# Site Analysis

| Site Strengths | Site Weaknesses | External Opportunities | External Challenges |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Size** – the largest remaining example of chalk heath in Great Britain<br><br>**Populations** – robust populations of all rare plant species<br><br>**Tenure** – site owned by water company whose priority is to protect subterranean aquifer<br><br>**Site in wider context** – the site is contiguous with a much larger tract of SSSI chalk grassland<br><br>**Demonstration** – an excellent demonstration/test site for range of management techniques<br><br>**Community Involvement** – strong links with local communities and high level of community "ownership"<br><br>**Public Access** - extensive network of public and permissive footpaths linking open access areas<br><br>**Visitor Appeal** - diverse visitor appeal - dramatic views, sense of isolation, historical interest and dramatic natural events such as spring / summer flowers | **Isolation** – although contiguous with chalk grassland, the site is very isolated from other chalk heath communities<br><br>**Conflict between public access & historical features** – Erosion of historical features by visitors<br><br>**Management restrictions** – water company ownership restricts range of management options, e.g. no use of herbicides<br><br>**Management issues** – complex mixture of grassland communities requires intensive management regimes | **Neighboring land use** – the site is bounded to the south by a Forestry Commission plantation where there are opportunities to reinstate chalk heath community, in co-operation with FC<br><br>**Access & Interpretation** – the NNR lies in an area with high levels of rural tourism with significant opportunity for joint interpretation, marketing and formulation of regional access strategy<br><br>**Information centre** – various derelict farm buildings in area provide potential for local information/interpretation centre<br><br>**Transport links** – opportunities for improved public transport links in association with South Downs Way and local country parks | **Diffuse pollution** – from intensively managed agricultural land to north, west and east of the NNR<br><br>**Agricultural uncertainty** – particularly over the local supply of grazing animals<br><br>**CRoW Access** – uncertainties over the impact of open access - new desire lines may form on areas of the reserve where access was formerly minimal |

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