

The reversion process

STAGE 1

Reducing nutrient levels

Spring and autumn crops grown and harvested, to draw the nutrients from the soil.

STAGE 2

Preparing the soil

Soil ploughed and a seed bed created. Seed bed cultivated until the soil is fine and firm.

STAGE 4

Cutting to encourage strong roots

During the first spring and summer the new vegetation, will be topped regularly to control weeds and encourage grasses to grow side-shoots and spread.

STAGE 5

Grazing

Sheep initially. This will help to continue to remove nutrients from the soil and reduce competition from grasses. Once established cattle will graze over the summer.

STAGE 3

Sowing the wildflower mix

Seed sown on the surface from summer through early autumn.

Why revert arable farmland to chalk downland?

Over thousands of years humans have adapted the land by using fertilisers and flattening the landscape. Due to intensive farming and development since WW2 the UK has lost more than

80% of our chalk grassland, along with many of the species that it supports. By creating more of this habitat and protecting it we help the unique plants and animals that live here to survive.