

CFE County Priorities for Sussex

Aim

This document has been drawn together by the CFE Local Liaison Group for SUSSEX 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 Sussex 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.

County Overview

Sussex has a diverse geology and landform with a corresponding diversity of landscape, habitat and farming types. This ranges from predominantly livestock and mixed farming on the intimate landscape of the High Weald in the East, to arable and grassland on the 'big sky' landscape of the South Downs, to heavily wooded West Weald, and fertile floodplain of the South Coast.

County Designated Sites: There are many designated, statutory & non-statutory; key examples: South Downs National Park, High Weald AONB, Ashdown Forest, Pevensey/ Pett Levels SSSI's, Pulborough/Amberley Brooks SSSI's, Local Wildlife Sites, Chi & Pagham harbour RAMSAR sites, West Weald Nature Improvement Area

	Farm type - areas										Number of holdings	Farmed area (hectares)
	Farmed area: 2013 (hectares) using 2010 standard output co-efficients											
	Cereals	General Cropping	Horticulture	Specialist Pigs	Specialist Poultry	Dairy	Grazing Livestock (LFA) ⁽⁵⁾	Grazing Livestock (lowland)	Mixed	Other ⁽⁶⁾	2013	2013
Brighton and Hove & East Sussex CC	22583.81	15619.93	2806.551	180.029	1379.549	7710.449	0	47673.832	16734.17	459.8521	1711	115148.16
West Sussex	35380.9	16043.91	2357.928	840.1412	310.55	9750.859	0	34130.313	16156.11	242.9994	1399	115213.7

Existing Local delivery activity: The Environmental Stewardship Scheme supports environmental work across the area. This is now closed, (with exceptions) – the future scheme is expected from January 2015.

Rivers Trusts are becoming increasingly active in the County and are playing a key role in the catchment based approach. Sussex Wildlife Trust is active with a dedicated Landowner Advisor. The EA supports various NGO projects countywide focusing on resource protection, water efficiency, and flood mitigation. The Farm Advice Service is offering general advice to farmers/landowners on cross compliance, nutrient management and farm efficiency.

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	
E Sussex	Maintenance of watercourse fencing (EJ11) - km	0	0	0	0	4	12
	Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds (EF23) - tonnes	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Skylark plots (EF8) - number	0	0	0	0	0	10
	All other CFE2 options (hectares)	2	43	33	19	280	1443
	<i>Permanent grassland with very low inputs: outside SDA & Moorland (EK3)</i>	2	32	33	19	212	1260
	<i>Field corner management (EF1,EK1)</i>	0	5	0	0	7	74
	<i>Wild bird seed mixture (EF2)</i>	0	6	0	0	4	44
	<i>Nectar flower mixture (EF4)</i>	0	0	0	0	2	8
	<i>6m/12m buffer strips next to a watercourse (EE9, EE10, EJ9)</i>	0	0	0	0	3	28
	<i>Extended overwintered stubbles (EF22)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	8
	<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	53	20

		2013	2014		2015		2016 and later
			Jan-Jun	Jul to Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul to Dec	
W Sussex	Maintenance of watercourse fencing (EJ11) - km	0	0	0	0	4	11
	Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds (EF23) - tonnes	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Skylark plots (EF8) - number	0	0	0	0	0	5
	All other CFE2 options (hectares)	21	31	65	2	272	1504
	<i>Permanent grassland with very low inputs: outside SDA & Moorland (EK3)</i>	15	18	47	2	219	1141
	<i>Field corner management (EF1,EK1)</i>	0	11	1	0	33	171
	<i>Wild bird seed mixture (EF2)</i>	0	1	0	0	6	36
	<i>Nectar flower mixture (EF4)</i>	5	1	17	0	3	20
	<i>6m/12m buffer strips next to a watercourse (EE9, EE10, EJ9)</i>	0	0	0	0	4	19
	<i>Extended overwintered stubbles (EF22)</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	7	117

Regional Objectives

Regional CFE Priorities	Delivery Action	Delivered by	Geographical area
'Big 3' for farmland birds	Events on management – wildbird seed mixes - Best practice examples	CFE and partners – RSPB, Southdowns Farmland Bird Project	High Priority Areas
Importance of pollinators	Events on whole farm approach, winter & summer requirements – Best practice examples	CFE and partners – Operation Bumblebee, Shorthaired Bee Project Buglife	Across the board on arable, grass and mixed farms
Protection of surface & ground water	Events on resource protection linked to VI and T&T, + best practice, both In CSF areas and outside – examples	CFE, CSF, Farm Advice Service, EA	Ouse & Adur, Arun & Rother Brighton & Hove Chalk block, NVZ's
Flood mitigation	Events on washland/wet grass/treeplanting/woody debris Best practice examples	Woodland Trust & EA, Rivers Trust, South East Water, supported by CFE	Ouse catchment, Uck
Improve riparian habitat for BAP species/ tackle invasive species	Events achieving multiple objectives thru' riparian management – best practice examples	Rivers Trusts, EA, CEH, supported by CFE	Link to Biodiversity priority i.e bats, water voles....
Importance of woodland, field boundaries & trees as whole farm management	Including woodland elements etc in CFE events and as part of best practice	CFE and partners – Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust	West (Low) Weald, High Weald
Improve farm profitability to make more room for wildlife	Events on precision farming techniques, optimum input use, Appropriate land use	CFE, FAS, ADAS, link to GGAP	Across the board

County Priorities by Theme

a) Habitats

Habitat	Actions required
Unimproved grassland/lowland meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed environmental management as core principle of farm business Identify, assess, protect, buffer, extend & link habitats & features No net loss principle Seek advice when you need it
Arable & grass margins	
Species rich chalk grass	
Others : Ancient/sp rich hedges; Ancient/Native/wet woodland; Heathland;	
Wetland/grazing marsh/reed bed; Parkland/woodpasture	

CFE OPTION CODE	Description
VM6 & 7	Wildflower Mix & Pollen & Nectar mix
VM10	Wild Birdseed mix & Maize free game strips
VM11 & 12	Skylark Plots & Lapwing Plots
VM13	Unsprayed and/or unfertilised cereal headlands
VM14 & 15	Cultivated Margins & Over winter stubbles
VM17 & 18	Field corners & Beetle Banks

b) Species

Species	Requirements	Actions Required
Corn Bunting	Invertebrate chick food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideally, mixed farming with grass, diverse habitats, winter & spring cropping Mammal species – corridors, habitat protection & management Farmland birds – Big 3, nesting habitat + summer & winter food Invertebrates – summer food, larval food plants, winter hibernation sites for life cycle stages Amphibians & reptiles – breeding, hibernation, warming & refuge sites Species rich grass – managed sward & microclimates for inverts Arable plants – disturbed shallow or sandy soil
Grey Partridge	Tussocky grassland for ground nesting	
Lapwing	Short sward, damp grass & bare mud for inverts	
Yellow Wagtail	Mixed farm, open sward, wet grass for insects	
Tree sparrow	Mixed farm with trees, scrub, buildings for nest holes	
Turtle Dove	Taller hedges with trees	
Brown Hare	Mixed livestock & arable farming	
Native plants	Scrub management, grazing/cutting/no inputs regime	
Arable plants	Reduced/no herbicide & fertiliser regime	
Others: Hazel Dormouse, Water Vole, Bat Species, Linnet, Yellow hammer, Reed bunting, Skylark		
CFE OPTION CODE	Description	
VM 6 & 7	Wildflower Mix & Pollen & Nectar Mix	
VM 8 & 9	Legume / Herb rich temporary grass & Ryegrass seed for birds	
VM 10	Wild bird seed mix and maize free game strips	
VM 11 & 12	Skylark plots & Lapwing plots	
VM 13 & 14	Unsprayed and/or unfertilised cereal headlands & Cultivated Margins	
VM 15 & 17	Over winter stubbles & field corners	
VM 18 & 19	Beetle banks & Fertiliser free permanent grassland	
VM 20	Arable land reverted to grass	

c) river catchments

Catchment	Issues	Actions Required
Arun & Western Rother (Catchment Sensitive Farming)	Soil erosion & run off, sedimentation, agricultural diffuse pollution – phosphates & metaldehyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice nutrient planning, storage, application Improved infrastructure, clean/dirty water separation, pesticide handling & washdown facilities Improve soil organic matter, reduce compaction, erosion, run off, increase infiltration, soil biology Effective buffer strips on all water courses Best practice Metaldehyde planning/application Precision farming techniques, alternatives to bagged N, crop choice, timing, slope reduction, contour cultivation, retention of grassland.
Adur & Ouse	Run off, sedimentation, agricultural diffuse pollution – phosphate & metaldehyde. Himalayan Balsam	
Pevensey Levels (Catchment Sensitive Farming)	Run off, Phosphate & metaldehyde. Floating Pennywort	
Brighton & Hove Chalk Aquifer (NVZ)	(potentially) failing for nitrates, pesticide in ground water, run off	
CFE OPTION CODE	Description	
VM 1	Grass buffer strips on watercourses and ponds	
VM 2	In-field grass strips to avoid erosion	
VM 3	Management of maize to avoid erosion	
VM 4 & 5	Watercourse fencing & Winter cover crops	

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

d) other county priorities

Priority	Actions Required
Groundwater Protection Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow Defra Code of Good Agricultural Practice Comply with current regulation and legislation Use RB209/Planet/Manner/agronomist for crop input calculation Carry out nutrient, manure, pesticide, soil and water management planning
Nitrate Vulnerable Zones	
Land liable to flooding	