

CAMPAIGN  
FOR THE FARMED  
ENVIRONMENT



## CFE County Priorities for Lowland Derbyshire

### 1. Aim

This document has been drawn together by the CFE Local Liaison Group for Derbyshire with input for all LLG members and their respective organisations. The aim is to ensure that all advisers and partners have a clear, concise and consistent message about the aims of CFE in Derbyshire that can be used by farmers and landowners to ensure their actions deliver maximum benefit to the environment. The action undertaken on each farm may differ depending on the farm type and enterprise.

### 2. County Overview

Lowland Derbyshire is made up of 5 character areas:

**Southern Magnesian Limestone:** thin band running from Thornborough in the north to South Notts, its geology has influenced many aspects of landscape eg limestone buildings, specialised limestone grasslands. Has important archaeological evidence and monuments. Open rolling arable farmland with plantation woodlands, estate and parklands. Hedgerows and limestone wall boundaries

**Notts, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield:** The impact of widespread industrialisation has helped define this area. Large urban populations provide opportunities to engage people with natural and historic environment. Rivers and waterways are an important feature in the landscape providing green corridors often linking rural and urban areas. Mixed farming is carried out with hedgerow boundaries.

**Trent Valley Washlands** – in the south of the county, 9 km at it's widest, mixed farming.

**Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands:** Pastoral and wooded landscape of rolling countryside. Grassland for livestock is dominant land use although arable cultivation occurs in the River Flood plains. Parklands feature and the internationally important Derwent Valley Mills. Ridge and furrow and watermeadow systems around the Dove add to heritage value. Hedgerow boundaries

**Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent:** The river valleys of the Derwent, Ecclesbourne and Amber have dominant influence on the landscape. Deciduous woodland limited to steep valley sides, blocks of coniferous woodland north of Matlock. Grassland for livestock is dominant land use (80%) with arable crops largely on shallow valley sides. Hedgerows on lower land, stone walls on ground above 200m

There are 44 ELS schemes due for renewal in 2014 and 202 in 2015. See Appendix 1 for further farm data

### 3. County designated sites

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Bee's Nest and Green Clay Pits 14.76 ha, Gang Mine 8.26 ha, Peak District Dales (part), River Mease

National Nature Reserves: Calke Park, Dovedale, Derbyshire Dales (part)

99 SSSI in Derbyshire (28 geological interest only) as a whole

### 4. County Priorities

The following sections aim to define the county priorities by theme.

#### a) Theme: Priority farmland habitats and description

Field margins – arable and intensive grass field margins protect water courses and provide habitat and food.

Hedgerows – multiple benefits to small mammals as well as insects and birds, providing nesting, shelter, feeding opportunities and wildlife corridors,

Stone walls – dry and lime mortared provide habitat and linkage

Local wildlife sites – these are where most areas of semi-natural habitat are on farms

Woodland – undermanaged but important habitat particularly old woodlands

Ponds – many have been lost so retaining the quality of existing ones is important

Hay meadows – BAP habitat

#### Any specific action required:

Margins - promote the retention of margins until CAP/NELMS are known. Encourage stacking of benefits eg use as pollinator habitat, LERAP and protection of water buffers, hunting ground for barn owls.

Hedgerows – particularly as ELS agreements end, encourage late cutting to leave berries into late winter and management of hedges in a variety of styles to support a variety of birds. Promote value of hedgerows with margins eg ideal for grey partridge nesting and feeding.

Stone walls – promote maintenance and retention

Local wildlife sites – management advice to landowners.

Buffer and increase the management of ponds and woodlands

Hay meadows – provide advice on best management

## Relevant CFE Options

- VM1 - Grass buffers
- VM2 – In-field grass strips
- VM3 – Management of maize to avoid erosion
- VM4 - Water course fencing
- VM5 – Winter cover crops
- VM17 – Field corners
- VM18 – Beetle banks
- VM19 – Fertiliser-free permanent pasture
- VM20 – Arable land reverted to grass

### b) Theme: Priority species and requirements

Farmland birds - winter food, insect rich foraging areas in the summer, nesting habitat for ground and hedge nesting birds

Barn owls: nest boxes, hunting ground eg rough grass, especially near to hedge lines

Bees/butterflies – food source, shelter, nesting habitat

Water voles – un-polluted watercourses, protection from non native species

Grass snakes -

Brown hares -

#### Any specific action required:

Promote use and stacking value of voluntary measures

Provide information on best practice and management of conservation areas

Provide information on the needs of all species at threat to enable beneficial management of habitats to meet their needs

Predator control

## Relevant CFE Options:

- VM1 - Grass buffers
- VM2 – In-field grass strips
- VM6 – Wildflower mix
- VM7 – Pollen & nectar mix
- VM8 - Legume and herb rich temporary grass
- VM9 – Ryegrass seed for birds
- VM10 – Wild bird seed mix and maize-free game mix
- VM11 – Skylark plots
- VM12 – Lapwing plots
- VM13 – Unsprayed and/or unfertilised cereal headlands
- VM14 – Cultivated margins
- VM15 - Over wintered stubbles
- VM16 - Winter feeding for farmland birds
- VM17 – Field Corners
- VM18 – Beetle banks
- VM19 – Fertiliser-free permanent pasture
- VM20 – Arable land reverted to grass
- VM21 – Selective use of spring herbicides
- VM22 – Brassica fodder crops

### **c) Theme: priority river catchments**

Parts of Derbyshire fall within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, mainly to the south and east.

Ecclesbourne

Derwent

Melbourne triangle

Lower Trent, MMB and Doe Lea catchments already have ongoing projects/focus so not included as a CFE priority although, CFE will support these and other relevant projects as opportunities/requests arise.

#### **Any specific action required:**

Obtain more specific data with regard to metaldehyde problems within catchments

Promote better water quality through practical measures such as fencing off water courses.

Provide advice to reduce diffuse and point source water pollution, focussing on best farming practise eg cultivation methods and use of Tried and Tested

Work with existing and new projects within catchments to share resources and knowledge

#### **Relevant CFE Options:**

- VM1 - Grass buffers
- VM2 – In-field grass strips
- VM3 – Management of maize to avoid erosion
- VM4 - Water course fencing
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## 5. Action Plan

| CFE Local priority   | Delivery action  | Delivered by  | Target area   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Priority species particularly Bees/butterflies and Farmland Birds  | Provide Information on habitats and needs of pollinators and birds alongside promoting voluntary measures.   | Holding joint events with partners eg Kings, Syngenta, FAS to promote best practise management and link in with CAP greening  | County wide   |
| Priority habitats particularly field margins with additional benefits for other habitats: woodlands, ponds, watercourses | Promote retention of margins under greening. Encourage stacking of benefits eg pollinator habitat, LERAP and protection of water buffers, hunting ground for barn owls.                            | Promotional events run with partners eg FAS to show link in to CAP greening.<br><br>Case study to demonstrate contribution to both greening and wildlife  | County wide   |
| River Catchments   | Work closely with new and existing catchment groups to share knowledge and resources and promote good water quality including using voluntary measures alongside good nutrient and soil management | Promotional events run with catchment partners.<br><br>Promoting use of Tried and Tested<br><br>Case study to demonstrate cost savings of good soil/nutrient management in addition to achieving good water quality | Ecclesbourne<br><br>Derwent<br><br>Melbourne Triangle |

## APPENDIX 1

| Farm Data for Derbyshire based on Defra June 2010 data |                |                   |               |                    |               |               |                |                |               |                |
|--|----------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
|  | No of holdings | Total Farmed Area | Cereals       | Other Arable Crops | Fruit and Veg | Grass land    | Cattle         | Sheep          | Pigs          | Poultry        |
| High Peak  | 438            | 40,005            |               | 7                  |               | 39,564        | 18,809         | 119,022        | 8,328         | 17,572         |
| Derbyshire Dales                                       | 1,023          | 64,185            | 3,667         | 1,683              | 13            | 57,329        | 84,668         | 180,066        | 19,360        | 582,170        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1,461</b>   | <b>104,190</b>    | <b>3,667</b>  | <b>1,690</b>       | <b>13</b>     | <b>96,893</b> | <b>103,477</b> | <b>299,088</b> | <b>27,688</b> | <b>599,742</b> |
| Amber Valley   | 363            | 17,539            | 2,622         | 825                |               | 13,511        | 24,480         | 24,850         | 2,919         | 28,469         |
| South Derbyshire                                       | 354            | 22,916            | 6,849         | 3,330              | 74            | 10,941        | 24,387         | 25,388         | 2,708         | 380,322        |
| Erewash & Derby  | 123            | 5,536             | 1,522         | 767                |               | 2,965         | 4,592          | 3,837          | 585           | 1,738          |
| Bolsover   | 128            | 9,550             | 4,677         | 1,740              |               | 2,779         | 4,518          | 4,867          | 5,269         |                |
| Chesterfield & NE                                      | 429            | 18,782            | 4,570         | 1,566              | 12            | 11,469        | 19,965         | 12,432         | 5,650         | 132,828        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1397</b>    | <b>74,323</b>     | <b>20,240</b> | <b>8,228</b>       | <b>86</b>     | <b>41,665</b> | <b>77,942</b>  | <b>71,374</b>  | <b>17,131</b> | <b>543,357</b> |

### Farm Data for Derbyshire based on Defra June 2010 data

|            | Farm size - number of holdings |         |          |           |          |                      |
|------------|--------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|----------------------|
|            | < 5ha                          | 5<20 ha | 20<50 ha | 50<100 ha | >=100 ha | Total No of holdings |
| Derbyshire | 228                            | 889     | 715      | 546       | 480      | 2858                 |

|            | Farm size - area |         |          |           |          |                   |
|------------|------------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
|            | < 5ha            | 5<20 ha | 20<50 ha | 50<100 ha | >=100 ha | Total Farmed Area |
| Derbyshire | 416              | 9810    | 24024    | 38977     | 105285   | 178512            |

|            | Land use |       |        |            |            |               |          |
|------------|----------|-------|--------|------------|------------|---------------|----------|
|            | Rented   | Owned | Arable | Temp Grass | Perm Grass | Rough Grazing | Woodland |
| Derbyshire | 78159    | 92982 | 34967  | 12292      | 100683     | 25583         | 3367     |

|            | Number of livestock on holdings |           |        |        |       |        |         |
|------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
|            | Dairy Cattle                    | Non Dairy | Pigs   | Sheep  | Goats | Horses | Poultry |
| Derbyshire | 75260                           | 106160    | 181420 | 370463 | 960   | 4012   | 948319  |

|            | Arable Crops area (ha) |          |            |             |                      |      |                      |       |        |
|------------|------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|----------------------|------|----------------------|-------|--------|
|            | Cereals                | Potatoes | Sugar Beet | Field Beans | Peas for dry harvest | OSR  | Crops for Stock feed | Maize | Fallow |
| Derbyshire | 23958                  | 435      |            | 3057        |                      | 5631 | 310                  | 2166  | 4103   |