onto the soil. Lots of people walking across the ground will also do the job! You might need to deter birds for a few weeks

Step 9 - Keep the sward short and open during the winter by grazing or, if this is not possible, take a high cut (approx 6-8cm high) in early spring.

If yellow rattle has been sown, be careful not to graze or take the top off this annual plant which can germinate as early as February. Keep livestock numbers low and remove the animals once yellow rattle has appeared.

## Step 10a - Hay meadow management

For hay meadows and where yellow rattle has been sown, shut-up the field in early spring, removing livestock to allow plants to grow. Take a hay cut between mid-July and September. Do not expect to see many wild flowers in this first year following sowing, apart perhaps from yellow rattle and other annuals.

## Step 10b - Pasture management

For pastures, reduce the level of grazing during spring and summer to allow plants to grow. You can graze harder in the first year to keep the grass under control and encourage perennial wild flowers to create rosettes. Do not expect to see many wild flowers in this first year following sowing.

Step 11a - Hay meadow management A few weeks after the hay has been cut, graze the aftermath (i.e. the regrowth of the grass). Remove livestock if conditions become too wet and there is a risk of poaching.

Step 11b - Pasture management Increase level of grazing to reduce dead grass stalks and any autumn growth. Remove the stock if conditions become too wet (risk of

Step 12 - Continue with this regime as part of your annual hay meadow or pasture management. It may take many years for the wildflowers to grow and there is a typical ecological succession of species. If some species are not found after the first 5 years, you might want to think about using plug plants to enhance the sward or sowing seed into small scrapes, but wait until sufficient time has passed before trying this method as some seeds take a long time to germinate.

Even with all this care and attention it can be difficult to establish wildflowers in some sites. See common reasons why grassland restorations may not be successful for more help and guidance.

It's a very good idea to monitor your grassland to see if wildflowers are growing and whether its becoming more diverse over time. Various methods can be used such as Rapid Assessment or Fixed Point Quadrats

First year