



CFE LOCAL PRIORITISATION DOCUMENT

South & West Yorkshire

Aim

This document has been drawn together by the CFE Local Liaison Group for South & West Yorkshire with input from 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 South and West 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

South & West Yorkshire are diverse counties with large areas of uplands in the Pennines and the edge of the Peak District alongside prime arable land in the lower lying areas on the Humberhead levels where 43% of the land is grade 1 or 2. The area has a strong urban influence which offers both opportunities and added pressures.

DEFRA 2010 agricultural statistics highlight the range of farming types on the 2930 holdings in the area. In 2010 there was 174,030 ha of farmed land made up of 68,344ha of arable/GAEC12 land, 10191ha of temporary grassland, 67,901ha permanent grassland, 20,956ha rough grazing and 3194ha woodland. The counties had 809,101 head of poultry, 255,084sheep, 91,248 pigs, 18,023 breeding dairy cows and 44,765 beef cattle.

The total workforce in agriculture in 2010 was 6808. 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)

Existing local delivery activity

The Environmental Stewardship Scheme offers support for environmental work across the area. This is now closed to new applicants (apart from certain exceptions) while future schemes are developed.

The area has two Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) on Humberhead levels and Dearne Valley.

Rivers Trusts are becoming increasingly active within the county and will have a key role to play in the catchment based approach. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust also operates in the area with their own holding at Stirley Farm.

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, buying groups, internal Drainage Boards partner organisations, suppliers and distributors provide farmers and landowners with advice and support that complements the work of CFE.



Regional priorities

The A1 corridor is a priority for farmland birds, this is a narrow corridor in west Yorkshire but in South Yorks incorporates all the land to the East of the A1 and approx. 2-3 miles to the west. Priority birds include grey partridge; corn bunting; lapwing; turtle dove; tree sparrow; yellow wagtail

The Southern Magnesium limestone ridge is a priority for Lowland calcareous grassland and associated bees and butterflies (Bramham, Thorer, Aberford, Micklefield, Knottingly, Pontefract)

The area has important concentrations of wet grassland such as in the lower Aire and Dearne Valley, priority is to maintain restore and buffer.

Existing meadows and ancient semi-natural woodlands are a priority throughout the region. Priority birds associated with this grassland include lapwing, redshank, curlew, snipe, yellow wagtail.

All area is designated NVZ and measures to control diffuse pollution are applicable on all farms.

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/ WBS mixes	CFE/Partners – High priority areas for birds
Promoting the importance of wet grasslands 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 – Areas include Humberhead levels, Don, Derne, Calder & Aire valleys
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, EA – location linked to biodiversity priorities i.e., bats, insects, water voles
Promote actions to protect watercourses and surface & ground water	Events with specific resource protection theme and linked to VI/T&T and general farm input usage	CFE/FAS/ – County wide Standalone CFE events outside CSF target areas



<p>Promoting the importance of woodlands, field boundaries and trees as part of whole farm environmental management</p>	<p>Including woodland elements in CFE events and as part of best practice</p>	<p>CFE/ Forestry Commission</p>
<p>Action to promote value of grasslands particularly for pollinators</p> <p>Action to promote importance of pollinators and measures to enhance habitat for them</p>	<p>Events on pollinators and local publicity</p> <p>Events looking at whole farm approach for pollinators considering winter and summer requirements for pollinators</p>	<p>CFE/ /Industry partners – Magnesium limestone.</p> <p>Industry partners, Buglife</p>
<p>Improving farm profitability to make more room for wildlife</p>	<p>Events looking at precision farming techniques and the optimum use of inputs. Linking to GGAP and considering most appropriate land uses.</p>	<p>CFE/Industry partners – prioritise to areas where clear environmental focus i.e. farmland bird priority areas where objective to deliver more farmland bird options.</p>