees. The weather had been hot and dry for a number of days so all soils were relatively dry.

Samp no	location	Soil type and texture	Moist-ure Scale 1-5	colour	pH	N	P	K
	Field 1							
1	Slope above moat	All soils similar with good crumb structure. Simple cone to ring test shows them all to be clayey loams Though 1 and 2 slightly more clayay	3	dark brown red	6	low	low	low
2	Mid slope below 3		3	dark brown red	6	low very	low	medium to low
3	Best MG5 grass area		2	dark brown red	6.5	low	low	low
4	MG5 beyond seat		2	dark brown red	7	low	low	low
5	Mid slope below 4		3	dark brown slight red	6.5	low very	low very	medium to low
6	Amenity area near picnic tables		2	brown	6	medium low/low	low very	low
	Field 2		1=dry 5=wet					
7	Ridge and furrow between 2 gates	All soils with good crumb structure. Test shows Clayey loams	2	brown	6	low	low	low
8	MG5 near top of ski slope		2	dark brown slight red	7	low	low +	low
9	Below ski slope		3	dark brown slight red	6	low	low	low
10	Slope below MG seat		2	dark brown slight red	6.5	medium low/low	low	low
11	Good MG5 slope near top of steps		2	dark brown red	7.5	low	low +	low
12	Fruit tree area		1.5	black/brown with grey	7	low very	medium	medium

Scales

pH – 7 is neutral

the range of MG soils is from 6 – 7.5; neutral (one slightly alkaline) to slightly acid. In general the best wild flower areas have the higher pH but 6.5 is suitable for grassland.

Nitrate test - nitrogen (N)

Scale runs from - **low 0mg/l, medium to low 10mg/l, medium 20mg/l, to high 80mg/l**

The MG soils are all below 10mg/l and most were near 0mg/l

Phosphorus test –(P)

Scale runs from – **low 0.5mg/l, medium to low 10mg/l, medium 20mg/l to high 100mg/l**

The MG soils are all in the low category - some very low, some slightly higher marked +, except for 12.

Potassium test – (K)

Scale runs from – **low 0-50mg/l, medium to low 200mg/l, medium 400mg/l to high 900mg/l**

Except for 12 all the MG soils are low or medium to low.

The low N, P, K nutrient status is the best for wildflower grassland.

The tests were carried out with a Westminster professional soil test kit produced by West Meters Ltd.