

October report on key target option uptake in September 2010



The Campaign has two targets within Environmental Stewardship:

- To double the current uptake of key target Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) options from 39 671 ha (baseline) to 80 000ha (2012 target)
- To assist Natural England to achieve their target of 70% of utilisable agricultural area (UAA) in agri-environment schemes by March 2011

This report demonstrates how we are progressing towards meeting these targets based on data from September 2010. From this point onwards reports will be published on a monthly basis.

Key target options in ELS

There has been an overall increase in the area of key target options in ELS of 11% from July 2009 (baseline). The overall uptake figure in September is 43,617ha across 11,201 agreements compared to 42,381ha across 11,026 agreements in the August. Figure 1 shows the area covered by each key target option during 2009 and 2010.

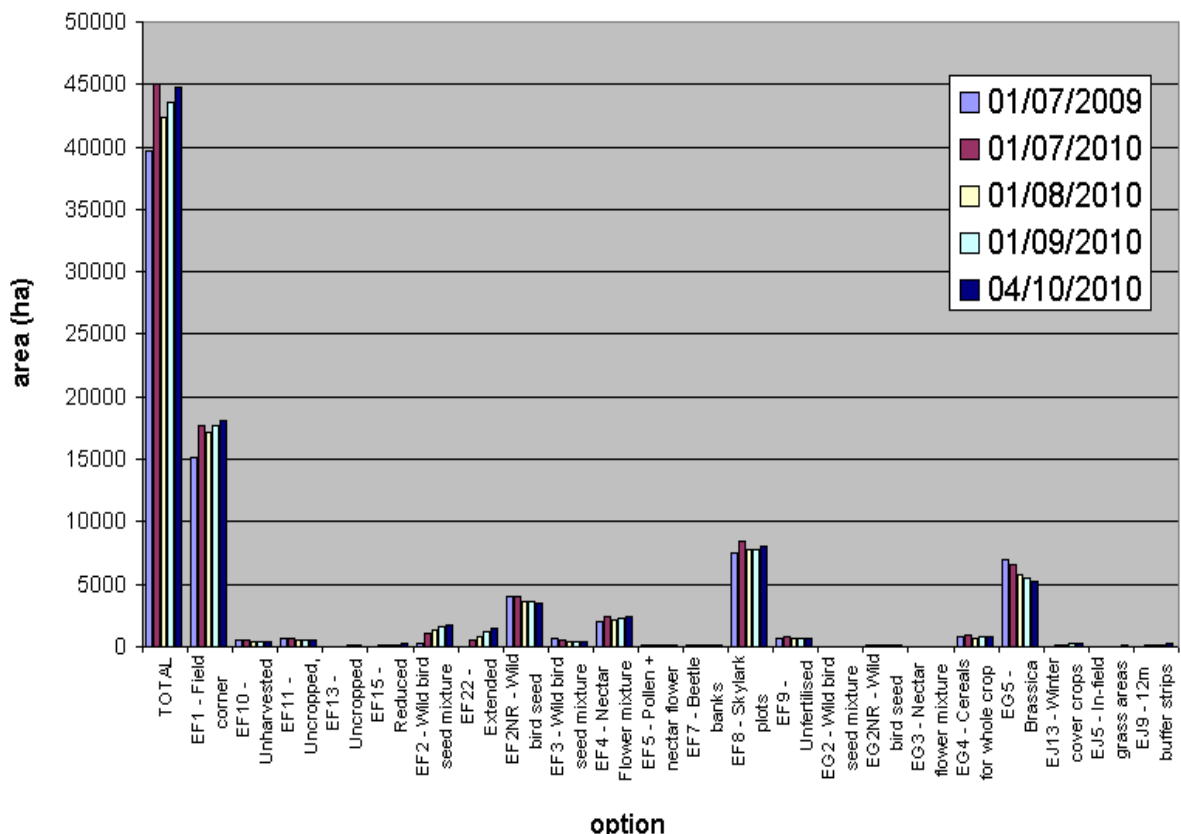


Figure 1. Area (ha) covered by key target ELS options

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It is encouraging to see that currently uptake of eight of the sixteen options has increased above the baseline as shown below. Table 1 highlights key target options in ELS that are falling below the 2009 baseline.

Options	Fall below 2009 baseline	Rise above 2009 baseline
EF1 – field corner management		✓
EF2 – wild bird seed mixture		✓
EF4 – nectar flower mixture		
EF7 – beetle banks		
EF8 – skylark plots		
EF9 – unfertilised cereal headlands	✓	
EF10 – un harvested cereal headlands	✓	
EF11 – un cropped cultivated margins	✓	
EF13 – un cropped, cultivated areas		✓
EF15 – reduced herbicide cereal crops followed by overwintered stubble		✓
EF22 – extended over wintered stubble		✓
EG3 – nectar flower mixtures in grassland areas	✓	
EG4 - cereals for whole crop silage followed by overwintered stubble	✓	
EJ5 – infield areas to prevent erosion/run off		✓
EJ9 – 12m buffer strips		✓
EJ13 – winter cover crops		✓

Table 1. Area (ha) covered by key target ELS options

Agreements that were due for renewal at 31 July for 1st August start date are not being renewed as quickly as originally anticipated. Factors effecting uptake and renewal include the following: retirement, restructuring the farm business, RPA mapping issues early exit from tenancies and restructuring tenancies, taking a break from ELS to tidy up their farms prior to renewal eg. thistle/weed control; to tidy up hedges; re-establish the ward, rising commodity prices and managing contractors and the loss of management plan points is an issue for those with few environmental features and where land is of high-yield potential.

UAA coverage

The target for UAA% coverage by 31 March 2011 is 70%. This equates to an area of 6 503 950 ha. The current UAA% figure is 69.2% which equates to 6 429 105 ha.

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Key target option uptake in the CFE target counties

The graphs below show the change in area of key target options for regions on a county basis.

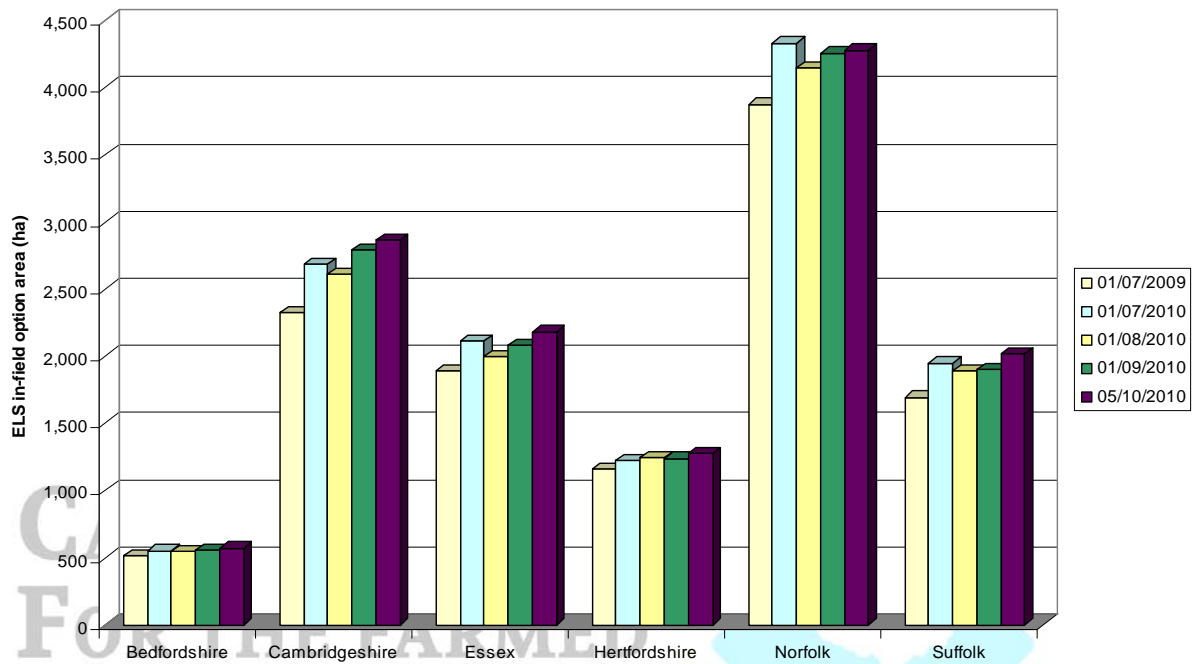


Figure 2. Change in area of key target options for Eastern region by county

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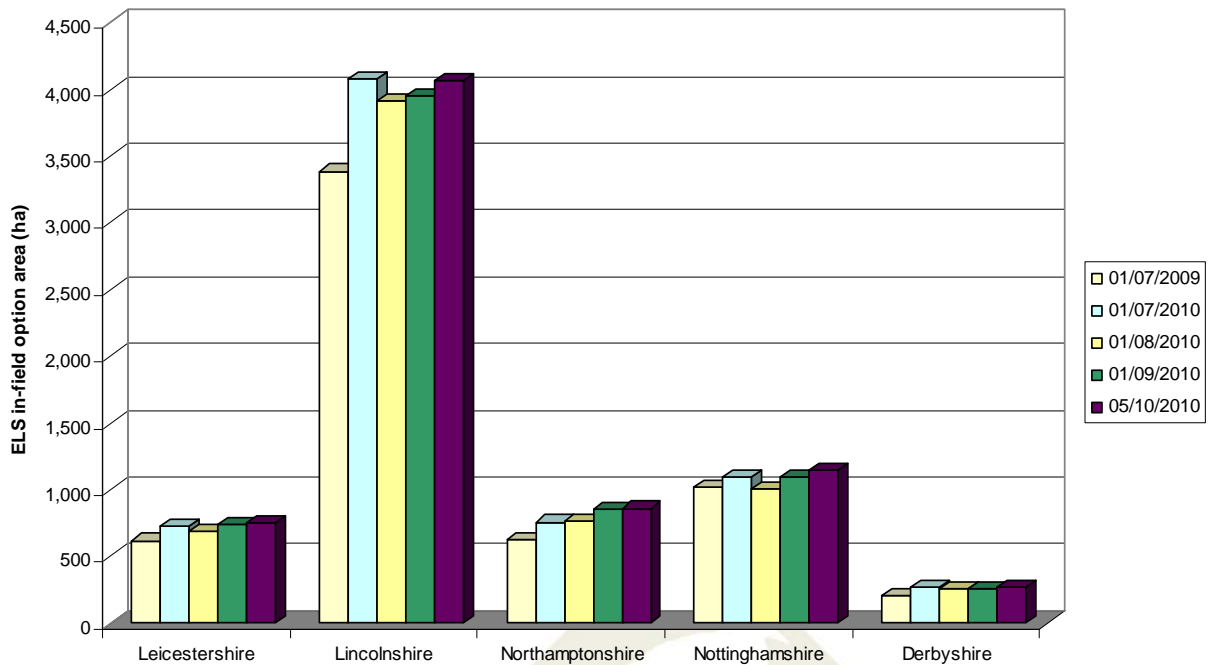


Figure 3. Change in area of key target options for East Midlands region by county

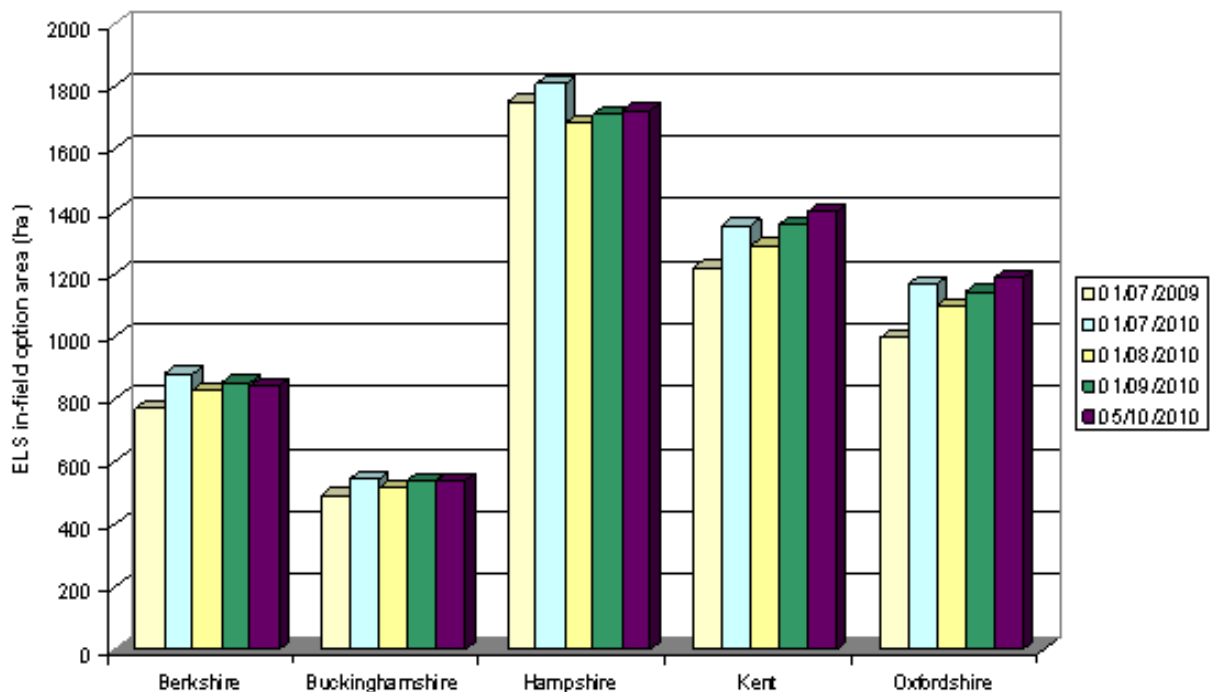


Figure 4. Change in area of key target options for South East region by county

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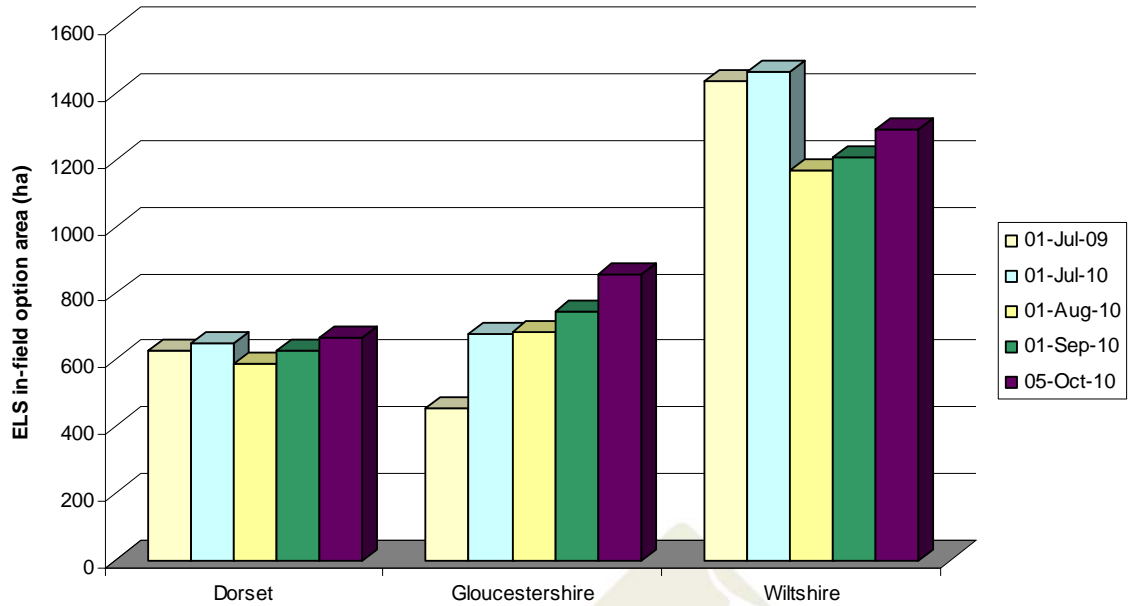


Figure 5. Change in area of key target options for South West region by county

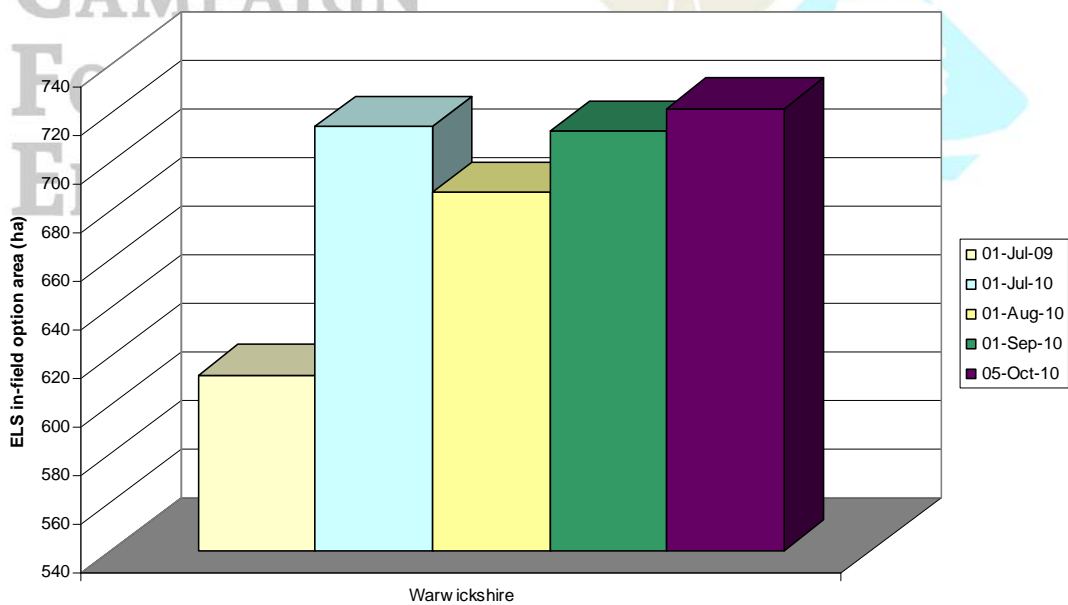


Figure 6. Change in area of key target options for Warwickshire

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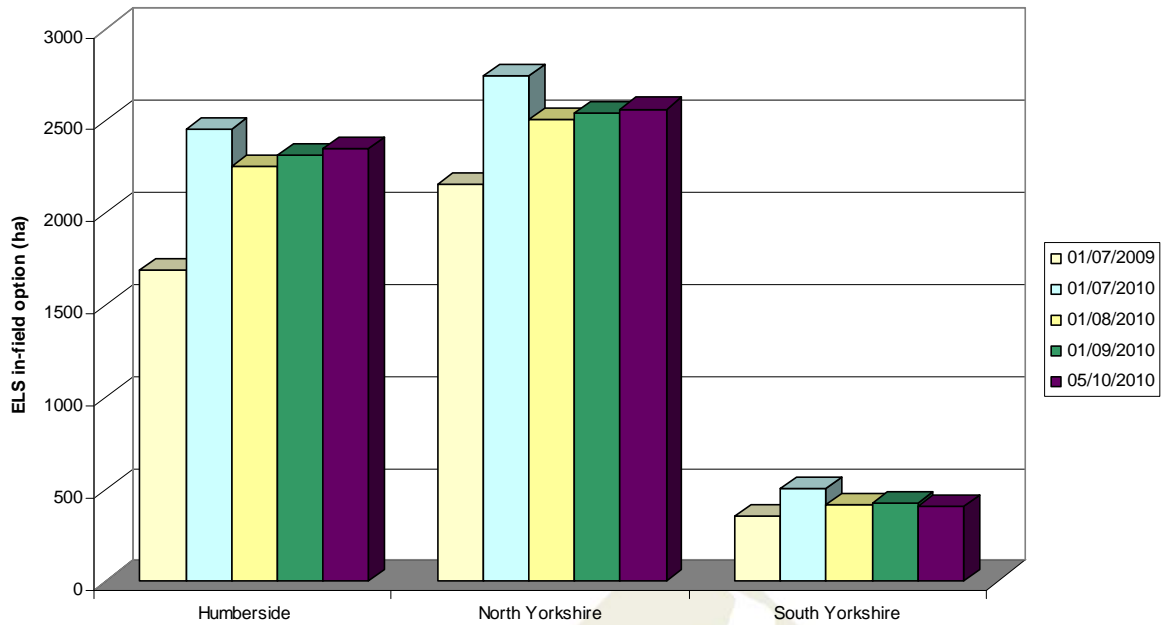


Figure 7. Change in area of key target options for Yorkshire region by county

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