



**Hampshire &
Isle of Wight**

ISLE OF WIGHT CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

Introduction

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has been working with farmers, land owners and land managers on the Isle of Wight since 1998 to encourage environmentally-sensitive farming on the Island and helping with access to grants and agri-environment schemes.

In 2009 in partnership with England Catchment Sensitive Farm Delivery Initiative and the Environment Agency, the Trust launched its Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project (IWCSF) to help farmers find solutions to problems involving soil run-off and erosion, diffuse pollution of chemical inputs into watercourses, water availability and losses in biodiversity.

The increasing regulation and concern over these issues is coupled with the ability of farmers to save money by targeting solutions and making them relevant to their farming business.

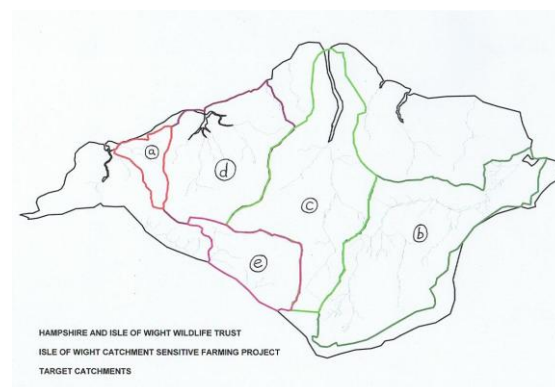


Target Areas

The project aims to target five agreed catchment areas on the Island :

- a : Thorley Brook
- b : Eastern Yar
- c : Medina
- d : NW Coast – including Newtown
- e : SW Coast – Grange –Whale chine

These catchments are thought to be the most important in terms of their use as a resource for drinking water, records of poor water quality and their wildlife value.



IW CSF : Work to Date

Since the launch the IWCSF officer, Lucy Temple, has visited 19 Isle of Wight farms, covering just under 1000 ha of land, to discuss a wide variety of issues. These discussions have included low input grasslands, management of field corners, 6m field margins on arable and in-field grass /arable reversion.

Advice has also been given on the design and management of winter storage reservoirs with farmers and landowners. The visits include discussions with the farmer to assess the impact of the business on the environment and look at practical solutions to achieve the mutual goals.

A large part of the project is to encourage farmers to enter part or all of their land into agri-environment schemes where funds for buffer strips, tree planting and low input / extensive grazing can be accommodated. This leads to a reduction in impacts and in many cases, financial incentives to maximise returns in a hard –pushed economy.

IWCSF Website

A website has been launched by the project to keep farmers and land owners up to date with the project. Topics include notes on the meetings of the Steering Group and quarterly reports of activities as well as links to partnership organisations and important regulations and agri-environment scheme information. The website also brings you news about events and workshops linked to the project on the Island including recent Nitrate Vulnerable Zone workshops run by the Environment Agency. Please visit the website at: www.iwcsf.org.uk for further information.

IWCSF / Natural England Entry Level Stewardship Workshop

If you are coming to the end of your first five year Entry level Stewardship Scheme and you would like to know more about renewals we are running an ELS workshop with Natural England

NFU Offices, Carisbrooke

Wednesday 26th May 2010 (10.30 – 12.30)

To book a place, please fill in the form below and return it by 19th May 2010. If you are unable to attend the workshop but would like to arrange a free visit/assistance with your ELS renewal, please contact Lucy on 01983 533180 or lucyt@hwt.org.uk

There have been a number of changes to the Entry Level Scheme since its introduction in 2005. These include:

EJ5 : infield grass areas to prevent erosion and run-off

EJ9 : 12m buffer strips for water courses on cultivate land

EJ10 : enhanced management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion and run-off

EJ11 : maintenance of watercourse fencing

EJ13 : winter cover crops

Others include measures to extend overwinter stubbles and uncropped cultivated areas for ground-nesting birds.

Isle of Wight CSF Entry Level Scheme Workshop

Please book me a place at the ELS workshop on 26th May 2010 at NFU Offices, Carisbrooke

Name.....

Address..... Places required.....

Please return to: Lucy Temple, HIWWT Forest Office, Parkhurst Forest, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5UL or e-mail to lucyt@hwt.org.uk by 19th May 2010