



ISLE OF WIGHT CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3

Introduction/Update

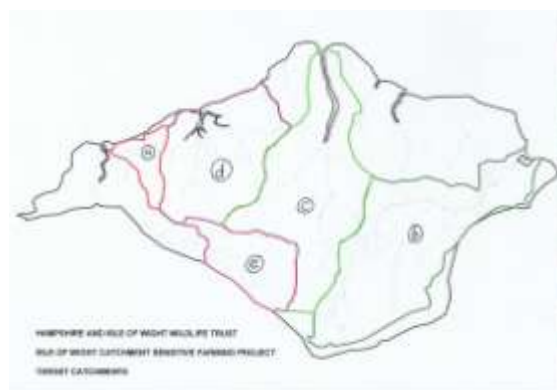
Since the launch of the Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project in October 2009, the IWCSF Officer has visited 47 farms and carried out 72 follow up visits within the key target areas.

Target Areas

The key target areas on the Island are:

- 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.



The initial recommendations and follow-up visits are aimed at providing farmers and landowners with up-to-date advice and guidance on resource protection issues. Assistance with applications for grant funding may then be provided to help to fund work to rectify any issues.

The following table shows the number of initial visits and follow-up visits that have been undertaken within each key target area:

| Area | | Oct 09 – Mar 11 | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | New Visits | Follow – up Visits |
| a | Thorley Brook | 1 | 4 |
| b | Eastern Yar | 17 | 18 |
| c | Medina | 9 | 10 |
| d | NW Coast | 12 | 18 |
| e | SW Coast | 8 | 22 |
| Total | | 47 | 72 |

The main funding sources available to assist with resource protection are the Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Schemes. These offer options for field corners, 6m field margins, in-field grass areas and arable reversion. If you would like to know more about these schemes please contact the Project Officer, Lucy Temple on 01983 533180 or lucyt@hwt.org.uk



News

Amnesty for Pesticides! Project SOE (Security in the Operational Environment) is an initiative which focuses on security issues within the agricultural environment. The project includes a subsidised pesticide and biocide disposal scheme running from 3rd January to 14th March 2011. The scheme will make it possible to dispose of any unwanted, out of date or revoked biocides and pesticides, for a fixed cost of £20.00. For further information see www.projectsoe.org.

Key Dates your Diary

Farmers and landowners already in an Environmental Stewardship Scheme may find the following list of dates for resource protection options under the **ELS** Scheme useful:

January

- 20th** Destroy winter cover crop late January - early February (EJ13)
31st Complete all cleaning of ditches (EB6-10)

February

- 3rd** Destroy winter cover crop late January - early February (EJ13)
14th Maintain overwintered stubble until this date (ED3, EG4, EF6, EF15).
28th Complete all cutting of ditch vegetation (EB6-10)

March

- 14th** Last day for cutting rush dominated areas (EK4)

April

- 1st** Do not cut/harrow/roll permanent grassland & rush pastures from this date (EK2-4)

June

- 1st** Can cut/roll/harrow grassland from today (EK2)

July

- 1st** Can cut/roll/harrow from 1st July (EK3)

- 15th** Cut buffer strips in general on cultivated land after this date (EE1-3, EE9, EC24, EJ9).
Earliest date to cut in-field grass areas (EJ5)

August

- 1st** Cut sown buffer strips during August and September.
Cut rush-dominated areas from 1st August (EK4)

September

- 1st** Cutting of hedgerows/woodland edges/scrub/pond buffers/field corners allowed (EB1-3, EB8-10, EC4, ED4, EE7-8, EF1, EK1)
15th Start of period for cleaning ditches and cutting ditch vegetation (EB6-10)
Establish winter cover crop by this date (EJ13)

October

- 1st** Harvest maize crops by this date (EJ2, EJ10)

Many of the options for **HLS** are tailored to the individual site but some key dates for resource protection specific options are:

February

- 1st** Applications of fertiliser may be applied from 1st Feb – 14th August (HJ4)

- Mid-July** Cut grassland once after mid July or graze (HJ3, HJ4)

August

- 14th** Last date for fertiliser applications (HJ4)

October

- 1st** Should have established specified arable reversion grass mix by 1st October (HJ3, HJ4)

For further information on the IWCSF Project please check out our website at www.iwcsf.org.uk