



CFE County Priorities for Warwickshire

1. Aim

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

The landscape of the county includes all of the Dunsmore and Feldon, most of the Arden and small parts of the Severn and Avon Vales and the Cotswolds landscape Character areas. The River Avon with main tributaries – Leam, Stour and Arrow flows through the County as do tributaries of the Trent to the north.

The farming is mainly arable with combineable crops in general but some vegetable production in the south west from Stratford upon Avon towards Evesham. In the north of the county there are some large scale potato growers.

Livestock farming is mainly beef and sheep with a few dairy units. This reflects the decline in dairying over recent years.

Farm size varies from small holdings of <10ha to large farming businesses of >1500ha

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	
Warwickshire and West Midlands	Maintenance of watercourse fencing (EJ11) - km	0	0	0	0	3	11
	Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds (EF23) - tonnes	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Skylark plots (EF8) - number	0	10	0	10	78	50
	All other CFE2 options (hectares)	0	27	52	18	586	1862
	<i>Permanent grassland with very low inputs: outside SDA & Moorland (EK3)</i>	0	21	37	6	358	1287
	<i>Field corner management (EF1,EK1)</i>	0	1	12	6	83	199
	<i>Wild bird seed mixture (EF2)</i>	0	5	3	5	31	76
	<i>Nectar flower mixture (EF4)</i>	0	0	0	1	14	49
	<i>6m/12m buffer strips next to a watercourse (EE9, EE10, EJ9)</i>	0	0	0	0	31	128
	<i>Extended overwintered stubbles (EF22)</i>	0	0	0	0	18	42
	<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	51	81

3. County designated sites and partnerships

There are no National Parks or AONBs in the County other than a very small part of the Cotswolds AONB in south Warwickshire, but some 62 SSSI sites and 431 County Wildlife sites covering 4,77Ha ranging

4. County Priorities

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

a) Theme: Priority farmland habitats and description

The Warwickshire LBAP which is currently under review, lists 24 habitat plans

Habitat	Actions required
Acid and calcareous grassland, Field margins, Hedges Woodland Old parkland Veteran trees	Events and activities to raise awareness of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary management – includes hedges, margins, riparian land etc) Communication – access to knowledge Biodiversity offsetting – feasibility of using this
CFE Option Code	Description
VM1 and 2	Grass buffers & in-field grass strips
VM4	Water course fencing
VM6	Wildflower mix
VM7	Pollen & nectar mix
VM8	Legume and herb rich temporary grass
VM14	Cultivated margins
VM19	Fertiliser-free permanent pasture
VM20	Arable land reverted to grass

b) Theme: Priority species and requirements

The Warwickshire LBAP, which is currently under review, lists 26 species including

Species	Actions required
Farmland birds species, particularly in the SE of the County which is a target area, are priorities for the County. Specific targets are Lapwing, Corn Bunting, Grey Partridge, Tree Sparrow and Turtle Dove. For such a range of species which includes summer breeding migrants, the requirements vary from all of the 'big three' to specific breeding and summer feeding habitats eg. Turtle Dove.	Events and activities to raise awareness of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundary management – includes hedges, margins, riparian land etc) Summer and winter feeding and nesting habitats for farmland birds (Big 3) and pollinators Improve connectivity between habitats Communication – access to knowledge Biodiversity offsetting – feasibility of using this
Bumblebees – rare	
Bats	
Dormouse	
Otter	
Arable plants – rare	
Wolverine	
CFE Option Code	Description
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
VM21	Selective use of spring herbicides
VM22	Brassica fodder crops

c) Theme: priority river catchments

Catchment	Actions required
Upper Avon and River Leam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil management • Managing farm inputs eg. Pesticides, phosphates • Work closely with partners – CSF, VI, T&T, EA and NE • Crop rotation • Viability & practicality of options • Water usage – rainwater harvesting, irrigation etc • Use EA’s ‘Key Actions for Farmers relating to Water Management’ • Improve habitat connectivity
CFE Option Code	Description
VM1&2	Grass buffers & in-field grass strips
VM4	Water course fencing
VM17	Field Corners
VM19	Fertiliser-free permanent pasture
VM20	Arable land reverted to grass
VM21	Selective use of spring herbicides

5. Action Plan

CFE Local priority	Delivery action	Delivered by	Target area
Farmland Habitats	Habitat & Boundary management – includes hedges, margins, riparian land etc) Communication – access to knowledge Biodiversity offsetting – feasibility of using this	CFE, NE, Rural Hub, WLT	Across County
Priority Species	Improve knowledge on management of required	CFE, NE, Rural Hub, WLT	Across County

	habitats for target species		
River Catchments	Improve knowledge on management to achieve reduction in levels of pesticides, nutrients and soil in water and achieve WFD	CSF, CFE, NE, Rural Hub, WLT	Upper Avon and River Leam but all water bodies will benefit.
Industry sustainability	Promote links with partners to advise on pesticides, nutrients, energy and water usage	CSF, CFE, NE, Rural Hub, NFU, CLA, WLT, GGAP, VI, T&T.	Across County