

CFE LOCAL PRIORITISATION DOCUMENT

North Yorkshire

Aim

This document has been drawn together by the CFE Local Liaison Group for North Yorkshire 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 Environmental aims of CFE in North Yorkshire 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.

Introduction to the area

North Yorkshire is a diverse county with large areas of uplands in the Moors and Dales alongside prime arable land in the vales of York, Mowbray, Pickering and surrounding areas.

DEFRA agricultural statistics reflect this diversity, in 2010 they indicate there was 618,214 ha of farmed land made up of 238,088 ha of arable/ GAEC12 land, 32,306 ha of temporary grassland, 235,675 ha permanent grassland, 88,934 ha rough grazing and 13,383 ha woodland. The county had 6,268,767 head of poultry, 1,672,316 sheep, 627,217 pigs and 398,839 cattle.

Agriculture contributed £913 million (1.00%) to the economy of Yorkshire and the Humber region in 2011 and employed 1.25 per cent of the total workforce in 2010.

DEFRA data shows the farmland bird indices for the Yorkshire and Humber region declined by 1% in period 1994-2008 (11% decline nationally) while indices for all birds increased by 22% in the same period (3% nationally)

The area has major water catchments running from the uplands to the Humber estuary. These rivers are showing improvements in water quality with salmon now frequenting parts of the Humber and Tees catchments as well as the Esk. We still have issues associated with diffuse pollution which are being addressed by local activity listed below.

Existing Local delivery activity

The Catchment Sensitive farming (CSF) initiative covers a significant proportion of the county with dedicated officers and access to capital grants on the Nidd, Ouse and Swale, Esk and Derwent catchments. This complements the wider availability of grants and advice available through Natural England and the Environmental Stewardship Schemes and future schemes in development.

North Yorkshire has two National Parks and two lowland AONBs who have staff working with farmers and landowners. A significant element of this work is in the SDA which is outside of our remit there is still areas where there will be common aims and objectives with CFE around the fringes of Moors, Dales and Nidderdale and all of Howardian Hills.

The local Beelines initiative is identifying opportunities for pollinators and particularly corridors within the county. Cornfield flowers project promotes action to support rare arable flora in North east of Yorkshire.

Rivers Trusts are becoming increasingly active within the county and will have a key role to play in the catchment based approach.

The Farm Advice Service is offering advice to farmers/landowners on general cross compliance, nutrient management and farm efficiency.

Wider industry bodies such as the levy boards, partner organisations, suppliers and distributors provide farmers and landowners with advice and support that complements the work of CFE.

Regional priorities

The vales of York, Mowbray, Selby and Harrogate are identified by Natural England as high priority areas for farmland birds. Vale of Pickering is medium priority. Priority species include grey partridge; corn bunting; lapwing; turtle dove; tree sparrow; yellow wagtail.

Existing species rich grasslands are a priority across the area as per CFEs 7 point plan. Local priorities include the Southern Magnesian Limestone Ridge grasslands (Bedale, Ripon, Staveley, Knaresborough, Green Hammerton) and Jurassic Limestone Ridge, wet grassland areas include Cayton & Flixton Carrs, floodplain for Swale and Ure. Wet grassland supports important regional breeding populations of lapwing, redshank, curlew, snipe, yellow wagtail.

The vale of Mowbray and the western side of the vale of York are identified by Natural England as high priority for butterflies, bees and vulnerable grassland. South of York and Vale of Pickering are medium priority areas. Priority areas associated with Beelines work to create corridors for pollinators.

Vale of York, Mowbray and south of York also Vale of Pickering are high priority areas for water voles, dragonflies, newts and toads.

Local priority areas around Selby area and Vale of Pickering for rare arable flora often farm specific and associated with Cornfield flowers project.

Whole county is a priority for measures to protect waterbodies. Priorities for groundwater defined by NVZ data. Focus more specifically around biodiversity objectives and achieving multiple benefits.

Regional CFE priority	Delivery action	Delivered by & geographical area
Promoting actions to provide the big 3 for farmland birds	Events focused on management for farmland birds i.e. nectar flower mixes/	CFE/Partners – High priority areas for birds

	WBS mixes	
Promoting the importance of wet grasslands particularly for flood alleviation and considering the scope for more grassland/different land uses on land prone to flooding.	Events focused on wet grassland Exchange tour to example of best practice	CFE, Partners – A66 corridor, ouse and swale, Cayton & Flixton carrs, Long Preston.
Improving riparian habitats for BAP species Considering scope for tackling invasive species through partnership approach	Events looking at how we can achieve multiple objectives (RP, Biodiversity, economic) through riparian management Highlighting examples of best practice	Rivers Trusts, CSF, EA – location linked to biodiversity priorities i.e. Salmonids, bats, insects, water voles.
Promote actions to protect watercourses and surface water	Events with specific resource protection theme and linked to VI/T&T and general input use	CFE/FAS/CSF – County wide Standalone CFE events outside CSF target areas
Promoting the importance of woodlands and trees as part of whole farm environmental management	Including woodland elements in CFE events and as part of best practice	CFE/ Forestry Commission
Action to promote value of grasslands particularly for pollinators Action to promote importance of pollinators and measures to promote them	Events on pollinators and local publicity Events looking at whole farm approach for pollinators considering winter and summer requirements for pollinators	CFE/Buglife/Industry partners – Magnesium limestone, Industry partners, Buglife Cornfield flowers project
Improving farm profitability to make more room for wildlife	Events looking at precision farming techniques and the optimum use of inputs. Linking to GGAP and considering most appropriate land uses.	CFE/Industry partners – prioritise to areas where clear environmental focus i.e. farmland bird priority areas where objective to deliver more farmland bird options.