

CAMPAIGN
FOR THE FARMED
ENVIRONMENT



CFE County Priorities for Nottinghamshire

1. Aim

This document has been drawn together by the CFE Local Liaison Group for Nottinghamshire 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 Nottinghamshire 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

The County has 2 key landscape areas:

Trent and Belvoir Vales is the larger and characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. Generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported diversity of farming so little semi-natural habitat remains. River Trent is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife.

Sherwood extends north from Nottingham, coinciding with an outcrop of sandstone which forms a belt of gently rolling hills and is characterised by large estate parklands, heathland, open arable land and a strong mining heritage. The area lies on aquifer which supplies water to the East Midlands region.

Most farms are over 100 ha in size, which cover over 80% of the farmed area and are arable – see Appendix one for more information.

There are 22 ELS schemes due to expire in 2014, 10 in the first 6 months of 2015 and 199 in the last 6 months of 2015.

3. County designated sites

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Birklands and Billhaugh

Two National Nature Reserves: Muston Meadows (20 ha) and Sherwood Forest (424 ha)

47 SSSI covering 2,442 ha

The Humberhead Levels NIA Partnership Area covers the area to the north of the A634 in North Notts

See appendix 2 for details of ELS priority farmland bird and resource protection areas

4. County Priorities

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

a) Theme: Priority farmland habitats and description

Field margins – arable field margins are a BAP priority habitat but ones at the edge of intensive grass fields also help to protect water courses and provide grass seed for birds.

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

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

Watercourses – those that regularly hold running water can provide habitat for amphibians and help to support declining farmland birds eg reed bunting

Any specific action required:

Promote retention of margins until CAP/NELMS are known. Encourage stacking of benefits eg 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.

Local wildlife sites – management advice to landowners

Buffer and increase the management of ponds, woodlands and watercourses

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

Barn owl – nest boxes, hunting ground eg rough grass, especially near to hedge lines

Harvest mouse – hedge bottoms

Bats - hedgerows

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

Bees/butterflies – food source, shelter, nesting habitat

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

White clawed crayfish - un-polluted watercourses, protection from non native species

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

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

All of Nottinghamshire falls within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

River Idle catchment – has water quality issues

Maun and Meden are part of the wider Idle Catchment but are highlighted as a priority as this area has sediment, surface water and phosphate issues.

NB Fairham Brook and Erewash 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 Notts catchments

Promote voluntary measures that support better water quality

Provide advice to reduce diffuse and point source water pollution

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
- VM5 – Winter cover crops
- VM17 – Field corners
- VM18 – Beetle banks
- VM19 – Fertiliser-free permanent pasture
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5. Action Plan

CFE Local priority	Delivery action	Delivered by	Target area
Priority species particularly Pollinators 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	All of the county so 2 events one covering north and west and one covering south/east.
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. Case study to demonstrate contribution of buffers to both greening and wildlife	County wide
River Catchments	Work closely with new 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. Case study to demonstrate cost value of good soil/nutrient management in addition to achieving good water quality	Maun and Meden Sub Catchment of Idle Lower Trent sub Catchment

APPENDIX 1

Farm Data for Nottinghamshire based on Defra June 2009 data

Farm size - number of holdings						
	< 5ha	5<20 ha	20<50 ha	50<100 ha	>=100 ha	Total No of holdings
South Notts	36	112	103	92	139	482
North Notts	78	254	174	150	323	979
Total	114	366	277	242	462	1,461

Farm size - area						
	< 5ha	5<20 ha	20<50 ha	50<100 ha	>=100 ha	Total Farmed Area
South Notts	76	1 254	3 386	6 728	29 452	40 895
North Notts	162	2 733	6 004	11 070	79 934	99 902
Total	238	3,987	9,390	17,798	109,386	140,797

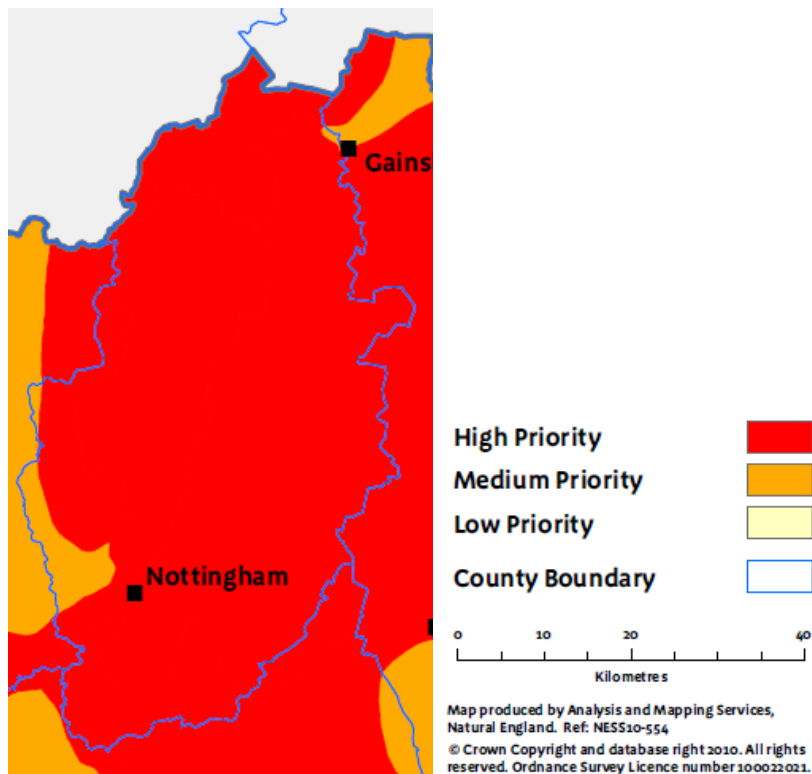
Land use							
	Rented	Owned	Arable	Temp Grass	Perm Grass	Rough Grazing	Woodland
South Notts	16 954	23 548	26 189	2 701	9 536	106	781
North Notts	37 638	65 164	73 340	4 995	13 865	233	2 123
Total	54 592	88 712	99 529	7 696	23 401	339	2 904

Number of livestock on holdings							
	Dairy Cattle	Non Dairy	Pigs	Sheep	Goats	Horses	Poultry
South Notts	4 485	11967	19 161	22 802	2 142	1 291	503 062
North Notts	8 931	23600	53 661	42 136	276	1 703	3 261 552
Total	13 416	35 567	72 822	64 938	2 418	2 994	3 764 614

Arable Crops area (ha)									
	Cereals	Potatoes	Sugar Beef	Field Beans	Peas for dry harvesting	OSR	Crops for Stock feed	Maize	Fallow
South Notts	15 548	321	883	1 031	183	5 807	94	737	926
North Notts	43 030	2 032	3 895	2 026	668	14 929	543	1 342	3 177
Total	58 578	2 353	4 778	3 057	851	20 736	637	2 079	4 103

APPENDIX 2 - ELS Priority Areas

ELS Priority Areas for Farmland Birds in Notts



ELS Priority Areas for Water and Soil Protection in Notts

