



CFE County Priorities for Worcestershire

1. Aim

This document has been drawn together by the CFE Local Liaison Group for Worcestershire 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 Worcestershire 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 parts of the Severn & Avon Vale, Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau, Arden and a small part of the Cotswolds landscape Character areas. The Rivers Avon and Severn with their tributaries flow through the County. The farming is mixed in type from arable with combineable crops, vegetable, fruit and horticulture production particularly in and around Evesham to livestock farming utilising the grassland. Livestock farming is mainly beef and sheep with some 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	
Hereford and Worcester	Maintenance of watercourse fencing (EJ11) - km	0	0	0	3	21	50
	Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds (EF23) - tonnes	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Skylark plots (EF8) - number	0	0	0	0	111	103
	All other CFE2 options (hectares)	42	119	42	139	1252	2806
	<i>Permanent grassland with very low inputs: outside SDA & Moorland (EK3)</i>	40	110	35	130	952	2245
	<i>Field corner management (EF1,EK1)</i>	2	5	4	5	120	220
	<i>Wild bird seed mixture (EF2)</i>	1	4	3	2	43	102
	<i>Nectar flower mixture (EF4)</i>	0	0	0	0	30	47
	<i>6m/12m buffer strips next to a watercourse (EE9, EE10, EJ9)</i>	0	0	0	1	45	83
	<i>Extended overwintered stubbles (EF22)</i>	0	0	0	0	12	6
	<i>Other</i>	0	0	0	0	50	103

3. County designated sites and partnerships

There are no National Parks but part of the Malvern Hills AONBs is in the County to the south around Malvern itself. There are also 114 SSI sites, 4 National Nature Reserves, 2 Special Areas of Conservation, 553 Local Wildlife Sites and 44 Roadside Verge Nature Areas ranging from woodland & species rich grassland to post industrial sites. Worcestershire has 20% of the remaining National species rich grassland area and is of particular importance.

4. County Priorities

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

a) Theme: Priority farmland habitats and description

The Worcestershire Local Biodiversity Action Plan lists 24 habitat plans including:

Habitat	Actions required
Semi natural and wet grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific grassland target habitats – encourage management to maintain, restore and create these habitats. • Field Margins – encourage active management of a range of margin options particularly safeguarding pollinators and farmland bird habitats. • Hedgerows – management of these for birds and invertebrates, particularly the Hairstreak butterfly. Again hedges provide good wildlife linkages. • Orchards – traditional, commercial and new are all important particularly with reference to pollinators. • Woodland and veteran trees – encourage management of woodland and veteran trees
Field margins	
Hedges	
Orchards	
Lowland heath	
Woodland	
Veteran trees	
CFE Option Code	Description
VM1&2	Grass buffers & in-field grass strips
VM4	Water course fencing
VM6	Wildflower mix
VM7	Pollen & nectar mix
VM19	Fertiliser-free permanent pasture
VM20	Arable land reverted to grass

b) Theme: Priority species and requirements

The Worcestershire Local Biodiversity Action Plan lists 25 species including farmland birds, rare invertebrates (including rare butterflies eg. brown hairstreak), bats (14 of the 17 species found in the Country are recorded in Worcestershire), dormouse, otter, rare arable plants and water vole.

Species	Actions required
Farmland birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved management and increased habitat provision for The Big 3 for Farmland Birds. • Flower and legume rich areas for pollinators to provide 'food, fuel and homes'. • Management of hedgerows and woodland for specific butterflies and bats. • Management of riparian land for otter and water vole • Specific management on suitable soils for rare arable plants
Invertebrates – rare	
Butterflies - rare eg. brown hairstreak	
Bats (14 of the 17 species found in the Country are recorded in Worcestershire),	
Dormouse	
Otter	
Arable plants – rare	
Watervole	
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
Severn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing riparian land – to include cooperation between land managers and councils to address invasive species and other concerns. Investigate use of volunteers as in parts of Herefordshire Managing the soil Predator control – particularly with reference to ground nesting birds. Managing farm inputs eg. Pesticides, phosphates Communication with <u>all</u> sectors Adopting a landscape approach to habitat creation and restoration will improve connectivity throughout the catchments and reduce flood risk Reduction in flood risk and improvement in quality and range of habitats will help contribute towards the aim of Good Ecological Status by 2027. Control and removal of invasive species is to be encouraged wherever possible
Avon	
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
VM17	Field Corners
VM18	Beetle banks
VM19	Fertiliser-free permanent pasture
VM20	Arable land reverted to grass

d) **Other county priorities not already covered**

Priority	Actions Required
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Invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponds and aquatic habitats - important for all wildlife as habitats and linkages. Concern over invasive species and how best to control and eradicate them.
Horticultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and help the horticultural/vegetable/fruit sector to feel included in CFE and the County Priorities.
CFE Option Code	Description
NONE	

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 habitats for target species	CFE, NE, Rural Hub, WLT	Across County
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	Severn and Avon 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