



## CFE County Priorities for Hampshire

### 1. Aim

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

Hampshire has a diverse geology and landform with a corresponding diversity of landscape, habitat and farming types. The county has a wealth of habitats ranging from ancient woodland, heathland, farmland, water meadows, chalk grassland and coastal habitats amongst others. There are 11 County Character Areas in Hampshire, and they are as follows:

Hampshire Downs

Mid Hampshire Downs

South Hampshire Downs

Cranborne Chase

North Hampshire Lowland and Heath

Western Weald Lowland and Heath

South Hampshire Lowland and Heath

New Forest Lowland and Heath

New Forest Coast

South Hampshire Coast

Avon, Test, Itchen and Meon River Valleys

Hampshire has a wealth of protected species and important wildlife habitats. To help protect these special places over 3,800 sites have been designated as local wildlife sites, which in

Hampshire are known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation - SINCs. The richness of habitats in Hampshire is reflected in the wide range of species found.

The UK Biodiversity Programme has identified 1288 species of national conservation concern, and of these, 489 priority species require urgent conservation action. Of the 489 national priority species, 196 are found in Hampshire, and the audit has identified an additional 248 priority species which are particularly important in the local context.

Hampshire has two National parks – the New Forest and the South Downs, two Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONB's) the Wessex Downs and the North Wessex Downs.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated to protect examples of Britain's most valuable wildlife habitats. In Hampshire there are 118 SSSI's, covering 48,000 ha – some 13% of the land area. This is about twice the national average of 6.8%. Many of the SSSIs have been recognised for their international importance too: 41,700 ha (about 11 % of Hampshire) have been designated (or are proposed) as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Designated Nature Conservation Sites in Hampshire.

#### DESIGNATION SITES in AREA for HAMPSHIRE.

New Forest National Park 37,500 Ha

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) 400 Ha

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) proposed/designated 124 Ha

Ramsar Sites 250 Ha

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) 500 Ha

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) 34 Ha

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) 48,600 Ha

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) 25,909 Ha

#### **HABITATS WITHIN HAMPSHIRE**

Calcareous grassland is species-rich and occurs on chalk or limestone. This habitat in Hampshire is very fragmented and mostly confined to the steep slopes of the central downs and the chalk escarpment in the north. Less than 2,800 ha - 5% of the UK resource - now remains.

Woodland in Hampshire covers around 67,000 hectares, which is 17.7 % of the county and so makes Hampshire a relatively wooded English county, with only Surrey and West Sussex having more woodland. (Surrey is the most wooded at 22.4% while Cambridgeshire at 3.5% is the least wooded.) About 28,000 hectares of this woodland is classified as "Ancient" having had a continuous history of woodland cover since the year 1600.

Farmland makes up around 85% of Hampshire's countryside (approximately 50% arable and 35% in grassland)

Hampshire is blessed with a rich and diverse variety of rivers and wetlands, including a significant number of groundwater-fed chalk rivers, which are of national and international importance for nature conservation. The combined length of rivers and streams in Hampshire is 1125km, including 632km of braided chalk rivers.

This area of coastline is on paper, well protected with three Special Protection Areas - Solent & Southampton Water, Portsmouth Harbour and Chichester & Langstone Harbours. These sites are additionally designated as 'Wetlands of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention (commonly known as Ramsar sites). Both designations include recognition of the international importance of the Solent harbours and estuaries for wintering water bird assemblages, and/or individually important populations of one or more species. Together they support a total wintering population of around 150,000 birds.

The UK has approximately 20% of Europe's remaining lowland heath, however over ninety percent of Hampshire's heathlands outside the New Forest have been lost since the late 1800s, so that today we have a total area within the county of approximately 13,000 hectares. Heathland in Hampshire is classified as 'lowland heathland', a diverse mosaic of dry, damp or wet habitats found up to 300m above sea level. A defining characteristic of heathland is nutrient-poor acidic soil, often sandy and free draining. Few plants can flourish on these types of soil, which means that those species tolerant of these conditions have an advantage.

Hampshire's heathlands are almost totally confined to four of areas which are known as the New Forest, the Dorset Heaths (Ringwood Forest), the London Basin (known as the Thames Basin) and the Wealden Greensand. There are further, more fragmented heaths to be found in the south coast plain and Hampshire lowlands. Most areas of lowland heathland are now protected by national and international designations. Hampshire includes parts of three heathland Special Protection Areas (SPA) and five Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). A number of heathland areas in Hampshire are designated as 'Special Protection Areas' under the European 'Birds Directive' because of populations of rare birds that breed on them.

### **3. County Priorities**

The following sections aim to define the county priorities by theme. Please note this should be broken down further than county level where relevant.

## AIM: To create a complex system that has the capacity to buffer change

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

(Ancient/Species rich hedgerows)
(Ancient/Native woodland/wet woodland)
Unimproved grassland/lowland meadow
Arable & grass margins
Species rich chalk grassland
(Heathland)
(Wetlands/grazing marsh/reedbed)
(Parkland & Wood pasture)

Any specific action required:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To embed environmental management as core principle of all farm business</li> <li>• To identify, assess, protect, buffer, extend and link habitats and features on the farm</li> <li>• No net loss principle</li> <li>• Seek advice when you need it</li> <li>• Implement and measure indicators of success</li> </ul>

ES			CFE		
Code	Description	Rate	Code	Description	
EB3	Enhanced hedgerow management	42/100m			
HC7	Woodland Man on SNAW	100/ha			
EK1&3	Field corners & Very low input grassland	400 & 150/ha	VM19	Fertiliser free permanent grassland	
EK5	Mixed stocking	9/ha			
EE22	Supp for wildflowers to grass corners/buffers	63/ha	VM6	Wildflower mix	
EF1	Management of field corners	400/ha	VM17	Field corners	
EF2	Wild bird seed mixture	450/ha	VM10	Wild bird seed mix & maize-free game strips	
EF4	Nectar flower mixture	450/ha	VM7	Pollen & Nectar Mix	
			VM13	Unsprayed and/or unfertilised cereal headlands	
EF6	Overwinter stubble	120/ha	VM15	Over winter stubbles	
EF7	Beetle banks	580/ha	VM18	Beetle banks	
EF8	Skylark plots	5 ea	VM11	Skylark plots	
			VM12	Lapwing plots	

<b>EF10</b>	Unharvested cereal headlands	<b>330/ha</b>		
<b>EF11</b>	Uncropped cultivated margins	<b>400/ha</b>	<b>VM14</b>	Cultivated margins
<b>EF15</b>	Reduced herbicide cereals followed by OWS	<b>195/ha</b>		
<b>EF22</b>	Extended OWS	<b>410/ha</b>		

### Priority species and requirements

Corn Bunting - invertebrate chick food, open landscape, no trees

Grey Partridge – ground nesting tussocky grassland

Lapwing – short sward and damp grass with bare mud for inverts

Yellow Wagtail – mixed farm, open sward & wet grassland for insects

Tree sparrow - mixed farm with trees, scrub, buildings for nest holes

Turtle Dove – taller hedges with trees

(Linnet, yellowhammer, reed bunting, skylark)

Brown Hare – mixed livestock & arable farming

Hazel Dormouse – Hazel woodland

Water Vole – unpolluted, vegetated, slow flowing ditch network with NO MINK

Bat sp. – woodland and water

Native plant species – scrub management, grazing/cutting/no inputs regime

Arable plants – reduced/no herbicide & fertiliser regime

Any specific action required:

- Ideally a mixed farming system with grass, diverse habitats plus winter and spring cropping
- Habitat protection and appropriate management + wildlife corridors for mammal species

### Relevant AES and equivalent CFE options for Species

ES			CFE	
Code	Description	Rate	Code	Description
<b>EG1</b>	Undersown spring cereals	<b>200/ha</b>		
<b>EG4</b>	Cereals for whole crop silage followed by OWS	<b>230/ha</b>		
<b>EK1&amp;3</b>	Field corners & Very low input grassland	<b>400 &amp; 150/ha</b>	<b>VM19</b>	Fertiliser free permanent grassland
<b>EK20</b>	Ryegrass seed-set	<b>80/ha</b>	<b>VM9</b>	Ryegrass seed for birds
<b>EK21</b>	Legume & herb rich sward	<b>200/ha</b>	<b>VM8</b>	Legume & herb rich temporary grass
<b>EK5</b>	Mixed stocking	<b>9/ha</b>		
<b>EE22</b>	Supp for wildflowers to grass corners/buffers	<b>63/ha</b>	<b>VM6</b>	Wildflower mix
<b>EF1</b>	Management of field corners	<b>400/ha</b>	<b>VM17</b>	Field corners
<b>EF2</b>	Wild bird seed mixture	<b>450/ha</b>	<b>VM10</b>	Wild bird seed mix & maize-free game strips
<b>EF4</b>	Nectar flower mixture	<b>450/ha</b>	<b>VM7</b>	Pollen & Nectar Mix
			<b>VM13</b>	Unsprayed and/or unfertilised cereal headlands
<b>EF6</b>	Overwinter stubble	<b>120/ha</b>	<b>VM15</b>	Over winter stubbles
<b>EF7</b>	Beetle banks	<b>580/ha</b>	<b>VM18</b>	Beetle banks
<b>EF8</b>	Skylark plots	<b>5 ea</b>	<b>VM11</b>	Skylark plots
			<b>VM12</b>	Lapwing plots
<b>EF10</b>	Unharvested cereal headlands	<b>330/ha</b>		
<b>EF11</b>	Uncropped cultivated margins	<b>400/ha</b>	<b>VM14</b>	Cultivated margins
<b>EF15</b>	Reduced herbicide cereals followed by OWS	<b>195/ha</b>		

<b>EF22</b>	Extended OWS	<b>410/ha</b>		
			<b>VM20</b>	Arable land reverted to grass

## Soil & Water within Hampshire.

Any specific action required:

- Best practice in nutrient planning, storage, application.
- Improved farm infrastructure for slurry & FYM storage, clean/dirty water separation, pesticide handling & washdown facilities
- Best practice to improve soil organic matter, prevent soil erosion, compaction, run-off, reduce phosphate travelling on soil particles in to water courses, increased infiltration and storage of water, soil biology.
- Effective buffer strips on all water courses
- Best practice in Metaldehyde planning/use – pellet application calibration/use
- Precision farming techniques, alternatives to bagged N, crop choice and timing, reduction of long unbroken slopes, contour ploughing, retention of grassland.

For contact details : [Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers](#)

## Relevant AES and equivalent CFE options for rivers/watercourses

ES			CFE	
Code	Description	Rate	Code	Description
<b>EE1-10</b>	2,4 & 6m bufferstrips		<b>VM1</b>	Grass buffer strips on watercourse/pond
<b>EJ2</b>	Management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion	<b>18/ha</b>	<b>VM3</b>	Management of Maize to avoid erosion
<b>EJ5</b>	Infield grass areas to prevent erosion & run off	<b>454/ha</b>	<b>VM2</b>	In-field grass strips to avoid erosion
<b>EJ9</b>	12m buffer for watercourses on cultivated land	<b>400/ha</b>		
<b>EJ10</b>	Enhanced management of maize crops	<b>94/ha</b>		
<b>EJ11</b>	Maintenance of watercourse fencing	<b>4/100m</b>	<b>VM4</b>	Watercourse fencing
<b>EJ13</b>	Winter cover crops	<b>65/ha</b>	<b>VM5</b>	Winter cover crops

## Other county priorities not already covered

*List any priority catchments within the area and particular issues associated*

- Groundwater protection zones
- Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
- Land liable to flooding

Any specific action required

- Follow the Defra Code of Good Agricultural Practice
- Use RB209 / Planet / Manner / agronomist for crop input calculations
- Comply with current regulation and legislation
- Carry out nutrient, manure, pesticide, soil and water management planning