



## CFE County Priorities for Staffordshire

### 1. Aim

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

Agriculture comprises 81% of the land use area in Staffordshire with nearly half of this area made up permanent pasture. Dairy farms still remains the major enterprise in this area despite a decline in the dairy industry in recent years. About a third of the agricultural land area is in arable production, mainly in south Staffordshire which also includes several large market gardening and fruit farm enterprises. At the northern end of the county as it meets the uplands of the Staffordshire moorlands, holdings are mainly small scale livestock farms.

#### CFE options within Entry Level Stewardship agreements (excluding Uplands ELS):

		2013	2014		2015		2016 and later
			Jan-Jun	Jul to Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul to Dec	
Staffordshire	Maintenance of watercourse fencing (EJ11) - km	0	0	1	3	14	33
	Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds (EF23) - tonnes	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Skylark plots (EF8) - number	0	0	0	0	70	43
	All other CFE2 options (hectares)	15	86	33	41	663	2041
	<i>Permanent grassland with very low inputs: outside SDA &amp; Moorland (EK3)</i>	14	85	32	36	481	1600
	<i>Field corner management (EF1, EK1)</i>	1	1	2	3	57	213
	<i>Wild bird seed mixture (EF2)</i>	0	0	0	1	34	67
	<i>Nectar flower mixture (EF4)</i>	0	0	0	0	11	26
	<i>6m/12m buffer strips next to a watercourse (EE9, EE10, EJ9)</i>	0	0	0	1	5	65
	<i>Extended overwintered stubbles (EF22)</i>	0	0	0	0	44	38
	<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	32	31

### 3. County designated sites and partnerships

There are six Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in the county including Motte Meadows, Cannock Chase, River Mease, Pasturefields, Chartley Moss and the Cannock Extension Canal.

There are five RAMSAR sites in the county which are also SSSIs and include Aqualate Mere, Cop Mere, Betley Mere, Chartley Moss and Black Firs and Cranberry Bog.

Cannock Chase is currently the only AONB within Staffordshire and includes farmland surrounding the main area of lowland heath.

There is a total of 65 SSSIs within the county of which 8 are geological. In addition there are 1410 local sites in the county, the majority of which are designated for their biological importance

The Trent Valley Catchment Area Based Approach (CABA) partnership covers the majority of the county

### 4. County Priorities

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

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

The Staffordshire BAP now has 14 'Ecosystem Action Plans' (EAPs) and one Rivers Action Plan, the SBAP aims to prioritise conservation management at a landscape level and contribute to local, regional and national conservation targets.

Habitat	Actions required
Arable field margins	Promotion of maintenance, restoration and creation of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ponds and water bodies</li> <li>• Hedgerows</li> <li>• Field margins</li> <li>• Grassland</li> <li>• Arable including fallow and wild bird cover</li> </ul>
Hedgerows	
Lowland dry acid grassland	
Lowland meadow	
Floodplain grazing marsh	
Eutrophic standing water	
Fens	
Ponds	
Purple moor grass and rush pasture	
Wood pasture	
Rivers, streams and canals	
CFE Option Code	
VM1	Grass buffers
VM4	Water course fencing
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

**b) Theme: Priority species and requirements**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Actions required</b>
Declining farmland bird species associated with grassland and arable habitat ('seed eating birds, grey partridge, lapwing, yellow wagtail, barn owl, snipe and skylark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage hedgerows for specific targets and improve connectivity between habitats</li> <li>• Flower and legume rich areas for insects including pollinators (food, fuel, homes)</li> <li>• Summer and winter feeding and nesting habitats – The Big 3 for farmland birds</li> </ul>
Otter	
Water vole and water shrew	
Common toad	
Crayfish	
Great crested newt	
Brown hare,	
Bats	
Harvest mouse	
Polecat	
Dormouse	
Black poplar,	
Cornflower	
White letter hairstreak butterfly.	
<b>CFE Option Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
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**

<b>Catchment</b>	<b>Actions required</b>
Dove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil management</li> <li>• Managing farm inputs eg. Pesticides, manures and phosphates</li> <li>• Managing river and stream land –</li> </ul>
Trent	
Severn	
Tame,	
Anker	
Mease,	

Severn	<p>to include cooperation between land managers, and Internal Drainage Boards to address invasive species and other concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predator control in relation to ground nesting birds</li> <li>• Efficient management of water usage</li> <li>• Work closely with partners – CSF, VI, T&amp;T, EA &amp; EN</li> </ul>
Weaver	
The western side of Staffordshire includes part of the River Tern CSF Priority catchment	
Aqualate Mere, Betley Mere, Black Firs and Cranberry Bog and Cop Mere form part of the West Midlands Meres and Mosses Priority Area.	
Stretches of the River Penk and Dove are of ‘bad’ river ecological condition and parts of the Trent and Tame and their tributaries are of ‘poor’ ecological condition. In addition stretches of the Trent, Tame and Sow fail on chemical water quality.	
Two areas within the River Dove catchment; south of Uttoxeter and Tutbury are deemed to be at risk from sedimentation together with the western edge of the county which includes the River Tern and Meres and Mosses catchments.	
<b>CFE Option Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
VM1	Grass buffers
VM2	In-field grass strips
VM3	Management of maize to avoid erosion
VM4	Water course fencing
VM5	Winter cover crops

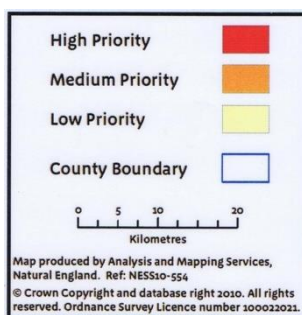
## 5. Action Plan

CFE Local priority	Delivery action	Delivered by	Target area
Farmland Habitats	Promotion of maintenance, restoration and creation of habitats (hedgerows, ponds, arable habitats including retention of field margins) and improve connectivity between habitats	NE, SWT, GWCT	Throughout county
Farmland birds	Promotion of summer and winter feeding and nesting habitats ('The big 3') and supporting the Big Farm Bird Count	GWCT, NE, LLG members	Throughout county
Pollinators	Promote flower and legume rich areas for insects and pollinators (food, fuel & homes)	NE, SWT, VI, Bumblebee Trust, NFU	North and central Staffordshire

To meet the WFD water quality targets	Best practice events, workshops and walks	EA, NE, CSF, T&T, VI, CABA	Trent Valley and Dove Catchments, Meres and Mosses
Soil management	Best practice events, workshops and walks	EA, NE, CSF, T&T, NFU, agronomists	Trent Valley and Dove Catchments, Meres and Mosses
River and streamside land	Encourage co-operation between landowners and IDBs to address invasive species and other concerns	IDB, NFU, CLA, NE	Throughout county
Industry Sustainability	Promote links with partners to advise on pesticides, nutrients, energy and water usage	GGAP, NE, CSF, NFU, CLA	Throughout county
Adding value to EFAs	Information events, workshops and walks	FAS, NFU, CLA, LLG, NE	Throughout county

## Appendix 1 - ELS Priority Areas

### ELS Priority Areas for Farmland Birds in Staffordshire



## ELS Priority Areas for water and soil protection in Staffordshire

